

Meeting of The ANU Observer Council

Date: 17th April

Open of Meeting: 5:05

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Item 1 - Attendance, Apologies and Minutes of Last Meeting

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VMg2sP9ICexpRsmdXe1KBRxSqbm4oiU00cc4jXjvhhQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Apologies from Jules

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

Delivered by Eliza

Item 3 - Previous Action Items

Action for Jason: When is Good, decide on Friday

Jason: haven't done it, but we are having an earlier. It's still not ok, because this group is not diverse, not in the identity sense, but in the intellectual sense. But it is good to start here.

Jules to contact FSS

Eliza: He addresses this, it's at the ANU approving it stage. Lubi has contacted us

Jules to get around Auditing

Eliza: not done, by me or Jules

Jason: I will move towards organising a week 10 ogm

Jason: issue with protocol - need to have the changes drafted 5 weeks before the GM. We could do a Week 12 GM but it would mean getting the changes drafted by 24 April.

Kon to talk to his team to work out who to deputise

Done

Jules to go to a news meeting to plug being assistant treasurer.

Eliza: he has not had a chance.



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Item 4 - Reports

1. News Report - Adelle

a. Appendix A

Eliza: just flagging that with the econ corrections, most of them did not end up being made. This plugs into broader issues with media.

Jason: I have some issues, but made it a motion

Eliza: questions, none

2. Digital Report - Kon

Appendix B

Eliza: are you looking at a weekly meeting?

Kon: there are varied reasons for low performance, including motivation. I am chasing everyone. We have to have weekly meeting. Tristan may never be able to attend, but he does work.

Eliza: Instagram is exciting for them, gives them something to do?

Kon: yes

3. Chair's Report - Eliza

Appendix D

Eliza: office guy from ANU is talking to other people, UniLodge, have sent follow up. I am anxiety about them going back on it.

4. Secretary's Report - Jason

Jason: The required email to the acting DVCA and to the Governance and Risk Office re constitutional change has been sent, thanks eliza for making sure that happened.

Now comes the hard yards of pinning down exactly what we want and how and then I get to draft some shit.

5. Treasurer's Report - Jules

See Appendix C



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Eliza: So, got an email from lubi, that we need to give them money we haven't spent. The SSAF agreement says it can be deducted. We enquired as why it was being done. There is no acting PVCA.

Motion to accept the report, jess
Passes unanimously.

Item 5 - Items for Discussion

Item 6 - Other Business

6.1 Motion to appoint Stavros Dimos as Deputy Digital Editor beginning Monday the 22nd.

Eliza: Can we do this, do we need to?

Jason: its not an elected positions. Its practice to approve appointments.

Eliza: Last time we just did a list of names for the purposes of officers. But happy to say here's this person.

Jason: its good to keep a record for the minutes, saying its not an elected role.

Eliza: And its got to note it doesn't include a stipend.

Kon moves

Passes unanimously.

6.2 Constitutional Reform - Deets

Motion to suspend minutes

Moved Jason,

Passes

6.3 News Team Issues

Unminited.

Summery

- Green
- Not Enough Editors.
 - Will incentivise output
- Issues with people getting to things
- More democratic News team.
- People do give notice when they rock up.

Concrete things to do

- Review KPIs



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- Everyone has work
- Pitching
- Extra Editor
-

Item 7 - Recall Actionables

Closed 6:16

Appendix A

News Report, 17/04/19

Since my last report on 20 March,
Observer

has published seven articles. This

includes three catchups and one SRC liveblog. One article was written by the exec. We have several longer-term pieces scheduled to come out over the break, which should boost our numbers somewhat, but these are general explainers, rather than pure news.

This is not great. Although the period does encompass a week of teaching break, and the midsemester exam period, we should be publishing more articles than this. The team is fairly settled in at this point, and the problem appears to be with motivation. Attendance at news meetings can be quite inconsistent, and we have also had issues with reporters bailing last-minute on events they promised to attend.

In the break, the news team will be taking stock of what exactly is holding us back from achieving our one-article-a-day goal. We will also be asking reporters to give feedback on our

behaviour

as editors, and what we can do to better support them in their roles.

Other things that happened over the period covered by this report:

Stressful interactions with ANU Media re: Ophel. Media responses to our enquiries continue to be very slow, adding days to the publication timeline of



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stories. I'm not sure how we can fix this, since the problem is on the behalf of ANU, rather than on us.

The Microeconomics article should have been more carefully edited – we had some corrections requested by media. It did get a lot of tractors, though, so not everything's bad.

We missed a significant story, on the prices for venue hire in Kambri. This was a shame, and something that we definitely had the capability to cover.

Would like to get reporters actually taking responsibility for the publication of their own articles. This includes the creation of graphics & sharing to Schmidtposting.

I'd also like to apologise

for failing to provide a report for the last Council meeting – I

was swamped with assignments, and managed my time poorly. Trying to be better about that.

Appendix B

Digital Report, 17/04/2019

Since last meeting, we've only had a few assignments, all of them being photography in nature. Over the break we covered the Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees and we planning to take a few pics of the rail, as there can be a story there. Instagram is up and running and from now on I will be adding stuff to it, even if there are not breaking news or news in general, just to get a bit of traction. It is a more 'casual' way of telling stories about campus. Photos will be uploaded every two or three days and I will potentially assign a photographer to do that.

Now, it has been, as we all know, extremely difficult to get everyone from the digital team into a meeting. I have been able to come in touch almost everyone, and I have arranged to meet with them. One meeting will be on tomorrow, but only three people are able to make it. Our postgrad members, with the exception of one, have all been out of touch, but I managed to arrange an individual meeting with the other two. One has been experiencing lots of stress and hard deadlines throughout the semester. What I realized, and I should have done earlier, is that I should be checking on people more frequently. They will not let me know if they are struggling with something, unless I actually go and

ask them, even if I have made it clear in the past that I am someone that they can talk to and should let know if they cannot perform in the ways expected.

That also leads to a previous discussion we had about opening the position of a deputy, as someone who I could discuss things in confidentiality and who could also take a few of my tasks and execute them. I have talked to Stavros and he is interested in becoming a Deputy. I think we are working well, and he is on top of things. As a reward, he should be eligible for a greater amount of honoraria.

We still haven't received any new applications for video, so I will need to advertise again, as I would like to hire at least two people, which means I would like to see more than three applicants out there. For now, I think it is important to talk to everyone in the digital team and check with them if they can continue with us or not, and arrange a time to meet weekly. On the positive side, I've given a trial to a new photographer and she has fulfilled it beyond expectations. She seems to be quite dedicated and reliable, so we will see how she goes.

Appendix C

Treasurer's Report

- Awaiting a response from Chancelry on acquittal matters; a misunderstanding around the exact process of acquittal has slowed things down a little, and until it's taken care of, we can't receive our SSAF funds.
- As we know for a fact that we're awaiting approval for SSAF, there's little point in reaching out to FSS.
- Haven't gotten around to making contact on auditing just yet.
- Due to being in Melbourne, I haven't yet attended a news meeting to plug my Assistant Treasurer position. This may morph into me plugging the Finance Team as a whole, if our constitutional changes get passed.

Appendix D

- Still no update on office space. I have sent follow-up email.
- Arbitration has approved stipends; will pay these out when we get our SSAF.
 - They've asked us to let them know when they should meet for honoraria/next stipends. I actually think it'd be a good idea to suggest meeting dates for all upcoming stipend/honoraria decisions, because the end of each payment period is always assessment time and it's easy to not be on top of things.



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- Team: I'm quite happy with our size, and it seems like people are generally doing what they're meant to do. I discussed a Council Trello with Jason a couple of weeks ago. I think it would be useful to go back to using Trello or similar to remind us all (Council, editors, team members) of the things we're meant to be doing. I would love people's thoughts on this.
- Governance: the relevant administration people have given us the go ahead for our constitutional changes. I think we should do a working session/day where we draft this up, and can also use that as an opportunity to do any policy or regulation "housecleaning".