



THE ANU OBSERVER

General Meeting 2018-05-09

Official Minutes

Meeting opens at 1810

Item 1: Meeting Opens and Apologies

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

1.2 Apologies

Oskah, Georgia, Catherine

Item 2: Minutes from the Previous Meeting including Matters Arising

2.1 Minutes from the Previous Meeting

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bUGk2opx8XRcF0Wkyhn1oBDT442Wi4yMEcNfZbnRwAU/edit?usp=sharing>

Joel: They're on the website.

Eliza: I move that we accept them.

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstaining: 1 (Ebe)

Passes

2.2 Motion to Change the Order of the Agenda

Motion to read that by a resolution of all members present and voting, the agenda shall be re-ordered so that Item 7.1 is the next matter considered.

For: 31

Against: 0

Motion passes.

Item 3: Reports and Matters Arising

3.1 Report of the Chair of the Council (Appendix A)

Eliza: I'd like to thank everyone for understanding while the Association is going through a period of grief.

Motion to accept the report.

Moved: Lily

Seconded: Jess

Motion passes.

3.2 Report of the Chair of the Editorial Board (Appendix B)

Skanda: I'd like to take my report as read. We've published a great deal of articles over the past 6 months. We've had some challenges, but we're looking

forward to getting back into things. Live blogs of SRC has been really appreciated.

Michael: What are the editorial goals for Observer for the rest of the year?

Skanda: Produce accurate, timely, and detailed news for the Campus. We're looking forward to covering elections, keeping up with the re-development. We have a vague goal of putting out 4-5 articles a week at a minimum. We won't stick to that if it comes at the expense of quality.

Motion to accept the report.

Moved: Michael

Seconded: Julian

Motion passes.

3.3 Report of the Digital Team (Appendix C)

Ebe: I'll take my report largely as read but highlight a few things. On behalf of the Digital Team I want to acknowledge the passing of Isabel Matthews. She was a very loved member of our team, very valued, and we will miss her. We've put off hiring for the sake of respect until the break. At that point we'll try to replenish the digital team. We will never be able to replace Isabel. Our goals moving forward will be to improve engagement.

Motion to accept the report.

Moved: Taz

Seconded: Adelle

Motion passes.

3.4 Secretary's Report (Appendix D)

Joel: I'll take my report as read.

Tom: In terms of the SSAF process, do you think there'll be difficulties next year?

Joel: In short, probably. Not quite the same level of trouble that we encountered this year obviously.

Motion to accept the report.

Moved: Jason

Seconded: Alyssa

Motion passes.

3.5 Treasurer's Report (Appendix E)

Julian: Hi everyone. My name is Jules. I'm the new Secretary.

Joel: News to me.

Julian: I mean Treasurer. Life is fantastic. I'm excited to be with the team. The SSAF money has finally come in, so we have money.

Abhishek: How in budget are you?

Julian: We're well within budget. We have goals for sponsorship.

Eliza: We can chat about this after the meeting.

Eben: How much money does Observer have.

Ebe: \$23,479.63.

Joel: I'd like to note that obviously some of that money is owed as payment or reimbursement to Officers.

Ebe: We've also only received 2/3rds of our SSAF.

Howard: Is Observer bidding for mid-year SSAF?

Eliza: We've received no word on this.

Jason: Why did we only get 2/3rds of our SSAF?

Julian: I'll direct that to Richard Baker.

Ebe: I chased up the SSAF process. They only would have paid that amount if that was the amount on the invoice. They may have done it instalments.

Chair is passed to Michael

Eliza: Most organisations receive SSAF in instalments. We didn't agree to it, so we'll chase it up.

Chair is passed to Eliza.

Motion to accept the report.

Moved: Ebe

Seconded: Howard

Motion passes.

Item 4: Elections

4.1 Election of Arbiters

Nominees:

Abhishek Sehgal

Nominations from the floor:

Eben Leifer

Howard Maclean

Jack Crawford

Fred Hanlin

Eliza: The arbitration panel is our group that decides disputes and honoraria and can also withhold stipends. They are a disputes body with some financial power. They must be elected by a 75% majority of members present and voting. They serve 2-year terms. Each nominee will have an opportunity to speak and answer questions.

Abhishek: I'm a big fan of the Observer, and I would really like to be a part of it.

Michael: This may be uncomfortable.

Ebe: Yikes.

Michael: Content warning. I believe you've made some very unpleasant comments on the ANU Stalkerspace forum. *describes comments*

Abhishek: That was me being stupid. I went through a fairly stupid phase.

Ebe: Any past or current associations with Student groups?

Abhishek: AFEC, but I don't do much with it.

Ebe: Political affiliations.

Abhishek: Used to be a Liberal Party member, nothing anymore.

Jack: My name is Jack, I'd like to consider myself a long-term friend of Observer, but I've never had time to commit to the intense roles. I thought I could help out. I don't have any conflicts - maybe the Math Society. Not a card carrying member of any political party.

Skanda: Any friendships or relationships you'd want to conflict yourself off with?

Jack: Michael, Eliza, Adam, but I feel I would be capable of staying objective.

Michael: You work in a political office?

Jack: I am friends with Steve Martin, a Senator. Vaguely mates. I don't work there. I might be doing an internship at some point in the future.

Eben: Hi, I think most of you know me. I am currently on the ANUSA Disputes Committee, so I know a bit about this work. I'm a member of the Labor Party and also work for a MLA. I've acted impartially in Disputes, and I feel I could apply that here with the people who I am quite close to.

Ebe: Do you think your role in ANUSA will interact with your role here?

Eben: I can't see that it would. There's no overlap.

Ebe: We had to report on an ANUSA dispute. Due to that we had to make changes to the Arbitration Panel. I wouldn't want that to happen again. Can you shed light on that?

Eben: I'm not sure what the question is. Those individuals were involved in a dispute, but did not sit on the Disputes Committee.

Michael: Can you commit to recusing yourself from the arbitration process of any matter that focuses on ANUSA, particularly disputes?

Eben: I think I can make the right decision.

Howard: I love overcommitment. I'd like to direct everyone to the Facebook page for this meeting where I uploaded my conflict of interest document from SRC4. I'm running for Arbitration because I really love governance. I serve as Secretary of the Clubs Council, I'm a Probity Officer, and I have experience in disputes and honoraria. I've been an RA, I'm in my 5th year, so I won't be able to serve for 2 years. I'm not a member of a political party.

Tom: In terms of your proclivity to write essays about many a topic, do you think that given the breadth of Observer's coverage, that having opinions will impact your ability to be impartial? Specifically where you comment on a matter, and that matter is in an article, and that gives the opinion you can't be impartial.

Howard: If I'm featured in the article, or made public comments on a post that is featured in the article, I would lead towards being cautious for the sake of the integrity of the panel.

Jason: How can you guarantee that being on the Arbitration Panel won't have a chilling effect on the types of stories you'd normally feature in.

Howard: I'm very comfortable with media coverage surrounding ANUSA. That's why I've fought the media policy. When you are referred to so often, it begins to lack the weight

it previously had. I hope there wouldn't be. I'd find it strange if my presence on the Panel has an effect on the editorial board.

Oskah: You're pretty open about the fact you're overcommitted. How will you demonstrate that you can make the time for Observer?

Howard: It's a case of managing disputes - these bodies have matters come up when they come up, and when they do they need to be handled in a timely manner. I currently fill a similar role in the Clubs' Council as Secretary where I'm experienced with issues like what come before Arbitration.

Michael: Outside of a formal dispute, the Panel is required to meet 5 times a year. To my knowledge no dispute has ever been submitted to the Panel. That should clarify the terms of workload.

Skanda: In regards to honoraria, how would you manage that?

Howard: I know a lot of prominent people in the Association fairly well. This gives me an insight into what people in the Association do. This comes in handy when awarding honoraria. I'm confident in my ability to handle it impartially and fairly.

Fred: I'm Fred. Similar to Howard I like to be constantly involved in campus life. This is my last year, so I'd only be doing the role until the end of this year. Experience-wise, I worked for 4 years in a area that had frequent high-stress disputes. I was Queer* Officer for a year, and Gen Rep on ANUSA for a year, when I was involved in reworking the Constitution. I'm currently Walter Wing assistant for Griffin Hall. Former member of the Greens and former co-trustee of the Greens on Campus.

In the first round of voting Fred Hanlin and Jack Crawford were elected.

The Chair elected to use their power to overrule the Secretary's interpretation to hold a second round of elections.

In the second round of voting no additional Arbiters were elected.

Item 5: Items for Resolution

No Items for Resolution.

Item 6: Items for Discussion

No Items for Discussion.

Item 7: Notices of Motions

7.1 Motion to read:

That the Members of The ANU Observer approve the changes to the Constitution of The ANU Observer as presented for consideration on April 24, 2018. (Appendix F)

Moved: Eliza Croft - Editor

Seconded: Joel Baker - Secretary

Eliza: This is a common sense change.
Joel: It's just a spelling mistake.
Move to a vote.
For: 30
Against: 0
Abstaining: 2 (Howard Maclean, Harish)
Motion passes.

Item 8: Other Business

Item 9: Date of next meeting and Close

Meeting closed at 1902.

The next meeting of the Members of The ANU Observer will be held in Semester 2, 2018.

Expected close of meeting - 1900.