



THE ANU OBSERVER

Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 13/03/21

Opening of Meeting: 13:35

Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

Present: Konstantinos Katsanis (Chair)

Angus Brooks (director)

Brandon How (director)

Keeley Dickinson (director)

Helena Burke (director)

Declan Milton (director)

Jacqueline Du (director)

Absent:

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

Delivered by Konstantine.

Item 3 - Previous Action Items

1. **Angus to consult with the reporters and see how they feel about the external reporter.**

Angus: Discovered that there are only two reporters, therefore there didn't seem a need to do so.

Keeley: We might need to mention at a news meeting to see what they think.

Helena: Might need to clarify the differences, the goods and the bads of doing freelance vs being part.

Brandon: I was also wondering if it is going to affect the culture.

Declan: I think the position should be used in exceptional circumstances. Not really comfortable.

2. **Organise a meeting to discuss role descriptions with the Secretary.
Editors to meet and to come up with a proposal with proposed changes before the meeting.**

Item 4 - Reports

Chair Report: Konstantinos Katsanis

Not much to report on from the Chair side of things. As I mentioned last time, we renewed our SSAF agreement and we provided the university with an invoice to make us the first payment. I handled that myself because we had to do it immediately after we signed the agreement, and because rather than sending it to FBS, Anastasia handed it in for us. Otherwise, it is the Finance Executive who is handling this process.

According to Jacqui, PKF hasn't come back to us regarding auditing our financial accounts for 2017. Access Canberra has informed me that we will need to lodge an annual return report for every single year, including 2017. This can be tricky, as our funding scheme was very different then, and the documents showing the funding history of that year were already reviewed by PKF for the 2018 audit.

I've been thinking about certain structural changes that are more or less necessary for the organisation. Those will be discussed in the strategic meeting today. However, I do not believe that those things will be implemented immediately and might require further discussion in our next board meetings.

I would like to thank everyone on the board who responded to the media ban by facebook. We handled it well, and I think it also made us realise that we should be keeping active on other platforms, as well.

Moved by Keeley

Seconded by Helena

Passes unanimously

Secretary Report: Konstantinos Katsanis (received late)

Most of the work I've done lately has been creating the agenda for the strategic meeting and writing a proposal about certain structural changes. Generally, I haven't worked on policies because fulfilling the duties of the Visual Content Executive have taken a lot of my time. I have put a lot of thought on some things, but those will be discussed further in the meeting tomorrow.

I am hoping to have corrected all of our active policies before the next meeting. I have also received feedback from people outside Observer regarding freelancer reporter, and have suggested for situations like those to be regulated.

Moved by Helena

Seconded by Brandon

Passes unanimously

News Content Executive Report: Helena Burke (received late)

February and March have been a busy time for the news team with many exciting new changes.

We have hired nine new Reporters for a total of 11. All of these new Reporters have received official training in the form of a 3 hour training day. The contents of this training can be viewed in the 'TRAINING DAY' folder within the 'News Editors Administration 2021' folder. The new Reporters have diverse skills and backgrounds and overall seem like a very enthusiastic and switched-on group of students.

Although 11 is a large number of Reporters compared to previous years, the Editorial Board has agreed that to expand the output and scope of our news content, a larger number of Reporters is preferable.

The Facebook media ban from 18-24 February caused a significant disturbance to our news output. However, I believe that the incident was handled very well by the entire Observer team. The ban highlighted the need to increase our activity and engagement on other platforms such as Instagram and Twitter.

News content highlights:

- The Market Day article was very well received on our Facebook page and on Schmidtposting.
- The Anti-Racism Collective launch article was an effective 'soft news' article reporting on an important topic that has often been underreported by Observer.
- The Daley Road car park article written freelance by Kai Clark was a success. The process went smoothly overall, and the finished article was of high quality. The editorial board has agreed that more freelance reporting should be pursued in future, providing a clear procedure and standards of reporting are followed.
- The article on the reopening of the MSI unfair dismissal case highlighted the impact that Observer's reporting can have on the broader community. Another student came forward with allegations after reading about the case in a certain "student magazine".

The Editorial Board is looking forward to the month ahead with our nine new team members. Content output is expected to increase substantially before the next board meeting.

Brandon: I would like to thank Helena for her hard work during ban

Keeley: Would like to commend Brandon for his extremely hard work over the past few months.

Moved by Angus

Seconded by Jacqueline

Passes unanimously

Finance Executive Report: Jacqueline Du (received late)

Allowances have been paid, please check your bank accounts for the payment.
Have not heard back from PKF but have sent two emails.

Jacqueline: I don't if you all noticed this but now everyone has access to Creative Cloud for free. We might need to see if we can cancel it so we don't pay

Konstantinos: I will check into that.

Jacqueline: Shirts will be the next focus.

Konstantinos: Do you have a design for the shirts?

Jacqueline: No.

Brandon: Jo has some ideas.

Helena: I also thought to say Observer at the front.

Keeley: I would also like to see Jo's interpretation of the logo.

Actionable: Angus to check on sizes. Jacqui to come in touch with Jo and Tajiswani. All of them to organise a time to meet and discuss those things before the next board meeting.

Moved by Brandon

Seconded by Angus

Passes unanimously

Community Executive Report: Angus Brooks

Angus: No responses received from my email to reporters about the external reporter. I've also been working with unilodge Australia to change the sign outside. Our design is subject to change. The process is still ongoing.

Konstantinos: Is the access to the office sorted?

Angus: Yes.

Helena: If there is an issue, e.g. an editor about an editor, to come to you.

Angus: Yes, that's correct.

Moved by Helena.

Seconded by Keeley.

Passes unanimously

Web Executive Report: Angus Brooks

Angus: 55% of people read our mailing list.

Brandon: How many people on the mailing list?

Angus: 88 today. I will also put you guys now.

Brandon: There seems to be a page dates that you need to know that doesn't lead to anywhere.

Angus: It's on google only if you search that.

Moved by Jacqui

Seconded by Helana

Passes unanimously

Item 5 - Items for Decision

Approve the following members as officers of the ANU Observer in the position of reporter:

- Tom Kersten
- Grace Danielson
- Nathan Bow
- Alex Ellwood
- Jemima Adams
- India Kazakoff
- Charlotte Thou
- Darlene Rowlands
- Ali El-Zein

Moved by Declan

Seconded by Angus

Passes unanimously

Item 6 - Items for Discussion

6.1 Establishment of Budget Meetings

Helena: I think it would be nice to move some money towards meetings.

Jacqueline: How often.

Konstantinos: No that often

Brandon: I was wondering if we should divide line items by teams.

Jacqueline: I think if we have the line items more broad then we would be able to transfer them more easily. For instance contingency.

6.2 SSAF

(not discussed)

6.3 Freelance

(not minuted)

Item 7 - Other Business

Item 8 - Recall Actionables

Angus to check on sizes. Jacqui to come in touch with Jo and Tajiswani. All of them to organise a time to meet and discuss those things before the next board meeting.

Closing of Meeting: 14:51