



THE ANU OBSERVER

Agenda for Meeting of The ANU Observer Board Meeting

Date: 13/03/2024

Opening of meeting: 7:30pm

Item 1-Attendance

Ryan

Maddy

James

Rowey

Shé

Mackenzie

Sophie

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

By James Weatherman

I wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal peoples as traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We also acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Item 3 - Items for Decision

Item 4: Things to discuss

4.1 – Updates on Finances

Maddy: I spoke to ANU Finance today, they said that the earliest they would pay the invoice is the 22nd of March, which is not soon enough. We have sent an email and hopefully the manager will look at it and they may flag it for early payment. Hopefully that happens.

Sophie: Have we clarified that we have done absolutely nothing wrong?

Maddy: Yes.

Board: Huge.

Maddy: If they do not pay us, what is the strategy?

Ryan: What we can do is backlog our allowances, meaning we get paid later. We operate under extreme austerity (rent, honoraria, nothing else) until the invoice is paid.

Ryan: We would not go insolvent for not paying honoraria, only rent.

Rowey: It sucks but if we explain the situation to reporters, I think they would understand if we had to delay honoraria. Next honoraria period is the teaching break.

Maddy: Hopefully they understand that this is an issue where we really need early, on time payment.

Sophie: We really need to emphasise that this is not our error. They rejected our invoice incorrectly.

Maddy: They have now acknowledged that our invoice has been received correctly.

Ryan: **Let's send an email to Adam** to find out who can expedite this process for us.

Maddy: While we are on the topic of finance, I decided not to call PKF. I called Richard and sent him a message, regarding whether he had discussed the COI situation. He said he will confirm with me next week about whether or not there is a declaration needed. Obviously, a declaration is very important and I want this soon.

Ryan: I spoke to my friend who works in auditing and he said that he normally does a client like us for \$1000-2000. We need to get those receipts from Richard.

4.2 - SSAF Reserve application (Due 18th March, meeting on the 27th March)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OggEMrOvcfktkeY42C8RU6pRY49_zMkjVmZQgi_cz1Z0/edit

Ryan: We received an email from ANU, saying that they have extra money they are willing to distribute. We must notify by 9am, 18th of March. The total amount will be

\$600,000, of which \$7,000 would go to us. I propose we apply for that and give the funds to Shé for his projects. I have made a google doc for us to begin the application. The two sections we are applying for are 'supporting an artistic activity by students, supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students, helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of which they are enrolled in'.

Shé: I will come up with some milestones for how these funds will help students. For example, better equipment will make team members more employable in the future.

4.3 - Commercial services

Ryan: We have a few issues with our new landlords. Firstly, they have held us accountable for lack of receipts even though it was our previous landlords who were responsible for records. Secondly, they booked an inspection time giving no information about the details. They did not specify that we needed to be here, and have rescheduled one. We have rebooked, we were informed that Anneysha would be two minutes late, and she was, and they cancelled. I have called to rebook and the next inspection will be Friday, 15th March. Can someone be there for that?

Sophie: Yes, I can.

4.4 - Joint visual / Editorial meeting

Ryan: Just wanted to clarify for those not aware; we are doing a joint meeting structure once a month on Monday. Shé, when would you like the first meeting to be? We have new reporters and would like to onboard them first.

Shé: How about 25th March, Monday night week 6?

Board: That works.

4.5 - Software onboarding

Anneysha has been notified with details of new reporters for software on-boarding.

4.6 – Future of podcast

Ryan: We resolved the need to reform the podcast team last week. Going forward, we were hoping to have Will come in on the Monday (Wk 6) meeting to train some other

team members, so that we can have more people work in the podcast team. I know that Darcy is particularly interested.

Mackenzie: Doing every Wednesday has become a big commitment.

Ryan: I am thinking of asking some of the other editors if they are interested.

Shé: Is a hiatus an option?

Ryan: If we do that we should do it during mid sem? In that period, I would like to get more reporters involved. I am not thinking in terms of an organised roster, I would rather get as many people as possible involved just so that everybody has experience and knows what is going on.

Mackenzie: Would Darcy want to be a podcast exec?

Ryan: I cannot see him saying no, as the main reason he joined was because he wanted to further his portfolio.

Sophie: If reporters are working on podcasts, they should not have pressure on them to write articles.

4.7 - OGM date and facebook event

James: We need 21 days to announce OGM.

Ryan: We need the OGM from last semester to be in place. We need to find replacements for Sophie and James (if he decides to leave). We need to make sure we meet Quorum. James, can you please bump Anneysha for last semester's OGM to be uploaded, you also need to get in touch with Roxanne.

Rowey: What about the week starting the 29th of April?

James: I can organise the announcement by the 7th of April.

Item 5-Other Business

5.1 – Arbitration at next board meeting

Invite arbitration to the next board meeting to discuss the financial situation.

Meeting closed:

8:24pm.

Next board meeting:

20/03/2024