

## Overview (describe the strategic directions of the affiliate body including justification for any increase over staffing and administrative costs in previous year – max 300)

The ANU Observer aims to provide timely, accurate and detailed coverage of news relevant to ANU students. Our team members write and publish articles, livestream events, and photograph campus happenings.

At the start of 2019, the Council (Observer's governing body) identified four main strategic goals: quality content, high readership, a good reputation, and a sustainable organisation. Our SSAF bid aims to help achieve these goals.

The only significant increase to Observer's proposed budget compared to 2019 is in Allowances and Honoraria. This increase is vital to ensure the sustainability of Observer – our team members, and especially our Editors, do too much work for \$2700 per year to be fair recompense. The low pay makes leadership positions inaccessible to those who need to work to support themselves, and where self-supporting students do take on these roles, they often struggle to put in the work required for Observer to produce quality content for students. Increasing allowances and honoraria also goes some way to fixing the significant discrepancy when comparing Observer's compensation to that of organisations like Woroni and ANUSA. There had been a plan for the University to review payment to student leaders more generally, but this has not yet eventuated, so immediate action is needed to ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of our organisation.

Other minor increases include administration costs and meeting and event costs. Administration costs have increased due to an increase in website hosting costs, and to allow for the possibility of any further increases, as our website is vital to our functioning. Meeting and event costs have been increased to allow for better election debate events and to provide food to team members on working/training days.

## Priority Listing

### a) Staffing and Administrative Costs on-going (if applicable)

COST ITEM	Justification	2020 budget	2019 est expenditure	2018 actual expenditure
Allowances & Honoraria	Increase necessary for organisational sustainment, with current editors and officers being paid well below other organisations. The low pay makes sustained commitment challenging and has attributed to turnover of editorial staff. 20% of this figure is Honoraria, to encourage high-quality reporting from our team.	\$29,530	\$18,530	\$22,249.16
Administration	Varying administrative costs, including Access Canberra and website fees. This line item has seen a minor increase, as it now encompasses web costs (previously funded by a 2017 SEEF Grant).	\$500	\$300	\$257.45
Auditing	The SSAF agreement mandates compulsory auditing. We were unaware of this when bidding for the 2018 bid, and so had to bid for/receive additional funding in 2019 to audit two years.	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$0
Office Rent and Supplies	ANU Observer has acquired an office in 2019 and hopes to continue using it through the future. A secure office in which to meet, work, store documents, etc. is obviously an essential and irreplaceable component of our organisation. This figure includes approximately \$100 for supplies such as tea and coffee.	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$0
Software Subscriptions	Software subscriptions to Adobe and Slack allow for creation of high-quality graphics and efficient team communication.	\$700	\$700	\$322.77
Legal	Observer has consistently received \$2,000 as a reserve legal fund. We have not yet needed it, but it's an important backup in case a matter arises in which the ANUSA lawyer is unable to assist..	\$2,000	\$0	\$0

# 2020 SSAF Grant Program Overview and Priority Listing

News Subscriptions	Digital subscriptions to news outlets allow us to engage with mainstream media coverage of the ANU. Now that the Canberra Times is subscription-based, it is vital that we are able to cover this cost.	\$200	\$300	\$0
MHFA Training	This would be useful for Editors to have to help provide pastoral support to team members and to potentially deal with distressed members of the public. Funded for \$150 in 2019 but not implemented as a majority of the Board already had the training, and a session could not be organised in a timely/convenient manner. We now plan to hold a joint session with other student organisations to prevent such logistical issues.	\$250	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$46,180</b>	<b>\$35,330</b>	<b>\$22,829.38</b>

## b) Continuing and new projects (Priority listing of continuing and new projects)

COST ITEM	Justification	2020 budget	2019 est expenditure	2018 actual expenditure
Meetings and events	Continued funding of inexpensive food for events and meetings is valuable for aiding turnout and boosting team morale. The increased bid will allow us to provide food for team working/training days, e.g. around student elections. This will also assist in booking and cleaning costs for central venues in Kambri, and provide more substantial food at events such as election debates.	\$900	\$500	\$450
<i>Joint bid with Woroni – NUS National Conference</i>	<i>See Woroni bid. This year we had planned to send two reporters, but due to the NUS requiring the approval of the ANUSA President for our registration, and the ANUSA President not doing this in time, we were unable to send anyone. One reporter was partially reimbursed for flights she had booked before finding out we would not be able to attend.</i>	<i>See Woroni bid</i>	\$300	\$1260
Equipment	In 2020, we are planning to acquire a second tripod and a tripod fluid head, as this year we saw the need to livestream/film events that were happening concurrently on the same day and at the same time. The Zoom H1n Handy Recorder will be important to both our news and digital teams, as it can be used for both filming and interviews. We are planning to acquire four more hard drives, as our content should be backed up regularly. Two will act as a backup and the other two will be used to transfer and store content. It is also important for us to acquire UV filters to provide an extra layer of protection for our collection of lenses. In 2019 we had bid for a camera, but we will need a backpack to store it and take it around with us in the field. A cleaning set is important to increase our equipment's lifespan. We want to expand our livestream set up (microphones, stabilisers, etc.) as we livestream many events. It will be important for us to have an allocated	\$3500	\$3500	\$2690.18

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	Miscellaneous section to allow for repairs and unexpected purchases across the year, now that we have more equipment and are looking to pursue new projects.			
Advertising and merchandise	Our goals and projected outcomes for advertising and merchandise remain the same as in previous years. We have decreased our bid as we have a reasonable supply remaining of sweaters and business cards.	\$500	\$750	\$600
Phone	This funding will allow the organisation to continue to maintain the breaking news phone.	\$20	\$20	\$80
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4920 (excl joint NUS bid)</b>	<b>\$5070</b>	<b>\$5080.18</b>