



THE ANU OBSERVER

Agenda for Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 27/08/25

Opening of meeting: 06:20pm

Item 1- Attendance

She

Darcy

Sophie

Rowey

Saffron

Eduardo

Anish

Item 2- Apologies

Urja

Anneysha

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: OGM Planning

Rowey: We have our OGM coming up, which we've had to push back as it would've conflicted with our debate. So firstly, we'll have to decide on a date. I think week 10 would be good, as it's a good amount of time near the ending of the semester for new members to be able to come to meetings and join. Should we do Wednesday? That

would be October 8, at around 06:30pm. We also need to lock down what positions are available.

- *Positions for election*
 - *EIC*
 - *Editors*
 - *Secretary*
 - *VCE*
- *(clause about re-election never put into new constitution)- web exec*
- *Arbitration x1*
- *No. of editors*
- *Revised date*

She: I think Anushka would be a good candidate for VCE.

Rowey: Yeah she's really great. For editors, we would need to decide if we want four or three editors to come on board. I think we don't need to have four editors on the team, personally, I think it doesn't make the workload that much different.

Eduardo: What would happen if one of the three editors experienced a circumstance that involved them being away from prolonged periods of time?

Rowey: I haven't seen that happen since when James and Darlene were editors, but were this to happen I am sure you could work alongside arbitration and the board, etc.

Anish: I think we have a pretty solid framework, so having something like that happen would likely be manageable with what we've got in place.

Eduardo: I also wanted to ask, if someone deferred their courses for the semester would they be eligible to be editor?

Rowey: As long as they're a student, that should be fine, as there's nothing in the constitution specifying that. But I think that would be on more of a basis in consideration of their circumstances. Like if someone has a 9-5 job, they probably wouldn't be the most helpful in the position. So, were that to arise it would be a case-by-case thing. We also need to consider Anneysha's position, and whether or not we open this up for casual vacancy due to how technical her position is.

Sophie: So we may be able to advertise that and get Anneysha to train someone up?

Rowey: Editor in Chief is also an available position, and there's nothing in the constitution that states an EIC needs to be an editor previously. There's certainly precedent that it is lined up for whoever is the editor that remains on, but the position is up for debate. We also need to put up the position for an arbitration member, as we need a panel of 5, but if no one goes for it that's okay as well.

Item 5: Constitution proposed changes

Rowey: In approaching our constitution, there's quite a bit to change.

- Formatting
- Constitution should still be open to interpretation
- Key error; COO
 - Email james abt access

Resolution 1: Cull out any mention of the COO.

2: Many references to policies, super vague and only enforced by the board. In the constitution, there's no actual reference to the paper ballots, but there is in the guidelines. **External policies**

- the chair should keep records and documents in their own custody, which has not happened previously so we need to think about that rule
- reference to a common seal, we don't have that. So we may need to cull that as it just doesn't exist as is.
- Election, team policies – need to refer back to
- Finances, 5.11: funds must be derived from source determined by the board – may be something to look into, whether we are strictly bound by SSAF
- 5.1.3 – After receiving money, we need to issue a receipt.
- Ansh: we don't really use our savings account, only our spending, so maybe we can reword this to say any receipt issued by observer after paying any money, settle the appropriate invoices in a timely manner
- 5.2.3 – Considering expenses that are paid for in bulk go, which are always agreed upon, I think we should look into this.
 - Anish: this is because we use our savings account, which we have to keep that for. For spendings, we can use our money without the two-person-sign.
 - As long as board is aware of what finance is spending, that's fine
 - 5.2.5 – follow up with Anneysha
 - Note for us; meetings of the board are open to anyone from the ANU – BUT the chair may decide to remove them at their discretion

- We don't need to advertise them
- 6.4.7 – we need to be a bit more involved in passing motions during our board meetings
 - Worthwhile yay or naying motion passed at the end of all board meetings
 - Stay on top of the fact we need to pass SSAF funding every week
- 7.5 – reference to 7.6.3 which does not exist
 - 7.6.3 should be cut
 - Only editors
- Arb panel mentioned that they think there should be more of a definitive outline of their jurisdiction – something to consider
- Vote of no confidence – refers to a section that doesn't exist – 15.5 now – can just reformat that
- 12.2 – duties of the public officer (chair) has to notify relevant authority of new members – i dont know who the relevant authority is – but we just need to make that clear and maybe just send details to the uni
 - Update website on this
- In the case of the chair being the public officer as well - resignation
- Section 13 Elections
 - 13.1.2 technically holds up because voting is anonymous online – but we need to look into “written ballot” - important to mention that it does make explicitly clear that any student at the ANU is welcome to vote at an OGM
- Arbitration panel
 - 14.3.2 (d) – power to remove any officer – that's just news team or anyone on honoraria but this does not apply to members of the board/exec
 - So arbitration does not have the power to remove anyone from the board
 - Maybe add another item stating arbitration has the power to remove an exec
 - Need to make sure arbitration has a chair maybe?
- 15.5 – outlines that an elected official can be dismissed
 - Motion of no confidence
 - Upon written anonymous ballots – needs to be discussed
- 16.3 – no amendment to the constitution will have any effect until ratified by the ANU board
- Public officer - no duties explicitly mentioned - potentially a placeholder
- Removing PARSA from definitions

- Finding an avenue for removal without it being under extreme circumstances
 - Policy document
- 2 AGMs
- General meetings – quorum would have to align with number of votes to any election
- Campaigning externally

Rowey: We need to resolve that we're calling two general meetings. Does everyone agree that we need to make clear that quorum needs to amount to the total people voting, that in order to vote you must be in attendance.

Sophie: Source a diff platform for voting?

Rowey: Make clear that to meet a quorum for election, you have to be in person. Zoom people just do a hand up situation. If we could make a system where everyone has to put their uni id in with who they've voted for.

All members must be afforded reasonable access to voting, based on attendance at an election.

Attendance at an election is counted by physical presence, or online, and uni IDs must be provided by everyone in attendance and is registered in quorum. Quorum is defined as those who are present either in person or online and will be finalised by the secretary prior to a defined point in the meeting, as determined by the secretary.

Election

- Notifying the board of intention to run for an elected position, in writing, ideally conversing with a current editor
- Would have to notify editors in writing alongside returning officer
- People not in quorum voting – must be in attendance to vote
- Anyone welcome to attend and register given before speeches have begun
- Cross-checking university IDs with quorum
- Update payment policy
- AGM after news meeting week 8

Item 6: ANUSA stupol debate - no Woroni!

Rowey: Essentially, we had a meeting with Woroni, pretty much their whole editorial team. We suggested potentially hosting the debate again together. They didn't really know what it was, so we explained it to them, but yeah overall they were quite hesitant. So we emailed them on Friday, asking for a follow up, and they replied today basically saying that their filming style would be too different to ours so yeah they're not keen for it.

She: So we were tossing up Tuesday or Wednesday, in the interest of getting a team together, do we have any idea when we would want to do it?

Rowey: Well yeah just because now we don't have as much help from Woroni, I am now aware it will be quite a lot of work.

She: I'm just thinking we might have to borrow a couple of reporters, as not a lot of visual people will be available.

Rowey: Yeah that's fair, I think we'd also have to get onto putting out an expression of interest.

She: I think potentially we could do it on Thursday.

Rowey: Yeah I agree. I think also making the debate is quite a lot to do, and I am not really wanting to do this myself as it would be too much. So maybe getting an election team together would be a good idea.

She: What time would we start?

Rowey: Around 6. We would have to work out our positions amongst ourselves, for the night.

She: Awesome, what time would we want to wrap up roughly?

Rowey: Yeah, so we'd just have to work out who we're covering on the night. For the President, I think we kept it last time at two seen and two unseen questions. Which would be around 10 minutes per person. So we have to decide if we're still going to do that format. If we went off of that premise, the President would get around 10 and other positions 5-10.

Sophie: I remember from last time that you do have to cut people off in the interest of time.

Rowey: Definitely. As to your question She, if we started around 5 and the debate started at around 6, we could reasonably go until 8.

She: I think last time we only had access to the room at around 6, which didn't give us enough time for set up. So would we potentially be able to organise getting earlier access to set up?

Rowey: We would also have to reconsider if we can do it there this year as it is now pricey.

Anish: I think it should be fine, if we aren't sponsored there probably won't be a cost involved. I am happy to investigate this.

Eduardo: We've received emails from Will Roche, are we doing individual coverage or not really?

Rowey: Not really, but we can reach out and let him know we're having a debate. So moving forward, we need to look at booking the venue, reach out to the returning officer, and then we need to make an election team of people who would be keen to help out on the night. Is there anything else?

She: Just having a list of who is running, so that we can work on graphics for the screen.

Rowey: So there are a few announcements on Facebook, who we can start to look at, I'll send this through to you.

Eudardo: I was wondering how the marketing process is going to work in the lead-up?

Rowey: I think advertising is a good idea, with fliers etc. up particularly in Marie Reay, just around Kambri mainly. We just need to ensure the majority of the parties will be there. We've also catered on the night, historically, so yeah we'll organise food.

Item 7: Newsletter update

She: I'm thinking of printing out some fliers for it and putting them up.

Rowey: Awesome, from our end I guess we need to select some articles and get reporters to do their blurbs.

Sophie: Fergus seemed really keen to do the blurbs, so I say we should let him!

She: There's a graphic designer working on a design for this too.

Rowey: Is there any particular kind of article you'd be looking for for the newsletter?

She: I think most articles are fine.

Rowey: Awesome, well we'll have a chat to Fergus about working on getting those blurbs! I think articles that are interviews maybe can get cut, but yeah relevant and hard news articles I think would be preferable. We also probably just need to advertise more!

Item 8: SSAF survey

Rowey: The SSAF survey is out now, which is open to every student to give SSAF feedback in this survey. It's a really meaningful way for the SSAF people to interact with us on the basis of how students interact with us. So we might put this in general and try to get as many people as possible to just participate in the survey, so that we're getting this feedback.

Item 9: SSAF Funding Obligations Status

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 10: Website Development Expenses

Chat abt that with Anneysha.

Item 11: Other Business

Meeting closed: 08:32pm.

Next board meeting: Week 8.