



# THE ANU OBSERVER

## **Agenda for Meeting of The ANU Observer Board Meeting**

Date: 09/10/2024

Opening of meeting: 6:00pm

### **Item 1: Attendance**

Darcy  
Mackenzie  
Ryan  
Saffron  
Madeleine  
Rowey  
Amy  
She

### **Item 2: Acknowledgement of Country**

By Saffron Geyle

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: Planning for next year**

- Board will create a calendar for next 6 months

Ryan: Welcome new board members. Let's start by telling the new board members about the funding situation for next year. As we've made clear to certain extents, ANU is cutting down on funds right now. Allowances will go down, honoraria will be reduced and so the Observer can have funding. The board in June of this year put together this crazy plan, we had a huge campaign with the SSAF survey that came out, we were the most positively reviewed club on campus. We have done everything we possibly can, we have gone above and beyond to try everything we could. We have enough funding to run for another year.

Darcy: When do we find out about next year's funding situation?

Ryan: Next year October.

Rowey: There's a meeting on 31st October next year, where we'll basically be lobbying and trying to suss out our situation.

Maddy: Either we'll get everything or nothing, so it's kind of a tough situation to be in.

Ryan: In terms of governance, we'll get into what next year is going to look like. Following reforms we were talking about, reviewing our SSAF obligations.

Darcy: Is there a time that I need to be here?

Ryan: Yes. On Mondays, you will need to be coming in at 6 usually, but next week we have a new reporter coming in so please get here at 5 before the Monday meeting.

Amy: Gen Bell sent out an email to staff, asking that they take their allotted annual leave. She's said that taking their annual leave will save the university about 8 million dollars.

Ryan: I think we should discuss what the board will look like in the next couple of months. Rowey will be taking on the role of editor-in-chief until next year.

Rowey: Thanks. For context Darcy and Saffron, I was also thinking of leaving my role at the end of the year, but due to the financial situation I decided to stay for as long as necessary for continuity purposes.

Ryan: Maddy you're staying on next year?

Maddy: Yes, until halfway through the year. I will be able to find someone with experience in accounting.

Ryan: We will need to appoint a new community exec, as that is the only remaining vacancy available. Darcy's official term will start when I leave in November. Sophie's term will be starting in December when Amy leaves. I believe Rowey will be taking over editor-in-chief. As for the chair, at the next board meeting we can look at appointing that position.

Rowey: I'd be super happy to do it, with being editor-in-chief, I'd be happy to be in the role.

Ryan: I think it's important to separate Maddy's position from the chair, as those two positions are the roles that work together the best. Now, looking at our next month. I think it's really important that we have an extensive look into what we're going to do as a board going forward.

- Ryan shows SSAF Funding Agreement.

Ryan: Hiring new reporters. We realistically want to have our hiring rounds done around 4 times a year. As editors and visual, you will sort through expressions of interest collected at market day and follow a hiring guide that we have as the Observer. 17th of February is realistically when we want to start that hiring round.

Rowey: I think it would be really good to put an ad out just as semester ends. I would appreciate having a huge hiring round in January, which could probably be quite small.

Ryan: How about the 27th of January for that hiring round?

Mackenzie: But then you'd be having that hiring round just before sem starts.

Ryan: Let's make 27 January - 10 March one big hiring round. First half of this will be through the website, second half will be from expressions of interest.

Rowey: I think the move for hiring round 2 is to have it in April.

Ryan: Okay let's say 14 April - 5 May is hiring round 2. Another important date we need to be aware of is our OGM for the first semester. Let's do 12 May, and we'll have a better chance of getting a quorum as it won't be a busy assessment period. 21 April we will announce our date for OGM 1.

- Ryan explains the secretary's role in advertising the OGM.

Mackenzie: Do we want to look at Bush Week?

Ryan: Yes, and BNO's livestream.

Mackenzie: I think 16 July will be market day again, which will be a Wednesday.

Ryan: Yes. Now we need to look at what the next few months will look like. 31 October is when our meeting has been pushed to. And then November is when we will have our outcome.

Maddy: SSAF funds are being distributed in December. 27 January will be the q4 meeting.

Rowey: I'm thinking of making an editorial calendar for the year so that we can filter out what is important and relevant to the board.

Ryan: I think it will be important for you to come to our meeting on the 31st, Darcy.

- Discussion on any important dates missing.
- Mackenzie brings up inspection of the office on 16 October.
- Ryan shows how-to-hire Observer document on screen and explains the process of hiring new reporters.
- Ryan and Rowey explain what they've learned from their experiences in their editor roles when hiring new writers.

Ryan: The training process does need to change, it's not adequate as is at this current moment and we are working on improving this part of our onboarding process.

- Ryan discusses market day and the contribution necessary from the whole team.
- Ryan explains the google drive where all documents are, and tells Saffron that she can reference secretary role + expectations document in this drive.

Ryan: Any more items to discuss?

All: No.

Ryan: Great. Let's move on to the next item.

- Before moving on, discussion of the missing monitor is opened.
- Discussion closed.

**Item 4:** fortnightly review of constitutional obligations

**6.4.7** – Every board meeting, present members of the board will review the *SSAF Funding Agreement* with all members present passing a motion that they are satisfied that obligations are met.

- Ryan explains this new amendment to the Observer's constitution.

Maddy: On Monday, I will be coming in with compiled notes + papers to help explain to Ryan and Rowey how meetings with SSAF are run.

**Motion: pass the motion described under const. 6.4.7**

Forwarded by: Ryan

Seconded by: Maddy

Result: Passed unanimously

**Meeting closed:** 7:00pm

**Next board meeting:**