



THE ANU OBSERVER

Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 21/9/2022

Open of Meeting: 5:34

Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

Present:

Alex Ellwood
Junyoung Chun
Nick Ang
James Day
Darlene Rowlands

Absent:

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

By Alex Ellwood

Item 3 - Previous Action Items

Item 4 - Reports

Secretary Report: Alex Ellwood

I have spoken to past board directors - Kon, Sasha and Sungjae - to figure out where the COO paperwork was left off. Our new constitution still needs to be filed with Access Canberra so I will do this early next week. We should then be able to pass this policy at the upcoming OGM which should be held this October. I will also be looking into a few new policies to write and run by the board prior to the OGM so these can be passed as well. Specifically article 13.5 needs to be amended as it does not exist.

Visual Content Executive Report: Junyoung Chun

This semester has certainly been more lively for the visual team. Earlier this semester, we posted on the Observer instagram page for the first time in 17 months. Our plan on instagram is to continue to post pictures from events and to upload videos that we make so that we can reach a wider audience.

The receptions of the videos that have gone up on Facebook are very impressive. The most recent video about asking ANU students about the name of the ANUSA president has the highest interactions in a while.

The team members have ideas in regards to what videos they want to make next so on the video front, I think it's safe to assume that it's all good.

On the topic of graphics, I believe they have gotten more visually appealing and not only that, I think viewers will be able to guess what the article is going to be about just based on them.

There have been talks about Observer making a new website so when it gets to that stage, I think it would be great if the visual team and the web team cooperates to create our unique aesthetic.

That's all from me.

News Content Executive Report: Alex Ellwood

Things have been slow over the break with reporters taking time off or otherwise focusing on election coverage over other projects. We intend to get back into the swing of things at the next news meeting this Monday. We're also planning on hiring a new batch of reporters as we've received several applications since our last advertised hiring round. We're further planning on retraining the reporters in liveblogging so we can return to the previous style of liveblogging SRC meetings.

I have been in contact with James from Media regarding organising training for the reporters with industry professionals. That will hopefully take place in November.

The website crash slowed down our output initially and we're still working on returning to where we were at before that. We have a few more video ideas planned and in action that will be coming out over the next few weeks.

Unfortunately our threshold of corrections to be issued in a month was met this month, so next news meeting we will also reiterate our expectations in research and fact checking, prior to edits being done, with the news team.

Web Exec: Nick Ang

- Web works

Darlene: on website, when you debugged and saved Observer singlehandedly, I was wondering if you restored an old version because James' article is not up; is there a way to fuck with the dates to restore missing articles to the correct date published

James: visual equipment form is up and working so thank you for that

Darlene: have a physical log for internal equipment use. Should personal use log be subject to approval before use?

Community: Darlene Rowlands

Don't have too much to report - office use has kicked up and remained consistent! We made an IKEA trip a while back and bought some new decoration and linen pieces, as well as reorganizing the furniture to create a more welcoming environment in the downstairs bullpen. It definitely feels like the little changes we've made to the office have had a positive effect, and I do think that office use will likely remain high due to the numerous visual team projects going on. Overall, the culture at Observer is tracking well and the trend of using the office space more to collaborate with one another has generally continued.

Item 5 - Items for Decision

1. Confirming Richard Chun as Finance Executive

Moved by Darlene, seconded by Jun. Passes unanimously.

2. Appointing a new Chair

- a. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NCJCrzk32UNfn2T5IYCMN40OwbeQ9kt9/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs>

James nominates himself, moved by Alex and seconded by Darlene. Passes unanimously.

Item 6 - Items for Discussion

1. Calling OGM 2

- a. Must be called 21 days prior to the meeting. Earliest is the 12th if called today.

Alex: If we announce on fb today we can have it on the 12th, but I cannot do the 26th. We can also do the 19th. Or we could not have it on a wed?

Darlene: is there any particular reason its always on a wednesday?

Alex; no, other days could be better if those work for people. Could tuesday possibly work for people?

Called for 17th Oct @ 6

Item 7 - Other Business

1. Use of Observer Equipment outside of Observer

Alex: we needed to make clear that you can't leave observer equipment anywhere else (ie other people's houses) if you have borrowed it for personal purposes. Also don't take equipment that is already set up for use

Nick: do we have insurance for the equipment?

Alex: I dont think so

Nick: insurance is ideal for if things are broken. Maybe we don't allow use of equipment for personal purposes without the observer officer being explicitly present the entire time the equipment is being used.

Alex: can you add that to the gear request form? That you promise to be present the whole time the equipment is in use?

Nick; yep

2. Website directions

Darlene: do we have a plan of action for the website

Nick: we didn't get more info from sungjae on how much money we had in the budget for paying people for web dev. Dont know the figures

Darlene: what about talking to comp sci students and having them help out ?

James; we decided on no, because we want the website to be as good as it can possibly be

Nick; we don't want it to be something for students to just gain experience, we want to future-proof it

Alex; do we wanna call another board meeting ASAP to get richard to give us the figures? As a matter of urgency, needing the info on figures

Item 8 - Recall Actionables

- Nick to update dates on republished articles
- Nick to make physical log for internal equipment use
- Alex to make policy on approval for gear hire

Meeting closes 5:54pm