

The ANU Observer

Conflicts of Interest Policy

1. Nature

- 1.1. This is a policy created subject to The ANU Observer Constitution. In the case of any inconsistencies between this policy and the Constitution of the ANU Observer, the clause(s) in question are considered void to the extent of that inconsistency.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Relevant Officers of Observer shall be required to provide a full and current list of their interests which may conflict with the interests of Observer or in any way affect or influence their actions or judgement in the course of their duties as an Officer of Observer.

3. Nature of Conflicts

- 3.1. Conflicts of Interest include conflicts that are;
 - 3.1.1. Actual or apprehended.
 - 3.1.2. Immediate or potential.
 - 3.1.3. Current or previous.
- 3.2. An interest occurs when a person has a professional, personal, or other involvement in an organisation, person, or any other matter which may affect their judgement or action.
- 3.3. Interests may include, but are not limited to:
 - 3.3.1. Roles in other organisations
 - 3.3.2. Intimate relationships
 - 3.3.3. Lodging at a residence
 - 3.3.4. Membership in a political party
- 3.4. An actual conflict of interest occurs when:
 - 3.4.1. Any interest held by a person has is or has the potential to result in the action or judgement which is in detriment to the goals of Observer, or
 - 3.4.2. An interest held by a person has, is or has the potential to modify the judgement or action of an Officer in any part of their conduct as an Officer of Observer.
- 3.5. An apprehended conflict of interest occurs when a person may appear, to a reasonable person, to have an interest which may seem likely, to affect their action or judgement in their conduct as an Officer of Observer.

- 3.6. Institutional conflicts, where Observer as an Association has an interest subjects on which it may be reporting, are covered in the Article Selection Policy.

4. Declaration

- 4.1. The Officers of Observer required to provide a declaration of Conflicts of Interest are:
 - 4.1.1. The Councillors
 - 4.1.2. The News Editors
 - 4.1.3. The Digital Editors
 - 4.1.4. All members of the News Team
 - 4.1.5. Any other Officer the Council determines
- 4.2. Any Officer required to make a declaration shall make that declaration before their term in that Office begins.
 - 4.2.1. Declarations must be made in writing and submitted to the Council.
 - 4.2.2. Declarations must include dates and other such details when relevant.
- 4.3. Any Officer required to make a declaration shall maintain and update that declaration for their period of office. This includes:
 - 4.3.1. Adding new conflicts if and when they arise.
 - 4.3.2. Adding any conflicts which may previously have been forgotten, neglected or otherwise missed as soon as they are aware of that conflict.
 - 4.3.3. Updating existing conflicts with new information should it arise.
 - 4.3.4. Ongoing declarations and updates must be submitted to the Council.
- 4.4. A conflict may be exempted from the requirement disclosure, if that conflict:
 - 4.4.1. Is of a highly personal or intimate nature.
 - 4.4.2. Carries the potential to cause detriment to the individual if made public except where said detriment relates to their role as an Officer of Observer, or
 - 4.4.3. Cannot be disclosed owing to some prior obligation under law.

5. Publicisation

- 5.1. Conflicts of Interest for all officers on the News Team shall be made public and available to all Members.

5.2. Conflicts of Interest for other Officers may be made public at the discretion of the Council.