



THE ANU OBSERVER

Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 03/08/2022

Open of Meeting: 6:50 PM

Item 1 - Attendance and Apologies

Present:

- Nicholas Ang
- Alex Ellwood
- Jun Chun
- James Day
- SungJae Lee

Absent:

- Sasha Daniel

Item 2 - Acknowledgement of Country

Item 3 - Items for Discussion

3.1 Board meeting format

- Sungjae noticing we're not voting as much; important from a governance perspective to have a record of decisions - should make a return to voting
- For reports and decisions

3.2 ANU SSAF Council report (Alex and SungJae)

- Initial impression that ANU will not go for bid due to exclusion of PARSA
- Looking to move toward 3 year SSAF agreement, showing how we're going to improve organisation over the period
- Might take a percentage of SSAF in order to fund services in the future so SSAF receivers don't pay money to other SSAF receivers - ANU perspective
- Bids are due in Sept when SSAF gets announced - outcome on bid then
- Alex; ANU looking to change SSAF agreement to include ethical standards for editorial policy - but no further details
 - Sungjae; this has come up previously and observer and woroni both said they'd be open to it.

3.3 Future of the office & related financial planning

- Sung jae; brought up at council again that we are the only SSAF org that pays rent, brann says he's open to discussing that. Implication that we could potentially have to move offices if rent situation changes. Renting is a bit precarious right now, will make our budget planning a bit more complicated. Will advocate for us to get an answer as soon as possible - will possibly have to move next year

Item 4 - Previous Action Items

4.1 Training costs

- James alex and jun did research on training costs for reporters, visual team. Investing money back into reporters for longevity and increasing quality of work within the team.
- James; mentioned to the rest of the visual team about possibly training up the reporters - they're open to helping, we should probably pay them to do so

4.2 Alex to catch up with Sasha regarding amending constitution under visual portfolio

- Alex; hasn't spoken to sasha yet, but hasn't found anything in the constitution that we can't create new roles within teams, so it's okay for us to have added a social media manager, etc.

4.3 Board meeting to return to 6PM of every first wednesday of the month

4.4 Strategic meeting in week 2

Item 5 - Reports

5.1 Chair Report (SungJae)

- Everything has already been mentioned in items for discussion, but i still intend to resign position as chair. Wants new chair to be somebody who can rep interests of the organisation, which is predominantly the news side. This is because chair has a seat in decisions with ANU
 - Alex; do we actually have to wait for everybody to be here before we vote if the absent members are always absent? Also, although editors have a better idea of what's going on, we already feel like we're doing a disproportionate amount of work to keep observer going - chair isn't paid work and we already do a lot.
 - Sung jae; not many ongoing tasks as chair, mostly given authority as final say of organisation. Kinds of things done as chair this year; chair also is recommended to be public officer as well, represented observer at SSAF council, but not a ton of responsibilities outside of that. But we can separate the chair and public officer roles as well to make it easier

Moved by Alex. Passes unanimously.

5.2 Editor in Chief Report (Alex)

- Editorial team has been working really well together. Darlene killing it, James stepped up. Reporter team is getting on really well
- Have an election team to cover the ANUSA election, James is head editor for this subteam. Have also appointed new social media manager to make an analytics report frequently to boost our marketing plan

Moved by Darlene. Passes unanimously.

5.3 Secretary Report (Sasha)

5.4 Visual Content Executive Report (Jun)

- I'd like to give everyone an update on the situation at the visual team. The visual team has been able to bring new members into the team and I would like to send my appreciation to James, Alex and Darlene for helping out with the process. I'm certain that with these new recruits that we'll be able to assist the news team in regards to their articles, the new projects that they have in mind and to create a consistent graphics style for the graphics.

Moved by Alex. Passes unanimously

5.5 Finance Executive Report (SungJae)

- We have spent 45% of budget as of 5 July - very good, we had spent significantly less by this time last year. On track for expenditure
- Have spent 95% of our software budget so far, so that should be fine

Moved by Nick. Passes unanimously.

5.6 Community Executive Report (Darlene & Alex)

- As mentioned, office space is being updated. Everybody helped move furniture earlier this week
- We put out an internal survey and have about 5 responses so far. Will put out a report summarising results when we close survey in a week.

Moved by James. Passes unanimously.

5.7 Web Executive Report (Nick)

- Have acted on web requests quickly, everything is running smoothly.

Moved by Jun. Passes unanimously

Item 6 - Items for Decision

5.1 Appoint Richard Chun as Finance Assistant

Moved by sung jae. passed unanimously.

5.2 Appoint Visual Team Members

Will Novak, Patrick Guthridge, Pratyush Sarma, Hiroki Nagasaka as new visual team members.

Moved by Darlene. Passes unanimously

5.3 Appoint social media manager

Alex Qi.

Passes unanimously.

Item 7 - Other Business

COO paperwork progression

- Alex; i noticed a lot of the COO paperwork looks complete, so i was wondering why that hasn't moved further?
- Sung jae; sasha and i were supposed to catch up about it, but we're both pretty happy with how things are at the moment.

Web exec report

- Alex; adding into Nick's monthly report the team list on the website and the team list on slack - doing a periodic update and delete of inactive or resigned officers.

Constitution chunk missing?

- Alex; there is no 13.5 to do with removal of board members even though other sections refer to it?
- Sungjae; will bring it up at the OGM to change it so its up to date

Removing an officer from the news team

- Alex; constitutionally, this is done by a vote of the board.

Moved by Darlene. Passes unanimously.

Board accountability

- Alex;

Item 8 - Recall Actionables

Jun: Get COIs from new visual team members

SungJae: Investigate constitution typo/missing section

SungJae to catch up with Sasha before next board meeting

Meeting closed: 8:01