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# THE ANU OBSERVER

## Meeting of The ANU Observer Council

2018-03-06

Meeting Opens at 1815

### Item 1 - Apologies and Attendance

Councillors in Attendance: Michael Turvey, Eliza Croft, Joel Baker, Tatsunori Yamaguchi, Ebe Ganon

Members in Attendance: Jason Pover, Madeleine Birdsey, Skanda Panditharatne

### Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

Given by Michael Turvey.

### Item 3 - Previous Action Items

#### 3.1 Secretary to contact ANU regarding the need for Auditing.

Joel: I've emailed Richard 3 times now, still no answer to any of my several questions.

#### 3.2 Chair to create a poll to establish a regular Council meeting day and time.

Joel: I did that.

#### 3.3 Digital team to give Secretary access to the website.

Ebe: Kind of.

Joel: I'm pretty sure I have access. I just don't know how to do anything on the website, which limits my ability to do things.

#### 3.4 Secretary to advertise meetings on website.

Joel: See above.

#### 3.5 Treasurer to get Digital Editor access to bank account

Tatsu: Done.

#### 3.6 Secretary to call Andrew Smith

Joel: Andrew has resigned. Have tried to make contact with Lily.

#### 3.7 Secretary or Chair to call General Meeting

Joel: I will do that tonight.

### **3.8 Someone to look at getting weights for the marquee (low priority)**

Eliza: I haven't looked at that yet.

### **3.9 Eliza and Ebe to continue discussion about events**

Eliza: I created the slack channel. Michael organised a movie night last night and that was a lot of fun.

### **3.10 Ebe to setup a template for wordpress posts**

Ebe: I don't know how to use wordpress, so I'll delegate that to Adam.

### **3.11 Secretary to lodge information with Access Canberra**

Joel: Haven't currently done that. It just needs to be the constitution and updated directors.

Michael: I can do that.

### **3.12 Deliver SSAF Agreement to Chancellery**

Michael: Done.

### **3.13 Contact Chancellery regarding invoicing**

Joel: I've done that, no response yet.

## **Item 4 - Reports**

### **4.1 News Report**

See Appendix A of the agenda.

Madeleine: Due to the backlash from the ANUSA live-streaming we want to update our policies to reflect the ongoing situation with ANUSA.

Ebe: Can you give more detail?

Madeleine: If someone didn't know all the commenters were ANUSA, they wouldn't have seen the full picture. The ANUSA Media Policy states that only the President can give comment, however this event saw multiple members of the ANUSA Executive trying to give formal comment. We will in future ask these Executive members if they are commenting as their role in a formal capacity or not.

### **4.2 Digital Report**

See Appendix B of the agenda.

Ebe: I just want to flag that I had a response from Adam after the report's submission that he will be meeting up with Broneal about videoing. He's also getting out the application for web admin as soon as possible.

Michael: What happened with Kai?

Ebe: Kai had a lot going on and didn't feel he could devote the necessary amount of time. He was great and it was good to have him on the team while we did.

**Actionable: Ebe tell Adam SASH piece is good for video.**

### **4.3 Financial Report**

See Appendix C of the agenda.

Tatsu: Reminder I need receipts to be able to repay people for their expenditure.

Michael: Have you invoiced Stir?

Tatsu: Yes. They haven't gotten back to me though.

**Actionable: Tatsu to follow up on shirts and payment.**

#### **4.4 Other Reports**

None.

### **Item 5 - Items for Decision**

#### **5.1 Motion that the ANU Observer Council approve the hiring of Tristan Khaw for the role of Photographer.**

##### **Moved by Rebecca Ganon**

Ebe: He doesn't have any notable conflicts. Wants to join the maker space. Studies engineering. Likes motorcycles. Seems like a good kid.

*Passes unanimously.*

#### **5.2 Motion that the ANU Observer Council approve the hiring of Oskah Dunnin for the role of News Reporter.**

##### **Moved by Michael Turvey**

Michael: He seems chill. No notable conflicts. His article was fine.

Eliza: Is he a first year?

Michael: Yes. He said he was interested in political groups, but waived that interest when I mentioned it may not be compatible.

*Passes unanimously.*

#### **5.3 Motion that the ANU Observer Council approve the hiring of Catherine Moggach for the role of Research Analyst.**

##### **Moved by Michael Turvey**

Michael: Did an interview and trial, she's all good.

Joel: Conflicts?

Michael: She works at University House.

*Passes unanimously.*

#### **5.4 Motion to remove Ariel Scott from the ANU Observer Arbitration Panel.**

##### **Moved by Michael Turvey**

*In favour: Michael Turvey, Rebecca Ganon, Tatsunori Yamaguchi.*

*Against: None.*

*Abstaining: Joel Baker, Eliza Croft.*

*Passes.*

#### **5.5 Motion to remove Kat Reed from the ANU Observer Arbitration Panel.**

##### **Moved by Michael Turvey**

*In favour: Michael Turvey, Rebecca Ganon, Tatsunori Yamaguchi, Eliza Croft.*

*Against: None.*

*Abstaining: Joel Baker.*

*Passes.*

## **5.6 Paid Photography**

Michael: So Ebe did unpaid photography for Interhall Trivia. Also Tatsu was approached regarding paid photography for the College of Business and Economics. We don't have an official Council position on this. There was some concern on the board regarding photography. Ebe made an executive decision given the time constraints, but there was some concern from the Editorial Board.

Ebe: It's about whether or not we do event photography, and whether or not we do paid photography. I would have attended the IAC event and done photography in some capacity, and I knew it wouldn't be paid. I chose to put Observer branding on instead of my own to get some additional reach. I didn't anticipate the concern from others. I also thought that it had been flagged that we would do some live-streaming for IAC, so I took that as a sign that it would probably be okay.

Michael: Let's start with whether or not we do event photography. I'll outline the pros and cons. Ebe identified a strong pro, that it is good for outreach and making us seem approachable. It does something helpful for students.

Ebe: Especially now we're receiving SSAF.

Michael: It's good for getting experience for photographers. A con I recognise is that the less we distinguish ourselves from Woroni, the more complications we will run into. We have this issue with live-streaming. The more comparable we become, the less we can justify our need to students. It works while Woroni attempts to do everything, while we attempt to do news and just news. I'd also be concerned about damaging our relationship with Woroni.

Ebe: I believe I heard from Mariana that Woroni either did or does repay their photographers for event photography.

Michael: Does anyone else want to weigh in?

Eliza: I like it as a way to get the brand out. My issue, beyond ethical, is that I don't see how it fits our brief. I see live-streaming as a service we provide to allow those who can't be present to be able to participate and view. Photography, by comparison, is usually for those who attend to remember, and not for those who couldn't make it to participate. It's outside our brief to provide news and information.

Michael: Thoughts from reporters present?

Jason: I'm against it.

Michael: Playing devil's advocate. In the past we've done photography of things like the spray-painting of union court.

Eliza: That was to document something that wouldn't exist anymore, and it was to add to the coverage of an event. General event photography doesn't add the same.

Ebe: If for some reason an event has reached out to both, then that's not really our prerogative. You leave it to whoever is organising.

Michael: Do you think that there is a risk of impeding on the time that our digital team has by offering this service?

Ebe: We can always say no. I enjoy going out and doing it, and nobody is going to pay me anyway, so I like the experience. It helps us get more people involved.

Michael: So you're talking about not advertising a service on demand, but more of an ad hoc situation.

Ebe: I've had people message me and ask if we can come to an event and photograph for them.

Eliza: We could offer event photography at events where we offer live-streaming? That allows us to distinguish ourselves sufficiently.

Michael: I assume those events don't really cross-over.

Ebe: No.

Michael: Part of our brand is journalistic exclusively. I would be concerned about anything we photograph for others going on our page.

Tatsu: Perhaps we remove our watermark?

Ebe: Then it's a free service with no benefit to us.

Joel: Could we potentially draw a line on what we photograph, limiting it to newsworthy events?

Things like forums, speakers, events like what the CBE have been running.

Michael: There's a risk there. We need to distinguish between news and event photography. We don't want to start a friendly photographer relationships while we're also looking into investigating, which is a more hostile relationship.

Tatsu: We could do a photo of the week like what the New York Times does?

Ebe: That's what the Instagram is for.

Michael: Let's move to a vote. We'll review it at the next Council Meeting.

**Motion that Observer, while not actively advertising event photography, will allow Digital Editors to accept requests to photograph events and provide watermarked images to other groups for their use.**

Moved by Rebecca Ganon.

In favour: Rebecca Ganon, Michael Turvey, Tatsunori Yamaguchi.

Against: Eliza Croft.

Abstaining: Joel Baker.

*Passes.*

Michael: Now onto the discussion of whether or not we provide paid photography. We've already discussed this slightly. Tatsu?

Tatsu: There's two strong reason why I want to do it. Firstly, because our SSAF is quite limited. It was my task to investigate potential further funding. It also builds up our reputation.

Ebe: I start to feel like we are stepping on toes when we are offering paid photography.

Professional photographers can shrug and say it's fine when someone comes to us because it's free. People will be unimpressed when we start offering it in exchange for money.

Michael: My issue is that we'd be sending a news photographer to go photograph events. The photographer isn't getting paid the same amount the organisation is, and their not helping students in the way they signed up to help.

Ebe: \*gives examples of own professional photography experience\*

Tatsu: Instead of paying us, they could offer a donation.

Eliza: I don't know if I support it, but I was going to float that option. Maybe it could be an idea to suggest donating so that our team doesn't have to use their personal equipment. I'm not sure how I feel about that though.

Tatsu: If someone is generous enough to pay us, we shouldn't turn it down.

Michael: Under that model, we'd have to turn down the group that previously approached you. The big concern I see is that it could be abused. If we go to a campus organisation, then ask for a donation, we encounter a conflict if we then do a story on that organisation in the future. People will question our coverage.

Tatsu: We could include it in the advertising register.

Ebe: Have the same kind of policy in regards with donations.

Michael: I don't know if the amount we'd make is worth the risk. Groups that want to help us out financially should want to help us, without us tying the financial help to a service.

***Motion that Observer offer photography as a paid service.***

*Moved by Tatsunori Yamaguchi.*

*In favour: Tatsunori Yamaguchi, Joel Baker.*

*Against: Eliza Croft, Ebe Ganon, Michael Turvey.*

***Fails.***

## **Item 6 - Items for Discussion**

### **6.1 Delegation of hiring powers to members subject to a Council veto.**

Michael: In the last two weeks, with fortnightly Council Meetings, it makes hiring very difficult. I had a reporter ready to go 10 days ago, and she lost out on an opportunity because we had to wait for this meeting. I suggest that Editors on the Council have the delegated power to make appointments on a temporary basis, to be confirmed at a Council Meeting. I acknowledge there are some risks.

Joel: I'd be happy to implement a system very similar to what we do with affiliations in the Clubs Council. We give any editor doing the hiring process the ability to provisionally hire a reporter, subject to dissent or veto from the Council at the next meeting. I'd want to set requirements along the lines of: no obvious conflicts or means to manage obvious conflicts, etc.

Michael: Having the requirement to digitally notify all members of the Council.

Eliza: We put all the info on the #Council Slack for 48 hours, that time is when people can register dissent, and if there's none they are provisionally appointed.

Joel: I would feel more comfortable if a provisionally hired reporter couldn't work on sensitive stories while only being provisionally hired.

Eliza: New reporters have their hand held and get a lot of support anyway. I'd be hesitant to enshrine in policy what is a sensitive story.

Tatsu: What happens if you get someone on board, but they don't get approved. Won't it look awkward?

Michael: Yes, that's why we would have the dissent function. It's a difference between approving them, and then firing them, or provisionally approving them, and then telling them they aren't officially hired.

Ebe: Have you done something like that before?

Eliza: We usually juggle people around if we encounter an issue.

Joel: So long as the Council is being sent all the information we'd normally get at a Council meeting via Slack.

Eliza: They shouldn't get an email account until they're fully approved.

Ebe: The drive and Slack are also very sensitive.

Jason: We could not let them in certain channels.

Michael: Most of the scrutiny happens with me and the editors. The Council is more a rubber-stamp than an inquiry.

Ebe: I don't see the names of people until I see the Council Agenda.

Michael: We background check them.

Eliza: That would be the purpose of the 48 hour approval period. We'll provide a summary and answer any questions others have.

Ebe: Should this be the same between News and Digital?

Eliza: Yes.

***Motion that the Council delegate its power to appoint Officers such that the Editorial Board and Digital Member of Council are empowered to make provisional appointments at any time subject to: a) successfully navigating a 48 hour approval period during which***

***Councillors may register dissent, and b) the eventual approval of the individual by the Council at the immediate next Council Meeting.***

*Moved by Michael Turvey.*

*In favour: Michael Turvey, Rebecca Ganon, Eliza Croft, Joel Baker.*

*Against: None.*

*Abstaining: Tatsunori Yamaguchi.*

***Passes.***

## **Item 7 - Other Business**

**Item on the table:** Allocation of SEEF and Stir funds.

**Action item:** Eliza to fix banner.

**Meeting Closed at 1932**