



THE ANU OBSERVER

Agenda for Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 25/02/25

Opening of meeting: 06:00pm

Item 1- Attendance

Saffron Geyle

Anushkaa Ahuja

Sarah McCrea

Anneysha Sarkar

Anish Singhal (online)

Item 2- Apologies

Eduardo Caceres Sandoval (AT SRC Meeting for Observer)

Item 3 - Acknowledgement of Country

By Saffron

I wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri 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 4: O-Week and Market Day!

Saffron: O-Week was a really big success. We got 60 sign-ups for news and visual team. We've got about five or six reporters staying on. We sent out about twenty emails, hoping for about twelve new hires for the news team. People were really engaging with the news team and subscribing for the newsletter. It was actually really successful.

Sarah: Some people were interested in producing the podcast, we are hoping on having our podcast running in Sem 2, along with a Social Media Manager.

Item 5: Secretary and Community Executive Positions

Pat

Having been with the Observer for a year, I'm keen to get more involved in the organisation and learn the ropes for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. I have time to give this year and would love the opportunity to invest it in the Observer!

In working as a support worker for the past (almost five) years, I am familiar with the importance of notetaking. I write notes describing the events of every hour I am paid for, which must be both accessible in language but also timely, detailed, and objective- as documents which legally cover myself and the company. I also must communicate these notes to my boss, the NDIS, NDIS participants, guardians, and allied health professionals constantly, so I am well-practiced in making information clear and organised! I would be able to bring these skills to the role.

As a secretary I would love to implement sending follow-up minutes to the newsroom channel after each Monday meeting, so our reporters feel in the loop and not daunted by returning if they miss a week. I am also a Slack veteran and would be keen to implement scheduled reminders and a bit more organisation into our channels.

Eduardo joined the meeting

Vote: All in favour

Motion passed

Eduardo left the meeting

Item 6: Website Updates

Anneysha: We have started working on the upcoming website. Apart from the data storage stuff which I am really prioritising this time so we have our data in future years, we will be adding features which will be useful for news reporters. I will have a chat with the news editors and news team in coming weeks. We will work on it and the team will be consulted on it. The deliverable will be the end of the semester which is when I will be ending my role. The current website will also still keep being used, there is nothing

wrong with the website it is just a little expensive. Wordpress is what caused the problem, so we will switch out of the current technology. I will be working on posting our older articles.

Saffron: Thank you so much for all your hard work. Does that mean our new website will be a completely different website?

Anneysha: Our new website will be the same domain, but look completely different. More like the Guardian.

Saffron: Okay, awesome.

Saffron: With the website as well, would it be possible to update the team names?

Anneysha: I will do that tonight. Maybe we need photographs for our new members?

Saffron: That's something we can discuss.

Anish: Do we have any nominations for Comm Exec?

Saffron: No, and I'm not confident we will by AGM.

Anish: Ok

Saffron: Is there a limit to how many people we can hire, like with honoraria?

Anish: No, it will just change the pool, but there is a limit with exec.

Item 7: Lease Insurance Complications

Anish: We essentially renewed our lease last year but we needed to insure at an increased cost, but we still need to navigate that, but it might be a good time to speak to an ANUSA lawyer.

Saffron: So should we meet with an ANUSA lawyer?

Anish: I'm happy to do so. I'll send you an update by next meeting.

Item 8: IAC Debating

Saffron: The IAC coordinator came up to me at Market Day and is really keen to work with Observer, particularly with getting photographers at Debating from 14-16 March, finals is at 16. We didn't have any reporters who were able to make it to the event but if there were any photographers who could make it to the event that would be great. I have the run sheet.

Anushkaa: I'll communicate that to the team. Do you need photographers for every day or just the final?

Saffron: I'll forward her email to you, so you can get into contact with her. Here is the run sheet.

Item 9: Team Member Photos

Anushkaa: About the pictures, I'm not sure what the current situation is, who is there and who is left, no one is really responding.

Anneysha: I can update the list of people and I do not have to have the photos on tonight.

Anushkaa: She did send the photos over from last semester.

Anneysha: I only need the photos of the executives.

Anish: Would it be better if you listed the hiring on the website to reach people who weren't at Market Day? We could increase the hiring numbers.

Saffron: Anushkaa, you made that visual for the hiring ad and we could post that tomorrow.

Anish: Another thing we could do better is be more present in IAC and on campus.

Saffron: That's why I thought it would be important to go to SRC tonight. I thought it would be to feel our presence more and push for us to be everywhere this year.

Anneysha: We could hire through an open call.

Anish: Like through Schmidtposting. Obviously editors could be better through Observer.

Item 10: Other Business

Video idea: Do you know our ANU staff?

-

- Podcast

Saffron: Anushkaa and I met with Monet, who wants to be the podcast host. She just needs a refresher.

Anneysha: I have developed the platform, can work with reporters.

Saffron: She's going to have a listen to the episodes and get back to us, but seems pretty certain. Anish can she get put on for honoraria?

Anish: Yes. Anyone is eligible for honoraria.

- Merch?

Saffron: It's not that stress but I think it would be useful if we had one thing of merch like a tote bag or T-shirt like the tote bags at Wright. Anish can we do that financial-wise?

Anish: 100%. I think we can go bigger than that, even a hoodie. I can get a budget for that.

Saffron: Best news ever. I'll look into that. Do you want me to look into quotes?

Anish: That would be great. Three quotes ideally per item.

- Board email access

Anneysha: That will be updated tonight. There will be a Slack message.

- New decorations for ANU observer office

Saffron: This item is Eduardo's. He has a Pinterest Board and is very passionate about it. If there are any items from home you want to bring in, bring it in.

- Banner redesign (minimalist and bright colours? thoughts?)

Saffron: Eduardo was also talking about redesigning our banner. I think yes, but maybe also, just have more stuff printed out. It would be really good to make more banners. Talk about when Eduardo's here.

Anushkaa: We can definitely consider it, but I think it's very on brand for us to keep the minimalistic design.

Saffron: I think implementing it more.

- Facebook access

Anushkaa: Is there any way to get Facebook access.

Anneysha: I can do that tonight.

- Cyber Security Training

Anneysha: I've really been pushing for cybersecurity training for the news team and visual team. Mandatory cybersecurity training, there's a course on Canvas.

Saffron: Would you be happy to come in?

Anneysha: Yes, I can come in next week.

- Honorarium

Anish: I received an email from Arbitration saying they didn't get enough submissions. They reached out to me in early February and said they can't tally it for this period. The main thing is that previous editors have left. We need to make sure that the people who deserve honoraria get that.

Saffron: We'll come up with nominations for that period of time.

Anish: It's a bit insufficient at that moment. We need to go back and see who was more important. We'll need to add that as an item for the next board meeting. It's strictly from September 15 to the end of the year.

Saffron: Anushkaa can you get the notes from your team?

Anushkaa: Yes.

Anneysha: I would like to nominate Katharina. There is one more thing, Anish, I was wondering when the first payment period is because last year it was Week 1 of Semester 1.

Anish: I'll double check those dates and get back to you.

Anneysha: Sounds good, because I need to publish those amounts on our website.

Item 11: SSAF Funding Agreement requirements met?

Anish: Yes.

Meeting closed: 6:38pm

Next board meeting: 11/03/26