



THE ANU OBSERVER

Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 15/05/21

Opening of Meeting: 13:23

Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

Present: Konstantinos Katsanis (Chair)

Angus Brooks (director)

Sung-Jae Lee (director)

Helena Burke (director)

Brandon How (director)

Joseph Oh (director)

Absent: Keeley Dickinson (director) (*without apologies*)

Declan Milton (director) (*without apologies*)

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

Delivered by Konstantine.

Item 3 - Previous Action Items

Item 4 - Reports

All presented orally.

Chair Report: Konstantinos Katsanis

Konstantine: Not much happening in terms of public affairs. ANU has been a little bit slack regarding some things it promised to us - governance training was supposed to happen. I'm glad I gave you all a bit of an induction/training at the beginning of the year. From my conversation with anastasia that might still be happening at some point. I think they may have been preoccupied with the PARSA stuff.

They seem to want to have some kind of meeting with all of the SSAF-funded organisations. I haven't heard anything from them though so at some point we will need to chase that up.

Welcome Sung jae. We went to the bank yesterday and made him a trustee.

Brandon: Do you know anything more with what's going on with PARSA?

Konstantine: No

Brandon: Are these SSAF meetings just a replacement for the SSAF bid?

Konstantine: No. I think it's less about bidding and is more calm and discussion-centred. There's not much information about it - they haven't done anything about it and i'm not sure why. If someone else wants to attend let me know and I will seek permission.

Moved by SungJae

Seconded by Joseph

Passes unanimously

Secretary Report: Konstantinos Katsanis

Konstantine: Been working on the constitutional amendments over the past few weeks. Took quite a lot of my time but we got it done. Has been stressful but I think the governance and risk were pretty good. We expressed interest to change our constitution before the cue date and because of that they allowed us to submit the proposal a bit late. We made the amendments and submitted them to them for an overview before the general meeting. What will happen in the general meeting is we will get some general meeting from them and we may make some changes in the meeting. We'll vote or express any opinions about the amendments we are proposing. They're not major amendments in the end.

If the board would like to make things more concrete they can change it in the future. At the moment it seems a bit uncertain about what the role is going to be. We may also need to create an operational meetings policy if/when we get a COO position.

Moved by Brandon

Seconded by Joseph

Passes unanimously

Editor in Chief Report: Helena Burke

Helena: Met with Charlotte War from Woroni. Keen to do an Observer x Woroni thing. I agree with them, I think a better approach would be to make the collaboration more clear than scrapping the process. I think this will create a non-antagonistic relationship. Output is really strong. Tom has done a great job getting many articles out. I think we

need to get Keeley back on track and get people to apply for leave when they would be away.

Konstantine: Do you know how long will Keeley be away for?

B: Keeley said that she was sort of back. She has been busy with assignments, but thinking forward, I think she will come back.

Brandon: Any updates regarding monthly meetings with ANU Media?

Helena: Discussed with Charlotte and she also hasn't heard back. I will probably need to message James again.

Konstantine: What are these meetings for?

Helena: James wanted to sit down every month to discuss any communication issues between Observer and Media. Touch base and continue to have a cordial relationship with them.

Moved by Angus

Seconded by Brandon

Passes unanimously

Finance Executive Report: Sung Jae Lee

Quickly describe what I've done. Haven't been here for too long. Have sent the ANU an invoice on the 5th of May regarding our payment of 30% SSAF. I am also now having access to the bank account, as I went to the bank yesterday.

Konstantine has been very helpful with the handover process. I think the only thing left is to learn how to make the payments, and organise our financials.

Something for the future is to buy our merchandise. Have had discussions with Jo

Helena: Do you have a track sheet of our expenditures?

Sung Jae: Yes. Need to get that from the previous Finance Executive.

Konstantine: I have that in the drive.

Brandon: I know you are new to the role, but I know that because previously we had very low submissions for honoraria, but I was wondering if you have any idea how to get more people.

SungJae: New to the process, but I can look into that.

Konstantine: I think you will need to encourage the reporters in the meetings.

Brandon: Hard cause the reporters know very little about what other people are doing.

Moved by Angus

Seconded by Joseph

Passes unanimously

Community Executive Report: Angus Brooks

Angus: Not much. Now we have ANU approval for the sign, and now need ACT government. Talking to news team, I think we need to do an upgrade in the newsroom area, put a camera on the TV and stuff. I am also working on a cleaning roster and how to organise the OGM in the office.

Angus: I think the Hybrid format will work similar to the ANUSA debates.

Konstantine: Maybe we meet end of next week to discuss.

Angus to meet with Konstantine at the end of next week to organise OGM hybrid format.

Konstantine: Planning to have other socials?

Angus: Probably small things. I was thinking to have an alumni Observer Social.

Konstantine: Sounds good, we will need to plan ahead in advance.

Helena: Were there reporters there at the social?

Angus: Yes.

Moved by Sung-Jae

Seconded by Helena

Passes unanimously

Web Executive Report: Angus Brooks

Very little to report Wordpress has been annoying recently with the text box thing. I don't know why it does that. It is weird, because when you log it as an issue it gets fixed.

Another thing I've been working on is an upgrade to the Wordpress. Currently only the Wordpress allows the primary author appear on the top of the page, but doing an upgrade will resolve that when we have multiple reporter.

Brandon: Is that external plugin.

Angus: Separate plugins that work together.

Konstantine: Have you uploaded the financials?

Angus: Not yet.

Brandon: Do all Observer people have access to analytics?

Angus: Nah, only editors have at the moment.

Brandon: Might be interested for reporters to have access.

Angus: Easy to do.

Moved by Joseph

Seconded by Sung Jae

Passes unanimously

Visual Content Executive Report: Joseph Oh

So far, a lot of content has been coming out. We got the F5 out. We film the Week 9 and 10 today and will be editing tonight. It has been good with gallery stuff. A little disappointing with the team interaction because the team has not responded to tasks or have been busy. Might need to hire more people. I am planning to keep F5 consistent. Add documentaries and other videos. One of Helena's friends has expressed interest for graphics.

Brandon: I think that the problem with VT is that everything is ad hoc. Might need to have more frequent meetings and engage with people. Maybe mixed meetings so that they get to know what things are happening. Discussed with Jo and thought that visual could be more integrated with news.

Moved by Angus

Seconded by Brandon

Passes unanimously

Item 5 - Items for Decision

Item 6 - Items for Discussion

6.1 - General Meeting Preparation

6.2 - Budget Meeting

After exams

Good to have the phone in case there is a very sensitive topic. Use the phone as a device people could call.

How much to spend on food?

Helena: Haven't spent much cause I have no idea how much is left on the budget.

Angus: I like the idea of having centralised office food. Having a fully stocked kitchenette.

Brandon: Also containers.

Helena: Also have stuff for people to make meals, other than just cookies.

A: We could use Covid in our advantage, saying that the situation has been improved and relocate money to that.

6.3 - Chief Operating Officer

(unminuted discussion)

Item 7 - Other Business

7.1 - Leave

(unminuted discussion)

7.2 - *(discussion redacted)*

Item 8 - Recall Actionables

Angus to meet with Konstantine at the end of next week to organise OGM hybrid format.

All executives to provide their reports by Wednesday 19 May COB.

Closing of Meeting: 14:52