



Ariana Te Wake
Māori Students Representative
2nd Quarter Report 2010
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PART ONE: CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES

Section 32.12 of the Otago University Students' Associations constitution states that the Māori Students Representative must be a Māori student, and is responsible for representing the interests of Māori students within the Association, the University and the community. It also states that the Māori Students Rep will facilitate quality representation of Māori and pursue projects of benefit to Māori.

I can safely say that I am still a Māori student, and I have been heavily involved with Te Roopu Māori and the Māori Centre representing the interests of Māori students within the Association, the University and the community. This quarter I produced the first of the two 'Kia Kotahi Ai' newsletter, that was sent to all Māori students on campus, this was achieved with help from the Māori student roopu here at the University of Otago. Towards the end of this quarter I have started planning and organising ideas for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori which will take place early next semester.

PART TWO: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

This report will break up the Executive Officer Position Description Duties into its two sections: General Duties of all Executive Officers and Duties of the Māori Students' Representative.

General Duties

2.1 All executive members are expected to assist as volunteers for OUSA events and functions:

I assisted the events crew at the free break dancing class during Healthy Lifestyles week by giving out muesli bars and fruit juice to the enthusiastic participants, and with the cleaning up of Union Hall afterwards. I also took part in some of the class, which was a lot of fun although I probably shouldn't do it again.

OUSA held one SGM this quarter in which I was able to attend the first half of the meeting where I assisted BBQ master Ros by handing out kai to students inside while she was mastering the BBQ. However due to prior medical commitments I had to leave the meeting early.

I have been using my position as a Senior Resident in Selwyn College to promote OUSA services and events. I encouraged the Selwyn residents to head down to the SGM held this quarter and be part of the decision making process of student politics.

2.2 Within reason, Executive Officers are expected to be available for Executive meetings, national conferences, national and local campaigns, Executive training and Executive planning:

I have attended most of the Executive meetings this quarter, however have missed a few due to illness and other University commitments.

2.3 All Executive Officers with control of budget lines are expected to maintain detailed budgets for their cost centres, and not significantly exceed their budget expenditure:

I have maintained control of my budget line as I have not spent anything as of yet. I had allocated funds for the production of hardcopies of the 'Kia Kotahi Ai' newsletter, however after talking to a number of Māori students, and Te Roopu Māori Executive we decided to keep to an electronic version for the time being. Over the next quarter, I will be looking to allocate funds from my budget line in the running of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week), and organising administrative details for Te Huinga (National Māori Students Conference), which is being held in Porirua at the end of August, and the Pacific and Māori Students' sports day.

Duties of the Māori Students' Representative

14.1 Promote through campaigns, education and other initiatives, an environment within OUSA and on campus that is supportive of Māori students:

At the beginning of the quarter, a meeting with all the Māori student roopu on campus was organised. Through this meeting I was able to have a formal discussion with all the roopu, and ask and/or answer questions about how I could support each roopu and their constituents. During this meeting we discussed the possibility of a bi-annual newsletter to be sent out to all Māori students through the Māori Centre. After working with the majority of the Māori student roopu on campus, I was able to produce the first 'Kia Kotahi Ai' newsletter that was distributed to all Māori students on campus at the beginning of June. However there was a slight miscommunication between myself and some of the roopu on campus about who to send the information to for this newsletter. I acknowledged this miscommunication and formally apologised to those involved, but on the whole the general feedback about the first up newsletter was good.

14.2 Work towards the elimination of racism and intolerance towards Māori students within OUSA and on campus:

I am constantly working towards the elimination of racism and intolerance towards Māori students by promoting a supportive environment of Māori students, and by acknowledging and supporting things Māori.

14.3 Work on issues specific to Māori students at the University of Otago:

I have been keeping in regular contact with the Māori Physiotherapy students, who have been writing up a constitution to form a new Māori Physiotherapy Student Roopu. They have finished the document, and are organising a SGM to elect a Tumuaiki (President).

I have also been talking with Ana Rangi about the formation of a Māori student roopu within the Humanities Division, and forming an informal group for Māori students based down at the College of Education. This will be a project that we will look more in depth into throughout next semester.

14.4 Maintain a good working relationship with the Welfare Officer:

I have tried to keep in contact with Claire as much as possible with the things I have been doing, and a lot of this comes through in our 'role updates' part of our WelCom meetings. With Te Wiki o te Reo Māori approaching I have been discussing with her ideas that we could do for that week, and ideas that have come from the committee meetings I have had with the Te Wiki o te Reo Māori committee.

14.5 Maintain a good working relationship with the Māori Centre of the University:

I have had regular formal and informal meetings with Pearl and other staff at the Māori Centre. I attended two of the three Māori Pre-Graduation Ceremonies held by the Māori Centre at Te Tumu as the OUSA representative where I also helped set/pack up the chairs for these ceremonies. I also took part in the Mentoring Programme Quiz night held in the Main Common Room as a judge, where I was able to meet some of the first year Māori students that I haven't met before.

14.6 Maintain a good working relationship with Te Roopu Māori:

I have attended the Te Roopu Māori Executive meetings on a regular basis, only having missed two this quarter due to other commitments. I have been in regular contact with Fallyn Flavell outside the TRM executive meetings throughout this quarter, and have discussed issues with her relating to the Governance Structure Review and how it affects Māori students. From discussions with her, I wrote a submission to the Governance Structure Review panel. I have helped Te Roopu Māori sell hangi tickets for a fundraiser, and with the packing of the kai. I attended the Short Film night that was held at Te Tumu during Matariki week which was organised and run by Te Roopu Māori.

Also, after the discussion I had with Fallyn in regards to the Governance Structure Review, I decided that next semester I am going to do office hours at the Te Roopu Māori office as well as the OUSA office. I believe that this is necessary as that office is already set up as a base where Māori students feel comfortable in going to talk about issues that they might have, in turn strengthening my relationship with Te Roopu Māori and the Māori student community.

14.7 Being involved in campaigning and lobbying on issues affecting Māori students:

I was asked by the OUSA Recreation Unit review panel to speak with them regarding the Treaty of Waitangi obligations and the extent to which the Unit meet these obligations. I spoke to them about how I thought that they meet these obligations well, and that they catered well for Māori students as a whole very well.

14.8 Organise and run events of specific interest and relevance to Māori students:

Over the past month I have been heavily involved with the organisation of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori with a committee made up of staff from the Māori Centre, Te Tumu and other University departments, the Otago Museum, Dunedin Public Library, Dunedin Art Gallery, representatives from Te Roopu Māori and representatives from other student roopu, and students currently taking Māori language papers. We have been meeting fortnightly to discuss and plan events that we would like to run throughout this week, and how we can promote these events for this week.

I have also had a meeting with the Tumuaki of Te Whai Putake, Stacey O'Neill, who approached me to assist her and her roopu in running an inter-roopu sports day on Sunday 25th July as an opening event for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.

14.9 Represent Māori students on University and OUSA committees, as required by the Association:

EduCom – After not being able to make a lot of these meetings last quarter, I made an extra effort to attend as many of these meetings as much as possible this quarter.

WelCom – I have been attending WelCom meetings regularly and feedback some of the ideas that Te Roopu Māori Executive and myself have been discussing in regards to the Māori students attending the University of Otago.

Quality Advancement Committee (QAC) – I attended both QAC meetings held this year, with the latest one being held mid June. The topic for the latest meeting was the audit of the University of Otago that was taking place next year, and what the working party had been doing in preparation for this.

Clinical Governance Committee – Ros and I had a meeting with Emma Storr (Chairperson) about what the committee involves. I attended the latest meeting held, where I expressed concern about the miscommunication between the committee and us (Ros and I) as OUSA representatives. They were very understanding and both sides acknowledged that we were all at fault, and that we hope to rectify it for next semester. This meeting I attended was very productive, as I was able to share ideas with the group about how to network and engage students, I referred to the use of social networking websites such as 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' such as we do as an association as a means of promoting the services that Student Health provide among the student community. I also discussed ways to help promote Student Health and their services among the Māori student community here at Otago University, and from that I am going to organise a meeting with some of the staff of Student Health Services, and members of the Te Roopu Māori executive for next semester.

Māori and Pacific Islands Advisory Board – I attended the only meeting that has been held so far this year. Discussions heavily surrounded the implementation of the 'Early Intervention' pilot in the Humanities Division, and better engagement with the students. From these discussions as a board, it has lead to the ideas about starting a Māori student roopu in the Humanities Division as mentioned earlier.

14.12 Work not less than ten (10) hours per week:

I have consistently worked the required the ten hours per week, and this was achieved through regular meetings with Te Roopu Māori and the Māori Centre, as well as office hours and administrative work. However due to bereavement leave, I was unable to maintain my regular office hours for a period lasting just over a week, although I was able to keep in contact with Te Roopu Māori and OUSA via email while I was away.

PART THREE: GENERAL

I was part of the Executive's Capping Show skit, and I helped Dan chalk the pathways promoting and advertising the SGM before all our hard work was washed away by the rain.