



# THE ANU OBSERVER

## Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 08/07/20

Open of Meeting: 1719

### Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

**Present: Hayley, Sam, Adelle, Tristan, Konstantine, Angus (Late with apologies)**

### Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

By Konstantinos

### Item 3 - Previous Action Items

3.1 Fixing up COVID procedure for office transition → Chase up how many people we can have in office.

3.2 Shirts: Konstantine

### Item 4 - Reports

#### Chair Report: Konstantine Katsanis

I would like to apologise for my absence in various affairs last week. Next time I would try to give greater notice of when I am away. I would also encourage officers to take some time off and recharge their batteries at some point during the break, however this might be delayed for a while.

Other things to mention:

I still haven't received any response from Unilodge in regards to the size of the office, so that we can determine how many people we can have inside at the same time. We also received an honoraria submission guide from our Arbitration Panel. I think it is good and I hope everyone managed to have a look at it. It may require some improvements, but it is a good starting point.

I would encourage the editors and the VCE to meet and discuss their plans for the Winter period and prepare for next semester. The new paid period commenced on the 29th of June.

Adelle: You suggested some news policies, have you consulted anyone?

Kon: I haven't, it was part of a conversation. Review doesn't mean we should change, maybe add a couple of things.

Moved by Tristan, seconded by Sam. 4 for, 1 abstention.

### **Finance Executive Report: Konstantine Katsanis**

Unilodge sent as a 'Letter Variation to the Enterprise Agreement'. We agreed to not pay rent for the ANU Rent Free period. Because we paid till March, we will just be credited for the next three months.

I sent another email to PKF about our auditing, but I still have not received a response from them. I will give them a call on Wednesday (yes, the day you are reading this report).

All allowances and honoraria have been paid-out for this period. There is a discrepancy of \$356.50. The Arbitration Panel decided to allocate those amounts to the next payment period's pool. We were also informed that they received only four submissions. Although I posted about three times in Slack, there seemed to be no interest in submissions. This is disappointing, especially after asking the Board early in the semester whether we should have submissions for this period due to all the challenges faced by COVID-19. All elected officers total eight people, double the number of submissions. If it was hard to decide who should receive honoraria, then that should have been discussed earlier on. I would also encourage all editors and the VCE to let their teams know about honoraria and make submissions next time.

At the moment, I am waiting for a response from Luby Simson, who is administering the SSAF program, about what's the go with SSAF next semester and when would our next meeting be. I also requested to transfer some money from other line items into legal, but still I've had no response. It would be ideal to have double the amount for legal next year, as a safety precaution, and have an emergency reserve.

I am still working on the treasurer's calculator and I am hoping to at least have an excel version of that completed by the next meeting. I also put in an excel document all the expenses that had not been recorded. I am still working on the SSAF guide. Expenses since the last report include paying for Digital Ocean. I am still waiting for Angus to tell me how much I should reimburse him for paying last time.

**Actionable: Coming up with a financial overview**

Moved by Tristan, seconded by Sam. Moved by 4, 1 abstention.

### **Secretary Report: Hayley Hands**

Provided verbally.

Moved by Tristan, seconded by Adelle. Passes unanimously.

### **Visual Content Executive Report: Tristan Khaw**

Nothing to add that is visual team specific from the last report. I am still currently handling all graphic requests and so on.

There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the COVID situation. Hiring depends on if we suffer another semester of lockdown. This is very frustrating as I am unable to plan adequately.

Tristan: Planning to hire and put stuff up, if we go into lockdown again then we don't really need to. We would have to pitch hiring more towards graphic designers, through experience it will be hard to organise training through Slack and Zoom.

Kon: I may be a bit optimistic about it but I have a good feeling we will be able to keep this space. Even the fortnightly 5 would be good, and I would highly recommend you to do that. I think Anthony mentioned news is looking for new photos and stuff.

Moved by Adelle, seconded by Sam. Passes unanimously.

#### **News Content Executive Report: Anthony Lotric**

As many of you would have noticed, our output has been lower over the swotvac and exam periods. While we did not hit our KPIs, I believe this was unavoidable and therefore acceptable, as all of our editors were occupied with Uni work for much of this period, reporters were difficult to contact, and there was less newsworthy content for us to draw upon. These problems were exacerbated by the fact that we are all locked down/quarantined, which makes communication and teamwork more difficult to coordinate. It probably also contributed to the fact that there was little to report on.

Our positive relationship with the NTEU was helpful when we were writing about the pay cut/freeze announcement and the union vote on it. While they may have sent us the press release anyway, it certainly didn't hurt, and makes it easier for us to get comment from them. Without compromising on our objectivity, we should try to cultivate more such relationships.

Being restricted to communicating over slack and Zoom has definitely taken its toll over time. It has made coordination more difficult, increased the amount of communications that have to occur, and made it more likely that things slip through the cracks. It will be great to move back to weekly meetings next Semester, which will no doubt have a positive impact on the productivity and wellbeing of the team (especially the editors).

I have been very happy with the quality of the graphics we have been provided with/made recently. I am becoming a little concerned, however, that we are running out of stock photos to use when the article topic is more generic, or not specific to a certain location. While this is totally understandable because of the lockdown situation, we need to make sure that it is rectified as soon as possible after we are back on campus.

Moved by Tristan, seconded by Adelle. Moved by 5, 1 abstention.

#### **Web Administrator Report: Angus Brooks**

I have little to report since my last report. Going forward over the break, a big focus will be overhauling the Google Drive to improve our workflows as an organisation and ensure that we can find and access the documents that we need.

Yesterday I was advised by ACT Health that I need to immediately commence a two week quarantine period. I will therefore be unable to meet in person or come into the office, but will be able to work and meet remotely.

Angus: Looking forward to getting stuck into the Google Drive.

Kon: I am helping Angus, we may request that this weekend no one touch the Google drive [so we can move stuff].

Moved by Tristan, seconded by Adelle. Passes unanimously.

## **Item 5 - Items for Decision**

## **Item 6 - Items for Discussion**

6.1 Confidential Item

6.1.1 Confidential Item submitted by Hayley

6.2 Policy Procedure (Confidential Item)

6.2.1 Confidential Item submitted by Konstantine

## **Item 7 - Other Business**

7.1 Team Wellbeing

## **Item 8 - Recall Actionables**

Actionable: Coming up with a financial overview

Meeting closed at 17:59