



Imogen Roth  
General Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report 2010  
Submitted 24-06-2010 at 2:53 pm  
1997 words

#### **PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES**

1.1 Develop an area of expertise within OUSA business according to interest and relevant skills, and work towards achieving set goals in these areas – previously this had been voluntary student membership, but following the conclusion of submissions my focus has shifted more to wider issues in tertiary education. I have developed an interest in the strategic direction of the university and tertiary education policy. This led to me being elected to sit on Senate, where I have already seen the impact of government decisions on tertiary education.

1.2 Maintain a good working relationship with one or more of the Officers – I share an officer with James, and we have an excellent working relationship. James answers my questions about politics and the budget, and in return I field the bevy of phone calls he gets. We will also be working on looking at possibly implementing a bus levy for students, further to my work on free buses last year.

1.3 Working not less than 10 hours per week – I have consistently worked for at least 10 hours a week on average for every week of this quarter.

#### **PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

2.1 Assisting with elections – I ran the by-election booth for three hours. I didn't get many voters but I had lots of visitors.

2.2 Executive meetings, campaigns and planning – I have attended as many executive meetings as I possibly could, meaning I attended virtually all of the meetings. With regards to executive campaigns, I attended Quizically Queer as a part of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. We won a prize. I also participated in planning sessions for the Pathways initiative and planning for the running of the SGM in May.

#### **PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

##### **OUSA Committees**

3.1 Promotions Committee – this has been re-structured into 15 minute meetings on ideas and proposals when necessary. This format means that we have become more efficient with our time and resources and are more focussed on proposed outcomes than analysing what has been done previously. I have attended 15 minute meetings on Women's Week and Thursdays in Black and wrote and distributed minutes for these meetings.

3.2 Welfare Committee – was meeting frequently but has been less active during the lead up to exams. The issues I have been involved with discussing are student debt and alcohol. I am looking forward to being involved in the Safe Relationships campaign Claire is planning to run later in the year.

3.3 Environment Committee – has met once this quarter. We discussed the participation of the University in Earth Hour, the proposed mining on schedule four conservation land, the sustainability policy, the possibility of free buses for students and the upcoming DCC elections.

3.4 Pathways Committee – I attended all of the initial meetings of this committee, and will try and remain involved in some capacity once responsibility for this committee is dedicated to the Education Committee.

### **University Committees**

3.5 Senate – I was elected onto Senate following Claire's resignation, and have attended one meeting this quarter. Discussion was mainly around the limitation of enrolment, and I was involved in questioning some of the proposals, particularly those affecting distance students and those who are accepted into university under discretionary entry, both of which have applied to me. In this regard I have consistently kept in mind the core value of responsibility when making decisions as a member of Senate.

3.6 Library Services Committee – the meeting scheduled for this quarter was postponed.

3.7 Library Student Liaison Committee – has met once this quarter. The big issues discussed were noise and the provision of well-posted quiet areas, and appropriate food and drink in the library. I was able to provide lots of feedback to this committee, partly because I work at one of the university libraries and frequently interact with students about their issues with the library system and services.

3.8 Hocken Collections Committee – the meeting scheduled for this quarter was postponed. In honour of the Hocken Library's centenary, I attended a talk about the history of the collection and the library, and a dinner to celebrate the centenary. I also went on a tour of the Library with Anne Jackman, the Reference Librarian, to better understand the collection. The collection is the single most valuable asset of the university – worth about \$120 million. If you get a chance, I highly recommend a visit.

### **PART FOUR: PROGRESS ON GOALS**

4.1 Avoid getting Rogered by voluntary student membership – of this, I am quietly hopeful. VSM has been a massive issue for me for almost a year now, and hopefully we will see the last of it soon. Specific actions will be detailed later in this report.

4.2 To plan a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday for user-pays education – this idea has expanded and will now be a campaign about issues in tertiary education. This is intended to raise awareness among the student body about changes in the sector and to try and encourage them to think critically about these changes and their impact. I intend on running this campaign in second semester and targeting the lack of funding in the tertiary sector, changes around entrance requirements for university and changes to the student loan scheme.

4.3 How much does your flat owe? – this was originally intended to be incorporated into the debt campaign, and could possibly still be integrated as a means of raising awareness about student debt. However for it to be successful, it will require a lot of time and effort from the executive, and will have to be prioritised accordingly. However, I do think it would be a very powerful visual and political image if we pulled it off, so I am hopeful in this regard.

4.4 Giving the people what they want – I hope I have done this! Next semester I intend to speak to students in colleges of residence about flatting, as I did in 2009. Exam packs were organised by Claire and this semester.

4.5 Increase student involvement with executive members – this has happened thanks to a variety of mechanisms. I have spoken to my classes and colleagues about what I

do and what they can expect from me, and have endeavoured to make myself available to all students who approach me. To this end I believe that while it would be ideal to have an executive member be stationed somewhere on campus solely to answer questions from students, it is probably not the most efficient use of our time. In addition, it appears that many students are already very forthcoming when they have questions they want answered.

4.6 Continue to assist other executive members with their projects – I like to think that I have consistently done this. I make an effort to attend events or campaigns that other executive members have organised where possible. While I regret not yet being able to attend Networking 101 due to work commitments, I am hopeful that I will be able to attend in second semester.

#### **PART FIVE: GENERAL – MY SECTION OF CHOICE!**

5.1 VSM – an ongoing saga. This quarter I finally finished writing my submission, spent two hours in the Link soliciting and collecting submissions from students, read many of the submissions posted online, attended oral submissions training and then presented my oral submission and made Roger Douglas cry and question his life's work. All in a day's work. Currently I am thinking about potential outcomes of the bill for OUSA and what we can expect when the Select Committee reports back in September.

5.2 Battle of the Bands – I judged three of the four heats and the final over the month of May, which was quite a time commitment, though I really enjoyed being able to judge, having observed for the last three years. It was difficult knowing many of the entrants, but then again the Dunedin music scene is rather incestuous. The other judges and I rarely agreed, but eventually Mr Biscuits emerged victorious, with Ok! Crazy Fiction Lady coming second and The Something Quartet placing third. Highlights include a heavily pregnant Irish woman and a guy making dog noises (in the same band) and Jamie's blatant favouritism and subsequent insistence that he was not a judge.

5.3 Student General Meeting – along with Shonelle, I was responsible for organising the SGM this quarter. This involved a fair amount of planning, motion soliciting and executive wrangling, but it came off really well with excellent discussion and participation on all sides. Thanks to all that helped out on the day, it wouldn't have come off so well otherwise. For the next SGM, I am hopeful that we can work to have more students present discussing important issues, as part of further working to increase student engagement.

5.4 I had hoped to have my collated report on January conference ready by now, but unfortunately it has not been completed. This is partly due to the lack of notes and feedback I requested, and partly because NZUSA has not yet provided me with minutes for some sessions. I hope to have this report completed as soon as possible, though I must question whether me putting in the time and effort to complete this report is valued. I still think it has value, particularly as it serves to inform future executives, but in order for it to be successful it must be seen as a priority.

5.5 Healthy Lifestyles Week – I biked Shonelle and Kitty around for Bikes For Fun. We came last in the race but it was still fun. I also manned the Bottle Buy Back stall for two hours, and helped out at the Potato Picnic for an hour.

5.6 I spent three hours one afternoon making banners to protest the proposed disestablishment of the Design Studies department, and later attended the protest at the Registry Building. There was a great turnout, and the banners were really effective, so thanks to all that helped – especially Michael and Shonelle.

5.7 Attended Vanessa's presentation on the 40 things we can do to reduce alcohol-related harm to students off and on campus.

5.8 Attended a morning tea held at the Careers Office and discussed what they offer and how their services benefit our members.

5.9 In an attempt for executive members to have a better idea of what each other was doing, revived the 'what are you working on?' whiteboard, which has been moderately successful. It should be noted that we need to collectively make a decision about one means of keeping track of what everyone else is doing. I have tried almost all of the initiatives, but it is too difficult and time consuming to update 4 or 5 things consistently. I vote either tasks or the whiteboard.

5.10 Made an oral submission to the Governance Structure Review Working Party, in continuation of my written submission from 2009. I have also been active in pointing out implications of the structure that I believe have been overlooked, in order to be as responsible to my constituents as possible. I am hopeful that a more efficient and engaging structure will be put in place for the 2011 executive.

5.11 Baked a delicious slice for the fundraising bake sale for the Student Support Centre – and promptly bought most of it.

5.12 Acted/perpetuated stereotypes in the executive capping show skit.

5.13 Attended an Are You Ok? planning meeting for ReOrientation, where we discussed obtaining funding from ALAC for the training component, including first aid courses.

5.14 Begun reading the applications for the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship Selection Committee. I have only read a few closely so far and it is going to be tough, with 23 applications to analyse.

5.15 I have also cleaned the microwave in the link. A hideous job, but someone had to do it. I have also left a sign on it advising students to contact OUSA when it needs cleaning. Hopefully this will mean that it will not get all caked-on and filthy again.