Meeting of The ANU Observer Council

Date 30/05/2018

Expected Open of Meeting: 1800

Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

No apologies received.
Absent without apology: Julian Lee

Procedural Motion - Joel is going to chair.

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

Given by Eliza.

Item 3 - Previous Action Items

3.1 Provide details to Access Canberra

Eliza: I have not gotten Jason's TFN. That's all we're waiting on.
Jason: I'll deliver it to you tonight. I didn't have it recorded, but now I've got this sheet.
Eliza: So I'll do it tomorrow.

3.2 Follow-up with Adam regarding confidential item

Ebe: That was the confidential item that I now have at the end.

3.3 Contact Tatsu to determine location of bank card

Eliza: That's done. He has told me that he deactivated it when it arrived. I can follow up.
Ebe: I should be able to check online.

3.4 Print out and have the minutes signed

Eliza: Done.

3.5 Change names on bank account in accordance with motion

Eliza: Done.

3.6 Contact Andrew Heath regarding constitutional change

> Eliza: Done. He has not gotten back to me since the last correspondence that I shared in Slack.

Item 4 - Reports

No reports received.

Joel: I got no reports. I don't particularly care. Keep doing work, pip pip, hooray. Just so everyone knows, I have as of today resigned my position as Communications Officer in the Clubs Council.

Eliza: I want to see the spicy interactions behind that.

Ebe: Congratulations.

Item 5 - Items Requiring Immediate Decision

5.1 Motion to amend the Standing Orders to read:

'**1.5 Proxies**' becomes '**1.6 Proxies**'

1.5 Voting

> 1.5.1 All members present are required to vote on motions and amendments in one of three ways;
>
> > 1.5.1.1 For: this vote counts towards the passage of a motion or amendment;
> >
> > 1.5.1.2 Against: this vote counts against the passage of a motion or amendment; or,
> >
> > 1.1.1.3 Abstain: this is an active decision to neither vote for nor against a motion or amendment.
>
> 1.5.2 Members cannot abstain from procedural motions.

'**5. Time Limits**' becomes '**6. Time Limits**'

5. Council Meetings

> 5.1 A meeting of the ANU Observer Council must abide by all aspects of the Standing Orders, except for the following:
>
> > 5.1.1 All meetings of the ANU Observer Council are considered to open as a committee of the whole.
> >
> > 5.1.2 A Councillor may request that an item be considered confidential.
> >
> > > 5.1.2.1 Confidential items must be minuted, but must be redacted in public releases of minutes.
> > >
> > > 5.1.2.2 The Chair must decide whether or not to accept the request.
> > >
> > > 5.1.2.3 Any request for confidentiality is subject to dissent from any other Councillor.
> >
> > 5.1.3 A Councillor may move a procedural motion to eject any Officer of the ANU Observer from a meeting of the ANU Observer Council.

5.1.3.1 This vote requires a simple majority to pass.

5.1.3.2 Ejected persons must leave the meeting immediately and must not return to that meeting unless invited.

Moved: Joel Baker

Seconded: Jason Pover

In favour: 4

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Passes unanimously

Actionable: Motion to suspend standing orders at the beginning of all editorial meetings.

5.2 Consolidation of Slack Channels

Eliza: So, there are a lot of these channels. I'm not necessarily in favour of this, but I'm open to hearing people's vibes.

Jason: There's 30 channels. I know people have arguments about which should stay. I can see 30. There may be more.

Ebe: You're not in any of the digital channels, so there's more.

Jason: So there's 35ish minimum. That's too many.

Eliza: Jason's emotions are too much.

Ebe: Does anybody know!?!?

Channels to be removed:
- Training
- Governance
- Finance to become Finance & Governance
- ANU Admin
- Researchers
- ANU Union
- ANUSA_PARSA to become Stupol
- ANUSA Explainer
- Event Planning

Item 6 - Items Requiring Discussion

6.1 Creation of a 'Community Manager' role.

Joel: So, Its come to my attention that there is conflict between the roles that administer the HR, Social Media and Event Planning. There is conflict where these coalesce. Someone's whose responsibility to run events, deal with HR and manage events.

Eliza: My problems would be who would do it? It needs an intimate knowledge with the team, and a good relationship with the team. They need to be able to tell people to pull their head in. I kind of support the idea, but things default to me or Jason.

Ebe: We need to discuss if that is the role of chair. If manages internal disputes is, then that would need to stay there. Checking in remains the responsibility of individual editors. Joel and Julian don't have an editor, but could report to the Chair. I back the notion - it's probably a good idea - but is it an elected role or appointed role? They wouldn't receive a stipend. It doesn't seem like it deserves money.

Joel: The thing is, if ANUSA has taught me anything, it's that you can always find someone who purely wants to run BBQs, movie nights, and other pointless 'student engagement' things. I don't think we'd have much trouble finding someone who just wants to run events and make sure people get along. I'm thinking someone like Mariana.

Ebe: The minute you elect that person, they're not really part of the group. Obviously it's going to have its ups and downs, but potentially building a community around it being a former editor stepping into a smaller role.

Eliza: That's the only sort of person I could see stepping into it.

Jason: Does that venn diagram meet-up with Joel's vision.

Ebe: I'd 100% do it. I love me some events and community building. Honestly, I'd step out of digital and do that now.

Jason: It does solve a few problems that we thought might be an issue. Sec and treasurer have the issue of being quite outside the community because of the governance structure.

Ebe: Yeah, they don't attend our meetings.

Jason: For a reporter, they might not know Julian exists. They don't have any reason to interact. Joel is slightly higher profile, but similar. So it would be good if it was someone from the community.

Ebe: It would have to be. I'm not sure if we can justify it with the size of our team. We could implement it at the end of the year. I can't see anyone right now to fill it.

Joel: The primary point is to coalesce the various roles to avoid conflict.

Ebe: If/when we have a third digital editor - they could handle marketing, communications, and events. It would just add internal disputes. It could be inbuilt that one digital editor is expected to assume the community manager role. I would assume that if we had that system now. So that's what we could do in the future.

Joel: I'd propose that we expect to have this idea set in stone for next year, by the end of September. But we won't actually plan to fill the new position(s) unless the editors think we need an additional editor ASAP.

Eliza: We could also take on one or two people over winter break in preparation for it.

Ebe: I know a lot of people through Griffin who would be into that sort of thing. Or ex-rescom people.

Eliza: I'd happily take on some volunteers for the remainder of the year.

Actionable: Arrange a working group for discussing a new digital editor and/or creating a community manager.

Actionable: Ebe to write up a proposal of role descriptions for digital.

      6.2 Joel's Semester 2 Absence

          Joel: I'll be away for 35 days next Sem. Want to replace me?

          Ebe: It'll take that long to fill the position and train someone up to fill you.

          Eliza: I think we're fine to just give honoraria out of your stipend to whoever fills in for you.

      6.3 Premium Slack and G-Suite

          Joel: What's the go with this?

          Eliza: In terms of Slack, we had concerns about cost, but we can get the education discount. That's $12pp per year. We have dedicated SSAF money for it. You need to present a letter.

          Ebe: From Access Canberra or ANU?

          Eliza: ANU. We could ask Richard Baker for a letter, present our SSAF offer letter, or present our SSAF agreement.

          Ebe: Present as much as possible so that we don't encounter issues.

          Eliza: So we can present our letter and agreement.

          Motion to apply for an Education Discount for Premium Slack.

          Moved: Eliza Croft

          Seconded: Ebe Ganon

          For: 4

          Against: 0

          Abstentions: 0

          Passes unanimously.

          Ebe: We'll have to purchase G-Suite with one user. I might have to put this on Adam because I don't know how the whole transfer of domain and server will work. This'll mean GMail will host our emails. I don't want to put too much on Adam, though.

          Joel: Is this something Ash can help with?

          Eliza: I think we ask Adam. It's not urgent.

          Motion that the ANU Observer apply for G-Suite Education.

          Moved: Eliza Croft

          Seconded: Ebe Ganon

          For: 4

          Against: 0

          Abstentions: 0

          Passes unanimously.

Actionable: Ebe to administer the Slack upgrade process.
Actionable: Eliza to help Ebe get the necessary documents.

Actionable: Ebe to message Adam regarding looking into G-Suite. Timeframe of 2 weeks.

Item 7 - Other Business

7.1 Meetings over Winter Break

Joel: Are we holding meetings over winter break?

Ebe: Council?

Joel: Yes.

Ebe: Can they be the same day as news meetings?

Eliza: That'll be long.

Ebe: But it's better to just be one day.

Jason: I'm flexible.

Ebe: Apart from issues with articles, or breaking stuff, there's nothing we've tabled. We could possibly do one meeting in the middle.

Eliza: I think it's good to keep the meetings going to keep engagement up.

Joel: I completely stopped working except for the General Meeting over Summer because I had no interest or drive to do the work without engaging with other team members.

Eliza: I'm fine doing them on Monday or multiple days.

Ebe: I hate being out of the house after dark. I prefer to have my evenings on break to myself.

Joel: I'm fine to have them on Mondays.

Jason: I can do anything.

Eliza: Unless Jules can't, we'll do them Mondays at 6pm. Monday afternoons will be Observer working time.

Ebe: We're always quorate anyway.

7.2 ANU+

Ebe: ANU Sport you can accredit volunteer hours, same as Woroni. I think we should look at filling out the application to do the same. Obviously paid people can't apply.

Eliza: Can those who get honoraria?

Ebe: Not sure.

Jason: I don't think they could prevent them.

Ebe: It could also increase postgraduate engagement. We could get people with super niche skills who want to help, but don't want to be in the organisation for the whole year.

Eliza: My issues are glaring conflict of interest issues. We've worked on ANU+ stories. I worry about the stories about ANU+ and the impact it would have on broader reporting.

Jason: I disagree.

Ebe: The relationship is primarily between the volunteer and ANU+. We accredit, and we approve what the volunteer submits. We're doing them a favour.

Joel: I don't think your qualms have much merit in this case, particularly because we do stories on the SSAF process, which we are intimately involved in, and various other things.

Jason: Yeah, that's a far bigger conflict.

Eliza: My worry is the specific volunteers, not at the institutional level. Ebe, what roles would you see them doing?

Ebe: I'm thinking less-reporter, more niche skill sets. Georgia is a good case. She's very interested in being involved. She wants to move into photojournalism. I can't justify having a full time team member who doesn't do everything for digital though. This type of thing would be perfect.

Eliza: I would like to know more before we make a decision. Hours, etc.

Ebe: We don't set hours, they register with us through a volunteer agreement. We can be prescriptive if we want, but there's no standard.

Actionable: Ebe to bring a proposal regarding ANU+ before Council at the next meeting.

7.3 Kambri Naming Committee Email

Eliza: Joel suggested he should sit on it. I agree. I worry it's too much of a conflict for the News Team.

Joel: Can I get a reminder of what exactly this is?

Eliza: Yes. Students will submit names for buildings and areas in the redevelopment. You would help sort through these suggestions and come up with a short list that would be voted on.

Joel: Sure, can do.

Ebe: So why are we not on SEEF? I know some people don't care, but I think it's important for us to be on it.

Eliza: We're not on it because we weren't democratic. I think we work through one issue with the University at a time.

Joel: I think we should reach out to Alyssa and see.

Ebe: We should do it for consistency's sake.

Actionable: Eliza to contact Alyssa regarding SEEF membership.

Item 8 - Recall Actionables

Actionable: Motion to suspend standing orders at the beginning of all editorial meetings.
Actionable: Arrange a working group for discussing a new digital editor and/or creating a community manager.
Actionable: Ebe to write up a proposal of role descriptions for digital.
Actionable: Ebe to administer the Slack upgrade process.
Actionable: Eliza to help Ebe get the necessary documents.
Actionable: Ebe to message Adam regarding looking into G-Suite. Timeframe of 2 weeks.
Actionable: Ebe to bring a proposal regarding ANU+ before Council at the next meeting.
Actionable: Eliza to contact Alyssa regarding SEEF membership.