



THE ANU OBSERVER

Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 13/5/20

Open of Meeting: 1700

Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

Present: Angus, Hayley, Konstantinos, Tristan, Adelle, Sam (Late with apologies)

Absent:

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

By Konstantinos

Item 3 - Previous Action Items

3.1 [Editors review of role overviews](#)

Item 4 - Reports

Chair Report: Konstantine Katsanis

Nothing significant to report. I delegated the task of contacting the Arbitration Panel in regards to Woroni to our Secretary and they just came back to us. She would have more information on the matter, although the general consensus is that they cannot provide any advice on the matter because they need to maintain neutrality. This means that I may need to come in touch with other organisations and see how to interpret the matter for the best course of action. I would like to receive thoughts from the Board. I don't personally think it will have a huge impact on our SSAF, especially if it is decided by an independent panel, however for the sake of neutrality, we need to make sure that it won't be influenced by the event. The university hasn't contacted us in regards to SSAF, yet. I will probably need to chase up with them soon, however I am not sure if it's normal to not hear anything until next Semester. I apologise for being a bit out of the loop, lately, but I have been dealing with some personal things and have been trying to catch up on study.

Moved by Tristan, seconded by Angus. Passes unanimously.

Finance Executive Report: Konstantine Katsanis

Generally, things have been quiet over the past two weeks, so nothing significant to report. I apologise for not getting into buying the shirts yet, however I am planning to purchase them by the time of the next meeting. I have not received any requests for purchasing from the Editors or the VCE, however, I encourage them, again, to think about any purchases they would like to make now.

Moved by Hayley, seconded by Tristan. Passes unanimously.

Secretary Report: Hayley Hands

I am still working on the handover policy. I will get the General Meeting and last Board Meeting's minutes up in the next few days I have been waiting on a few things. We received a response back from Arbitration essentially stating it wasn't something they could help us with. Editors have yet to look over the role overviews so we cannot pass them yet.

I am looking forward to potentially being able to move back to in person meetings next semester and think we should start preparing for this as a possibility.

Moved by Tristan, seconded by Angus. Passes unanimously.

Visual Content Executive Report: Tristan Khaw

Received late with apologies

Short report today because I have a lot due this week.

Not a lot has changed since last meeting. I have implemented weekly meetings with my team and they have agreed that talking to someone is a lot more engaging than just Slack messages.

I want to congratulate Angus for the website update -- it looks amazing and works so much better than the old mess.

Visual team has been trying out new thumbnails recently. All credit goes to Amna for the design. I think I would like to work on them a little bit more before settling, especially the blue news bubble

Kon: It may be nice to have our photos on our website.

Tristan: Yeah I think that would be cool, would be an opportunity to push the merch.

Kon: Could be something you could assign to your team.

Tristan: Yeah.

Kon: Also, I remember you mentioned you were thinking to do video explainers?

Tristan: I've spoken to Charlie about that, he hasn't gotten back to me and I have nudged him at both of our previous meetings. It's sort of his idea really but if he doesn't respond to this one I might pick an explainer and make a draft script to nudge it in that direction even more. At the end of the day it's sort of up to him about whether he wants to take on the project. No one else has the means [to put something like that together]. I don't think I would want to [go to your house] to do anything [like interviews] at this point. It doesn't feel right as the executive part of Observer to recommend either someone as part of our team to do it or for myself to do it. I think it's a good idea/form of content but I'm not feeling the vibe. We could explore animation.

Moved by Hayley, seconded by Angus. Passes unanimously.

News Content Executive Report: Anthony Lotric

Not submitted

Adelle: I think our analytics website is broken, it is not registering a single view on our previous article. Facebook is registering hundreds so I would guess there's at least one. At the moment I'm considering being Editor through ANUSA elections.

Angus: I think news has been doing a really good job over quarantine, especially the longer form one.

Adelle: Declan's story on the Nepalese one was really good, he drove that all on his own and Sam helped a lot as well.

Konstantine: Because you have a lot of reporters at the moment, what do you think you'll do semester 2?

Adelle: I don't think we'd go through an active hiring round, because we haven't [interacted in person] they feel brand new. It would depend if we did lose any.

Web Administrator Report: Angus Brooks

We have had some really good feedback regarding the new Observer website. There are still some issues to be tweaked - although the performance has improved significantly there are still some occasional crashes being reported, although not nearly as severe or frequent. I am interested in receiving more feedback still about how to improve the site and anything that should be added or tweaked and invite anyone to contact me with ideas.

Angus: Had some good feedback about the website, but I am keen for some more feedback in how it could be improved especially about the homepage and the sidebar. We could feature certain content that is relevant to [current times like remote learning etc]. There is still an issue with the site occasionally going down, it's less severe and fixes itself a lot quicker. It's asking me for a username and password which I don't know. And Google analytics is down.

Kon: What don't you have the password for?

Angus: Our virtual server. It's separate from Digital Ocean. It's still functioning but I just can't login to it.

Kon: The team has not been updated in the website.

Angus: I don't have anyone's conflicts of interest except Anthony's.

Kon: I think teams could be aligned towards the centre.

Moved by Adelle, seconded by Tristan. Passes unanimously.

Item 5 - Items for Decision

Item 6 - Items for Discussion

6.1 Portfolio Pages

Angus: I am keen to develop the portfolio pages for both news and digital. Currently Wordpress automatically makes a page with all the posts of specific authors but I wanted to see if we would be interested in adding some more information and photos if we get around to taking them.

Tristan: We've only just started crediting people, can you tag a photo as having an 'author'?

Angus: You can add bylines under it.

Tristan: Or we could tag them under the article.

Angus: This is not so much detailed pages, it's more like would we want an archive of the [current team so it can be viewed over different times].

6.2 Moving back on campus and in-person work

Kon: I think we should start thinking about getting back to [in-person meetings], I think the building lockdown will be lifted probably from July or August we will be allowed back in the office.

Angus: They were talking about a June 2nd date for unlocking campus.

Kon: Because we're not paying rent for June I'm not sure if they'll let us in or not. For new reporters we need to introduce these new concepts.

Tristan: We should definitely have some sort of meeting or get together like we were planning to, and just get to know the people on the team. I don't think I've met some of the new reporters yet.

Kon: I don't know what's happening with Bush Week.

Adelle: Also, holding a Bush Week event is probably riskier than holding classes.

6.3 Honoraria for Term 2

Kon: I want to get vibes on whether we should actually reward honoraria this term or just skip it.

Adelle: I think we should because in acknowledgment of the circumstances people went above and beyond.

Angus: We've still been doing a lot of work. News team has been doing great work with their explainers and stuff. Isn't it standard that reporters get honoraria?

Kon: It's going for above and beyond.

Adelle: It generally goes to reporters because they're not paid at all.

Kon: I mostly brought it up because I think at the start of when we moved online some people agreed but it was just in informal discussion. We have continued doing some work over this period.

6.4 Zoom Social

Item 7 - Other Business

Item 8 - Recall Actionables

8.1 Conflicts of Interest for News Team to be published on website, team list to be updated.

8.2 Setting dates/ideas for Zoom/Discord social through a Slack callout.

8.3 Konstantine to order those bloody shirts

Meeting closed at 6:01pm