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Pacific Island Representative

1st Quarter Report 2010

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WORD COUNT FROM "PART ONE" ONWARDS (1779) + 94 for goals

PART ONE: CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES

The constitution states that 'The Pacific Island Students' Representative is responsible for representing the interests of members who identify as Pacific Islanders within the Association, the University and the community. He/she will also facilitate quality representation of these members and pursue projects of benefit to these members.'

In part two of my report I have explained in more depth how I have undertaken my constitutional duties.

PART TWO: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

This report breaks up the Executive Officer Position Description Duties into its two relevant sections: general duties of all Executive Officers, and duties of the Pacific Island student representative.

2. General Duties of all Executive Officers

2.1

2.1.1 I assisted at the OUSA caravan one day during O-week, handing out bags and giving information and primarily giving directions to the clubs and societies building as it was clubs day.

2.1.2 I was a harassment contact for the toga party as part of the, are you ok? Programme during orientation. This event ran smoothly and no major incidence occurred.

2.1.3 and 2.1.4 are not relevant to this quarter.

2.1.5 I have not been assigned to a hall, however I have met with a lot of the first year Pacific Island students that are staying in halls and I have promoted the services OUSA has on offer.

2.2 I attended an executive training session early January. As a new member of the executive I learnt a lot about OUSA and found this training session very useful and informative which is something that should be continued every year before a new executive begins for the year. Following the executive training I attended the NZUSA July conference held in Wellington. I found all workshops I attended interesting and relevant to help me with my position and assisting OUSA this year.

The main campaign for OUSA as part of a national campaign for most tertiary student associations in New Zealand is promoting awareness of VSM and ensuring students are aware that this may possibly see the loss of most if not all of the services OUSA provides. As part of the campaign, I assisted in putting black plastic over the OUSA main office and the club and societies building to represent what will be lost if VSM passes, I have also discussed with many students what VSM is and the effects and what they can do to help the campaign.

I have attended most Executive meetings and have missed one due to being out of town on that particular Tuesday.

2.3 I have set my budget for the year, most which will be used in the second half of the year. I have taken money out to help with costs to attend the NZUSA Pacific Island Conference which has nowhere near exceeded by set budget for year.

13. Duties of the Pacific Island Students' Representative

13.1 With the beginning of most new and returning Pacific Island students academic year being semester one, I started off the year by helping out at the Pacific Island tent during O-week for one or more hours each day. This allowed me to meet a large number of Pacific Island students welcoming them to Otago University and promoting the services and events that OUSA have on offer.

On Friday 19th to Saturday 20th of March I attended the PI Orientation Camp. Over the duration of the camp I met a lot more PI students, many who were first year and continued to promote the benefits of OUSA. I also did a brief introduction of myself and what I am doing this year to ensure students know exactly what my role consists of and therefore ways I can be of assistance to them. I also mentioned my aims and events organised for the year.

Another Issue I wanted to ensure PI students were informed about was VSM and what could be lost if the bill was passed. I have encouraged many Pacific Island Students and staff that they take action where they can, as a result of this, I have had many Pacific Island students signing petitions I have placed in the PI centre and also putting submissions into the save our services website and filling out VSM post cards.

It was a shame that many I spoke too were not aware (many being in their second and third year) of a lot of the services OUSA had on offer such as the student support centre and the food bank that would have been beneficial to many struggling students and thus the issue of increasing awareness to Pacific Islanders of OUSA needs to be addressed and possibly put in place suggestions of ways of promoting OUSA that can be emphasised in the OUSA duties of the Pacific Island representative.

13.2 I have not yet received any complaints from PI students regarding racism on campus.

13.3

13.3.3 Though I have discussed Academic Issues within the university with the manager of the Pacific Island centre and also with Other Pacific Island representatives from other tertiary institutions during the NZUSA January conference, No action has been taken, however I am attending a conference in April to discuss education Issues which hopefully from this will result in more action being done at a national policy level to address these Issues.

13.3.2 I have not yet met with community leaders, though I will meet some of the Tongan community leaders on Friday 26th of March where I will try to arrange a meeting to discuss ways of improving the relationship between the various PI communities in Dunedin and the university.

13.3.3 I have begun my promotion of initiating an Otago University Pacific Island Students Association (OUPISA) to students and presidents of the various OUSA PI student associations. This will be of interests to all PI students as it is aimed to be an association that that will incorporate but is not limited to, all that consider themselves as Pacific Islanders. This will essentially be a support network run by students to deal with PI student issues on campus and make networking between PI associations more efficient. At the moment I have received positive feedback on the Idea and will continue to work on developing this during the year.

13.4 I have not attended a welfare committee meeting yet due to clashes in my schedule, but I will ensure that any concerns and welfare issues from Pacific Island students that I receive, I will promptly inform the Welfare officer of.

13.5 I have met with the manager of the PI centre at least once a fortnight this semester and have also emailed her regularly to discuss my objectives for the year which they have ensured me the help and full support of. For the role of the Pacific Island representative to be successful I believe it is important to maintain this relationship as they are the first contact that most university PI students go to for help. Through the centre I have been able to increase my network of relevant contacts to help me with my position, such as the contacts of OUSA PI associations and local community contacts. This has allowed me to spread relevant information to students in these associations but also any relevant information I have sent to the PI centre, they have passed

on to all PI students when necessary. This has been is a successful way for me to increase awareness on OUSA and other relevant issues such as VSM.

13.6 see 13.3.3

13.7 I have also discussed with the PI centre the setting of dates for the PI sports day, Pacific Island day and the Pacific Island ball which I have decided to put together over two days. The dates Friday 13th- Saturday 14th of August to ensure minimal disruption to students study. This year I hope to increase the student participation in PI events and I will use my networks to advertise this.

13.8 I sit on a number of committees which I believe are of relevance to PI students. In this Quarter I have attended two chaplaincy Committee meetings which were held on February 11th and the 10th of March. The first meeting was held a week before O-week and matters discussed included preparing for O-week and the academic year. Such as the 24 hour combined Christian tent and packs prepared for O-week that included a book on home sickness, and a pamphlet of various churches around Dunedin. Packs were given out to students and RA's of all halls of residency.

The second meeting included the discussion of the success of O-week; especially the 24hour combined Christian tent free sausages sizzle. A concern that was brought up was ways of promoting the chaplaincy services to students as their main advertisement in the critic message page was no longer available as there is no longer a message page in the critic. This may possibly be something OUSA can help them with as this is a valuable service to many Otago University and Polytechnic students.

I also attended the Pacific Peoples Reference Group. This group consists of representatives of the University staff, the PI community, the ministry of education, and other Pacific Island Academics to discuss the progress of PI students at Otago University and ways they can address education issues. I have been given a section in the following meetings to report back on what I have been doing this year that is relevant to the focus of the group.

Internal committee meetings I have attended were one OUSA education committee meeting. As most of my important committee meetings occurred after this meeting, I will have more to report on PI education issues in later meetings.

13.9 I have successfully assisted two OUSA Pacific Island association presidents to apply for grants to attend the NZUSA Pacific Island Conference held in April of this year. I have also met up with two of the



presidents on a number of occasions offering advice and assistance regarding their associations and affiliating with OUSA.

I have also emailed and heard back from all the active OUSA PI student associations to introduce myself and promote OUSA and also offer my assistance if they need it.

13.10 As part of a campaign introduced by the welfare officer, I helped deliver cleaning buckets for a few hours. The response to the bucket delivery was good, for example, many of the students were extra happy when I dropped off cleaning buckets to their door which has proven to be a great initiative and success for OUSA reputation.

PART THREE: GENERAL

Most of what I have done has been covered under part two. I have no other general issues to add.

GOALS (94 WORDS)

- Strengthen all OUSA PI student associations and maintain a good relationship with these associations.
- To increase engagement of PI students in OUSA run events and the events I will organise.
- Ensure all PI students are aware of what OUSA has to offer them and events relevant to them and also create a way to keep them informed on relevant issues
- Initiate OUPISA- key project for the year
- Work with other university representative to come up with solutions for issues PI face at universities and take action on these solutions at the highest level possible.