



# THE ANU OBSERVER

## **Meeting of The ANU Observer Council**

Date: 30/8/19

Expected Open of Meeting: 6pm

### **Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies**

All in attendance.

### **Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country**

Delivered by Eliza Croft.

### **Item 3 - Previous Action Items**

None of relevance.

### **Item 4 - Reports**

#### 4.1 News Report

- The editorial team has run into problems with the ANU media department, namely James Giggacher, regarding the brevity of the deadlines we have been giving them to provide comment. As far as I am concerned, we are in the right: Journalists provide short deadlines all the time when stories are urgent, and we are under no obligation to give ANU media leeway in such cases. We will always ask the key stakeholders of stories for comment but will not compromise timeliness for the sake of their convenience.
- Our Election Coverage was of a consistently high quality, even if some of the stories came out a little later than optimal (although this really can't be helped during such a busy period). Something we have to watch during these crunch periods is the spelling of names, as it is easy for them to slip through the cracks. I recommend that during such periods, a proof-reader should specifically check to see that they are correct.
- This term has mainly been taken up with stu-pol stories (for obvious reasons), as well as some breaking stories that were hard to miss (such as the Lennon Wall). It would be good to move into some areas that require initiative and reporter lead investigation to get a story, like the gender segregated tutorials. Easier said than done, as we usually rely on tips for these stories, but it is worth having a good tilt at.

- This term we have been training two new reporters. I think Sam shows a lot of promise as a potential future editor – he has been very committed, especially with breaking stories.

Acceptance moved by Konstantine, passes unanimously.

#### 4.2 Digital Report

We had a small coverage of the election week, including making a video of some of our candidates and uploaded it on YouTube. We also livestreamed the CC and the SRC. Nothing else has happened, as we have been very busy with uni work. The team showed lots of commitment and hopefully this will continue into next Semester.

I will admit that I have been a bit slack in my responsibility to draft emails and send them to the people who we will need to talk to about our documentaries, e.g. x Building Administration. I will try to do that before Monday.

I will also admit that producing autonomous digital content has been challenging with me being the only Digital Editor. I think there is a lot of potential in the video side of things, but it is hard when only one person is responsible for the management of a project. It is important to start thinking how leadership is going to work in the new Visual Team next year; having one or two Heads. I have also suggested that we should look into recruiting reporters and photographers with interests in both fields, but I think we need to have an important discussion about that soon. As a result this will help resolve some of our issues with the photographers. I see that it is mostly the video team where I can see autonomous storytelling, and embracing in that field can have a lot of beneficial consequences in the future and guarantee the existence of a healthy digital team.

Please create the following **actionables for me: Contact Doco people and Backup the Google Drive and Observer Documents.**

Eliza: Question - Stavros been around?

Kon: Somewhat, not for a little while. He's been busy. I can reach out to him.

Eliza: Thinking of moving photography more into the News team.

Kon: Probably a good thing to think about.

Eliza: Something for next year's people to think about, but we will start scoping it out now.

Acceptance moved by Adelle, accepted unanimously.

#### 4.3 Financial Report

- SSAF process is now well underway. Roles have been assigned within Council for writing bids; the streamlining of the process has made everything drastically easier.
- Currently working with PKF Auditing through the audit process. They anticipate that the final charge will be between \$2,000 and \$3,000, meaning we'll come in well under budget, although of course, we won't know until submission.
- Main expenditure reports have been compiled. A long and painstaking process, but worthwhile.
- Currently waiting on the Chair to provide a variety of receipts that I don't have access to.

Jules: SSAF is going; deadline of end of first week of break for us to finish drafts of our stuff. Auditing is on its way. John (the Auditor) seems pretty relaxed about everything. He's a partner at the firm and says he will be knocking everything out personally. It came to my attention that Taz had been reimbursed for pizza twice, she will be re-reimbursing us.

Moved by Kon, passes unanimously

#### 4.4 Chair's Report

- SSAF Process is underway. The incoming ANUSA Treasurer has reached out to me asking to meet, so we're going to do that over the break. Looking forward to a less hostile process this year.
- Still no update on the office. I've emailed and called Jason to no avail. I will be emailing him again and CC'ing in people who are higher up.
- Jason messaged me saying we need to update the Constitution on the website. Turns out he's wrong as it doesn't come into effect until 1 December. Still, something to be aware of. We'll need to change/create some Regulations at next Term's General Meeting.
- I alerted the Arbitration Panel to the formal complaint the News Editors received from James Giggacher. However, it seems he doesn't wish to pursue this through formal means so I will be telling the Panel this. I think we may need to amend the Grievances Policy as it seems to have been written before Observer became a full democracy.

Kon: Computer? Space?

Eliza: If we don't know what we're doing mid-next week, buy a laptop. We can't keep delaying. Acceptance moved by Jules, passed unanimously.

### Item 5 - Items for Decision

### Item 6 - Items for Discussion

#### 6.1 Hardcopy submission of documentation to PKF

Jules: PKF want everything we want to submit in hardcopy. I may be back before we're able to submit, but ideally I'd like to have it all together. Their office is on Lonsdale St or Marcus Clarke St.

Eliza: I can print it out, go to Officeworks with the debit card.

**Actionables: Jules to give Eliza docs to print by 10 September. Jules to flag 11 September date with John. Eliza to print and hand in 11 September.**

#### 6.2 Revision of our Policies

Kon: We need to revise some policies and should probably have a broad review. Do we want to meet up and just have a day of it?

Eliza: Some only need minor changes (terminology, etc.); others need broad reform. In terms of slight tweaking, that's best done by me and the new Sec - we can do that when we meet post-confirmation. For reform, if Kon has digital policies he wants to reform, he can do that. People should do their pet projects. There are some Reg changes that need to happen at the

next GM, but that's best figured out when I go through the small stuff with the new Sec. No point panicking until we figure out when the GM is. Payment policy will need broad modification.

Jules: can non-journalists get honoraria?

Eliza: yes

Jules: :)

### 6.3 Secretary

Jules: I thought the candidate was good. There was a bit of confusion over times, but when we met she did well, clearly understood the role, has relevant experience. Her main point was that she is very organised; that's the main thing we need a secretary to be. She seems keen to stay on next year, though of course she needs to be elected.

Kon: I think she's good. I think she is on top of things, but we'll see how she can manage these things. I've sent through her Col Dec in Council - all read. She hasn't heard from FRC on Col.

Eliza: Since she won't be involved in this year's SSAF bid (too late in the process), I don't think there's a significant issue.

Jules moves to appoint Aishwarya Venkatraman to fill the casual vacancy of the position of Secretary of the ANU Observer.

Seconded by Adelle.

Passes unanimously.

**Actionable: Kon to contact her notifying her of her confirmation.**

## **Item 7 - Other Business**

### **Item 8 - Recall Actionables**

**Konstantinos Contact Doco people and Backup the Google Drive and Observer Documents.**

**Jules to give Eliza docs to print by 10 September.**

**Jules to flag 11 September date with John.**

**Eliza to print and hand in 11 September.**

**Jules to contact Arbitration re: allowances and honoraria**

**Konstantinos to contact Ash**

Meeting closed at 6:36pm.