



THE ANU OBSERVER

General Meeting 2022-05-25

Agenda

Location: ANU Observer Office & Zoom

Time: 18:14

Item 1: Meeting Opens and Apologies

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

1.2 Apologies:

Item 2: Minutes from the Previous Meeting including Matters Arising

2.1 Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Item 3: Reports and Matters Arising

3.1 Report of the Chair of the Board (Appendix A)

Sasha passes chair to Sung Jae

I'll break my report up into three subsections.

COO Role

Sasha and I are finalizing the role description and considering other related amendments. As of current, the COO role will be a managerial generalist role. Please keep an eye out for the advertisement for this position.

Board & Member Changes

We've had a change in staff recently. I'd like to welcome Jun, our new visual content executive who has succeeded Joseph - massive thanks to Joseph as well for his 12+ months of service.

I'd also like to thank our former editor, Ali, who departed at the start of the semester. Darlene has since taken Ali's role and now shares the community executive role with Alex. Alex continues to remain an editor.

I'd like to welcome our new reporters as well.

Organisational Matters

I'm quite happy with the performance and direction of our organization. Our organizational objective to provide accurate, detailed, and timely coverage of campus events is being fulfilled.

The ANU Observer remains a news organization. I firmly believe that it should be run by those who are involved in producing the news - my interpretation of the Chair role is one who acts as the representative of the news team and makes governance and organizational decisions with their wishes at heart. I see that this has generally been the case with all our "non-news" executives and if these roles belong to individuals who do not have a role in the news team, I

sincerely hope this continues to be the case even after the current executive one day depart this organization.

3.2 Report of the Chair of the Editorial Committee (Appendix B)

Declan

Hi everyone, and thanks for coming tonight. I just want to begin by saying how impressed I am with my editorial team. We've reached a point where I think we can trust one another to deliver the best possible results for Observer. Alex and Darlene have really stood up this year, and I know their passion and enthusiasm for Observer will continue when I leave in the near future.

An observation I have made in the last few weeks is the return to slower news weeks. Over the last few years I think we have become increasingly reliant on stories to fall into our hands. At the start of the year for instance, constant COVID developments at ANU allowed us to devote resources to covering that, at the expense of other stories.

As COVID has come to a close, or at least the newsworthy side of it a challenge we have to live up to is developing interesting and new angles for stories. Here is where I encourage everyone at Observer to pitch ideas, listen and get thinking about important issues we can cover.

I want to pay a special mention to Darlene's article which came out over a month ago on an historical SASH incident involving a staff member at John's college in the 90's. It's often easy to skim through articles and look at headlines, without really appreciating the full extent of the work involved. But Darlene has been working on the story for months and to see it finally published is so special to see. I can safely say, at least in my time at Observer, it is one of the most, if not the most important contributions Observer has made to the ANU community.

I thought this would be a good time to announce I will be leaving Observer in the near future, although the exact date is still undecided. I'm confident that with the team we have in place, our coverage of ANU student life is only going to continue to grow. Thanks again for coming.

3.3 Report of the Visual Team (Appendix C)

Jun

3.4 Report of the Web Executive (Appendix D)

- Nothing to Report

3.5 Report of the Community Executive (Appendix E)

Hi, thank you so much for coming tonight. Since our Semester 2 OGM last year, we've thankfully managed to make a couple of positive changes on the Community Executive side of things. One of the only major things to report is that we've managed to implement monthly socials that we intended to last year! We've definitely experienced varying levels of turnout, but we had a very successful one at the beginning of the semester and lots of positive feedback on how constructive it was to get to meet/see everybody properly! Observer is definitely quite segmented in lots of ways - the news team ordinarily work quite independently, and there's even less crossover between board members and the news team. Socials have so far been a really good way to break the ice on that, and it's been nice to have the monthly level of continuity that may have been lacking in the past.

The only other thing to mention is that office use has also been increasing as I had hoped! Lots of the reporters have begun to use it more frequently for studying, or general non-Observer activities which has also been a great way for people to meet in a relaxed setting. Hope all the positive trends we've seen so far continue into next semester!

3.6 Secretary's Report (Appendix F)

Sasha speaks to her report:

Hi, thank you everyone for coming tonight. This has been an interesting 12 weeks in my role as secretary. The bulk of my role thusfar has been general sort of cleanup from previous years, ensuring all our affairs are in order, in addition to working with Sung Jae to ensure full compliance. As Sung Jae has mentioned, we are in the process of shaping the COO position, in addition to further consultation with the board, we hope to have this finalised soon. I note as well the existing vacancies on the arbitral panel. We have had one expression of interest, and I am meeting with the candidate to finalise her application. We will need to appoint her at a later meeting, should this be confirmed.

Otherwise, I've met with Kon recently. He informed me that there were some financial regulations that were allegedly drafted last year, however, we are awaiting these final drafts that we can hopefully finalise at our next meeting.

I just want to quickly thank the board for all their hard work, and look forward to another constructive ter

- Discusses upcoming COO role.

3.7 Finance Executive's Report (Appendix G)

The most notable item to report is that we were able to secure \$55,000 in SSAF funding from The ANU. This is the largest gross amount we have received since The ANU Observer was founded in 2017. This is a reflection of the increasing support and realization of value by our stakeholders. We are still unsatisfied being the only student organization that has to pay rent to

The ANU; it is currently almost 25% of our entire budget. We hope that discussion with The ANU and other student organizations will result in some sort of solution to this.

This year we have had healthier expenditure habits. We have more scheduled and planned spending (socials, office supplies etc). This is much better than last year where our spending was almost non-existent throughout the year and done mostly all at the end of the year.

Besides these points, it has been quite “business as usual” on my end.

Item 4: Elections

Nil

Item 5: Items for Resolution

5.2 Appointment of Arbitration Panel Members. (1)

Nominations for Arbitration Panel Members are to be advertised by the Chair of the Board prior to the next General Meeting. Nominations will be received by the Chair in the period between the calling of a General Meeting and the opening of that Meeting.

Item 6: Items for Discussion

Nil

Item 7: Notices of Motions

Nil

Item 8: Other Business

Item 9: Date of next meeting and Close

The next meeting of the Members of The ANU Observer will be held in Semester 2, 2022.

Meeting closes at 19:30.

6:28 pm