



THE ANU OBSERVER

Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 24/11/21

Opening of Meeting: 17:54

Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

Present: Konstantinos Katsanis (Chair)

Angus Brooks (director)

Sung-Jae Lee (director)

Declan Milton (director)

Alex Ellwood (director)

Joseph Oh (director)

Ali El-Zein (director)

Angus Brooks (director) (arrived late)

Absent:

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

Delivered by Konstantine.

Item 3 - Previous Action Items

Konstantine: Clarify whether we need someone qualified for the governance training, otherwise Konstantine will provide it.

Konstantine: Draft a letter and send it to the Director of University Experience. Respond to ANUSA that we will not proceed with a joint letter, but that we are happy to continue on future conversations up to the forum.

Everyone: To come up with a reflection with how we spent money this year.

Editors: To investigate how that graphic was there in the first place, and whether it was on Slack or the drive.

Declan: To prepare a response and share it to the board channel.

Editors and Jo: Ask reporters and visual team if after exams they would like to get an induction to governance things.

Item 4 - Reports

Chair Report: Konstantinos Katsanis

We responded to ANU with our concerns regarding the current allocation of SSAF, and we expressed our questions and our necessities. The ANU considered our concerns, and invited us to attend a SSAF forum with all other recipients. That is going to take place after the end of my term, on 7 December.

Access Canberra is running behind in responding to our inquiries. This is because they have a large volume of work to process for a number of associations.

I will lodge our constitutional amendments and the last annual return before I leave. I was just waiting on some information. I believe that any change to rules refers to constitutional or regulatory amendments. This is something we need to clarify, as we will need to report changes to regulations, which can occur often.

Moved by Ali

Passes unanimously

Secretary Report: Konstantinos Katsanis

Governance training went well. I completed my handover with the incoming Secretary. Regarding policies, I just made some of the policies consistent with the current vocabulary of our constitution, and made the format more consistent. I did not manage to work on them as much as I wanted to. I am very exhausted from this semester, and I do not have the motivation to do much more work and I am so sorry this is the case. Hopefully I can have drafts of some of the mandatory policies before I leave, but those will need to be completed by the incoming one.

Access Canberra informed me that changes to rules would also apply to policies. However, speaking with one of our former Secretaries, it appears that policies can be interpreted as standing executive orders. That means that they are not rules, but provide some framework for our operations. The incoming Public Officer will need to check with them if that is valid. It does not make sense to need to lodge for change in policy.

Moved by Ali

Passes unanimously

Editor in Chief Report: Declan Milton

Declan: No excuse to be honest.

Declan: With having exams it's been tricky getting content and reporters have been away. We have been lenient with reporters to give them time. In meetings, less than half the team was present, and not much has been happening. Going to start planning hiring from now, and looking forward to next year.

Moved by Ali
Passes unanimously

Visual Content Executive: Joseph Oh

Not much has happened since the last OGM. I have purchased some new equipment for the team (mic and greenscreen). I was going to hold a training session for the team but it seemed like they were busy for the holiday (returning home, etc) so I was thinking of doing it early next year after attempting to recruit more people.

Jo: I will try to recruit people over the break. Hard though, not sure if people will be in Canberra.

Konstantine: Your team is able to do small projects over summer. As I said to others use the Summer period to put the foundations.

Moved by Ali

Passes unanimously

Finance Executive Report: Sung Jae Lee

We have \$23,001.56 of the budget left as of 22/11/21.

We have \$6,810.18 left for honoraria and allowances.

Since our last meeting, I have purchased visual equipment with Joseph, purchased a vacuum cleaner with approval and consultation from our incoming CE, Darlene, submitted allowances, and have been preparing various end of year and SSAF matters. We will discuss the draft budget I have created for 2022 later in this meeting; perhaps as an item for discussion.

I plan to pay allowances once the arbitration panel signs off (ETA 6th of Dec) and also purchase some Observer shirts for the team.

Since this is the final board meeting of the 2021 financial year, I will make some reflective remarks.

Firstly, as mentioned many times, our spending are not healthy in that we have no structure for expenditure. This results in under spending and inefficiently trying to spend a large portion of the budget towards the EOFY. Next year I will endeavour to

communicate with all executives and encourage spending, whilst also implementing some sort of efficient system for reimbursement and spending approval.

As a committee, I think we need to be more open, keep each other accountable, and not be afraid to call one another out if we notice that we are not fulfilling our duty or doing so to a poor standard.

Otherwise, I look forward to working with everyone on the board next year.

Moved by Alex

Passes

Ali abstains

Community Executive Report: Angus Brooks

Pretty busy, didn't get a chance to write a report. The

Konstantine: How is the handover going?

Angus: I would like to have them in-person rather than writing.

Moved by Ali

Passes unanimously

Web Executive Report: Angus Brooks

Not much to say. Nothing much broken?

Ali: Did people try to hack us?

Angus: Someone sent a weird email to us the other day, but no.

Konstantine: Website crashing still?

Angus: Hasn't gone down for a while. It is a little slow, though.

Konstantine: Handover?

Angus: I haven't really talked to Nick, yet. What's happening?

Declan: He has been busy, I will tell him.

Moved by Alex

Passes unanimously

Item 5 - Items for Decision

5.1 Policy Amendments

Equipment Policy -

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fW_QkSYdlLxeqplZNDAlUj9neuDI7A0wG/edit#heading=h.3znysh7

Moved by Ali

Seconded by Alex

Passes unanimously

5.2 Removal of the following members as officers of the ANU Observer

Bec Zhong (resignation to the Secretary)

Abryella Franks (resignation to the VCE, evidence of resignation presented to the Secretary)

Shona Thomas (due to inactivity, evidence recorded and sent to the Secretary)

Chole Ma (due to inactivity - deactivated Slack)

Moved by Jo

Seconder by Alex

Passes unanimously

5.3 Appoint Sasha Daniel as Finance Assistant

Moved by Jo

Seconded by Alex

Passes unanimously

Item 6 - Items for Discussion

6.1 SSAF response

Discussing the contents of James Brann's response. Considered it to be not as helpful as we wanted it to be.

6.2 Budget

SungJae presents a proposal of the 2021 budget. Looks good. Made a few suggestions. SungJae will decide on a final one before 10 December.

6.3 Add Sasha on Slack

Add Sasha on Slack to get started. Decided that the only way to do that is by approving her as a member of a team.

Item 7 - Other Business

7.2 In camera conversation

Item 8 - Recall Actionables

Closing of Meeting: 19:43