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Women's Representative
1st Quarter Report 2010
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PART ONE: CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES

As per 32.9.2 of the OUSA Constitution, my duties extend to representing the interests of women within the Association, the University and the community. In addition, my constitutional duties require the facilitation of quality representation for women and to pursue projects of benefit to women.

To the best of my abilities I have attempted to fulfil my constitutional duties by abiding by the Executive Officer Position Description Policy in what I hope is to be an acceptable standard.

PART TWO: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

General Duties

Some of these duties are not applicable at the present time so I have not included them within this report.

2.1.1. Assisting on the OUSA help desk and other activities during Orientation: Orientation involved a plethora of exciting activities. It was my first chance appearing to the student body as an Executive member so there was definitely a sense of excitement! I spent four shifts at the caravan and one at the help desk. This reaches an official total of ten hours however I spent much more time than this at these stalls, filling in for others and helping out wherever needed.

2.1.2 Being a harassment contact during Orientation events: I believe this to be one of the most worthwhile duties during Orientation as it is a way to actually get out there and meet students face to face. I was scheduled to work at four Orientation events (Toga Party, Smashproof, Datsuns, State of Mind) however, 'Are you Okay?' was not required for the last event. It did involve late nights, and the combination of 'Are you Okay?' with early caravan shifts is not something I would recommend.

2.2. Be available for Executive meetings, national conferences, campaigns, Executive training and planning: As I have been in Dunedin since the beginning of January I have been able to attend every single Executive meeting including Standing Committee meetings. However, I am sceptical that I can maintain this unblemished record throughout the year. January the 23rd was the start of a long and intensive week of training. I commend James for his organisation of the in house training and coordinating the NZUSA Conference. The in house training was unquestionably invaluable, even though it was exhausting. It involved expectations of my role and job descriptions, preparation for Committees, a guide to the OUSA budget and my own budget line as well as strategic planning. Following this I travelled to Wellington for the TWFG Women's conference on the 26 and 27th of January. There were numerous speakers and workshops all of which I found really helpful. Women's Conference was also a good way to network with other female executive members and I felt more comfortable doing this in an environment where there were less people (compared to the main conference). The NZUSA conference was held from 28th to the 30th of January. I attended workshops regarding



the tertiary sector, Pasifika and Queer students, governance/management and my role and responsibility as an Executive member.

In terms of training I have endeavoured to attend as many of the extra training sessions that have been offered. These include a Communication and Coping workshop, Outlook training, Are You Okay debriefing. I have also been involved in the numerous strategic planning meetings.

The principal focus during this reporting time is undoubtedly the VSM campaign. I feel that as part of the OUSA Executive there is an onus on us, as Executive members to actively take part in this campaign. To fulfil this onus I have participated in arts and crafts, blacked out OUSA buildings and helped out at the VSM debate.

I have also assisted with Claire's bucket campaign, which I believe was an amazing idea. My participation in this was packing and delivering the buckets. I particularly enjoyed delivering the buckets as I was able to see students genuinely appreciating the free stuff that we gave them!

2.3. Maintain detailed budgets for my cost centre: The budget for the Women's Representative is \$4,000 and to this end I have allocated this money into a budget line which was then passed on to the Finance and Services Officer before the deadline that was issued.

Duties of the Women's Representative

11.1. Promote through campaigns, education and other initiatives, the rights and interests of women within the Association and the University: This provision in the job description is all encompassing and I would argue that my successful fulfillment of this provision is contingent on the satisfactory completion of the following provisions.

11.2. Represent women on University and Association committees as required by the Association: I sit on a various number of internal OUSA committees. These are the Welfare Committee (WelCom) which has met on a regular basis, Campaigns Committee (CamCom) and the Environmental Committee (EnviroCom) which has only had one meeting. In addition to this I have attended meetings of the Education Committee (of which I have happily consented to be a minute taker on occasion), Promotions Committee (PromCom) and Policy Committee (PolCom). In regards to external committees I sit on the Library Services Committee (which is due to meet on the 25th of March) and the Library Student Liaison Committee which is yet to set a date to meet.

11.3. Network with community groups working on women's issues: I have endeavored to meet a range of different groups within the community with the hope of gaining a range of perspectives. I have met with Heidi Cripps, the Community Education Worker at Rape Crisis. I believe we have developed a strong communicative relationship and find this invaluable in terms of having someone outside of OUSA to ask for opinions on issues and discuss ideas for campaigns. We have discussed signing a memorandum of understanding in order to clarify and strengthen the relationship between Rape Crisis and the Women's Representatives especially in future years.

I have also contacted Te Whare Pounamu Dunedin Women's Refuge to discuss how to strengthen the relationship between the Women's Representative and their organisation. To date, I have been unable to coordinate a time for a meeting, however there is a tentative meeting penciled in for the 25th of March.

I have attended a monthly meeting of the National Council of Women (NCW). This is a very proactive group who actively partake in numerous discussions nationwide. At the meeting I attended I briefly spoke to my view on the subject of the increasing amount of debt within our society. I also agreed to help Lyn Dowsett

promote a discussion about the issues facing the women of New Zealand in order to obtain information for the NGO Alternative CEDAW Report. This discussion does not take place until after this reporting period has ended so I will discuss the results in my next report.

I also attended a breakfast organised by the NZ Federation of Graduate Women in celebration of International Women's Day (IWD). Dr Rachel Baskerville spoke at this event about three women who have made a significant difference to the accounting industry. The most important point I noted from Rachel who was both informative and well spoken, is that there are women in our society who have been making a significant impact for many years. To this point, I have noted that whilst my predominant role is supporting women at university it is always worthwhile to look forward into the future.

11.4 Be involved in campaigning and lobbying issues affecting women: The main campaign of the Women's Representative is Thursdays in Black however I have not actively promoted this campaign so far. My reasoning for this is to have a big campaign launch at a later date given that Orientation and VSM campaigning has taken up a large amount of time. With regard to other issues, I have agreed to help Rob McCann in his upcoming campaigning for the White Ribbon Campaign.

11.5. Co ordinate the Association's women's group, if and when there is a desire from the student body for one to exist: I feel that a facebook group or email list would be more appropriate. I have asked users of the Women's Room for feedback so I can gauge interest in this.

11.6. Be the custodian of the Women's room: I note that under the recent Women's Room policy amendment ratified on the 23rd of March, I no longer hold custodian duties. Up to this point I have provided the Women's Room with the requisite supplies. The most exciting part of my custodial role this semester has been (in conjunction with Claire Jackson) providing the Women's Room with new couches (which now make the room look amazing!). In addition, I purchased a new kettle, mugs and dishwashing utensils as these were in dire need of replacing.

11.7. Organise and run events of specific relevance to women: On the 8th of March I held a Women's Room Launch to celebrate IWD and to encourage women who have not visited the Women's Room to do so. Although this event was on a small scale I feel it was successful especially in terms of being able to communicate with my constituents. I wish to thank Rosalin for her help in blowing up a multitude of balloons! I provided nibbles (fresh and dried fruit, chocolate, nuts) to the Women's Room and promoted the launch with balloons and posters. In conjunction with Heidi from Rape Crisis there was the opportunity to purchase an equal pay bag. Whilst we did have some interest in the bags, on the whole the interest was minimal. My intention is to use the bags as part of a pay equity campaign in Women's Week.

I have begun preparations for Women's Week and Lesley Elliot is happy to speak during this week in regards to abusive relationships. As mentioned in the previous paragraph I intend to run a pay equity day and utilise the equal pay bags in some way.

11.8. Maintain a good working relationship with the NZUSA National Women's Rights Officer, sharing information and ideas and coordinating national campaigns and events whenever appropriate: I am in regular contact with Sophia Blair, this year's National Women's Rights Officer. Recent discussion has involved organising a National Day of Action for Thursdays in Black as well as organising a nationwide campus safety review which I intend on facilitating at this campus. In addition, I am in the process of filling out an information survey of which the results will be presented at the next TWFG conference. This survey includes information of the Women's portfolio and services, campaigns and information resources available on campus.



11.9. Maintain a good working relationship with the Welfare Officer: I maintain regular contact with Claire Jackson, the Welfare Officer, both through weekly WelCom meetings as well as individual meetings. I find working downstairs with Claire is really helpful as I am able to pop over to her office whenever I have a quick question.

11.10. Work not less than ten hours per week: I can safely say I have worked the requisite ten hours per week. During Orientation and the week before this report was due I unequivocally worked over this amount sometimes even fulfilling my ten hour week requirement in one day.

PART THREE: GENERAL

I have undertaken various activities relevant to OUSA that do not specifically fit in the sections above. These include but are not limited to:

- Attending Orientation Logistics meetings with the staff. Although these were not specifically relevant to my own Executive duties regarding Orientation it was useful to know how other departments (especially Events given their key role) were operating
- Responding to a letter written to Critic regarding the Women's Room
- Accepting an invitation by the University Council to have lunch with them. I found it interesting meeting various members of Council who were ex Executive members.
- Helping out at the Bottle Buy Back at Market Day on the 24th of March



GOALS

As part of my role as Women's Representative there are numerous goals (both small and big) that I wish to achieve this year.

- I wish to collate a list of useful contacts for the Women's Room. I believe this goal is entirely feasible and I hope to achieve this goal early in the second half of the first semester
- Assemble an inventory of resources in the Women's Room. I hope to update old brochures/pamphlets and create a more organised system of storing them. The Women's Room also contains a plethora of historical feminist material and I wish to find a way to more adequately store the material (i.e. not just sitting in boxes on the shelf) so that they are more accessible to women
- Run a safe relationships campaign. This idea was initially brought to WelCom by the Welfare Officer and I believe that this type of campaign would be invaluable to our campus. I would like to take proactive measure to help the Welfare Officer follow through with this.