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POSITION President
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PART ONE: CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES

Section 32.1.2 of the constitution states that the President must lead the Association in fulfilling its core functions and achieving its goals of advancing the educational, welfare, social, cultural and sporting interests of the members of the Association. I believe over the next 3 months of this year I have fulfilled this requirement, with the help of the executive, in particular the officers.

The first quarter was focussed on establishing relationships with key external people and groups, training and supporting the executive, evaluating the organisation and leading the executive in setting the strategic direction and planning initiatives for the rest of the year and campaigning against the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill.

This last quarter has seen a focus on maintaining those relationships despite some big (and unanticipated external issues) and implementing the strategic plan.

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 President.

Applicable General Duties:

As well as halls of residence, I have promoted OUSA services and events to a number of clubs and groups both within University and the wider community. Examples include: whilst being assistant team manager at University Games in Invercargill, at Diversity Week Events, Tertiary Information Day, the Housing Stars Launch and a variety of other media events (including a super intense Closeup interview). In fact, even when seemingly 'off duty' I am still promoting the association.

Be available for Executive meetings, national conferences, campaigns and Executive planning: I have chaired all executive meetings which have happened mostlee fortnightly since April. We tried having fortnightly meetings as the very quick turnaround between meetings and when agendas for the next one are due was quite hard to work with, however the downside was that meetings were really, really long. Recently we have gone back to weekly meetings as there have been a number of short notice issues. That one is to be revised again.

We also tried having informal executive meetings but everyone is so busy that it is hard to get motivation to attend without a set agenda. Sub-Committees have been functioning quite well, but do require dedication by chairs to writing up minutes and getting them to exec agendas ASAP so communication flows. We are also going to try a weekly mini-email report as we are having some quite big internal communication problems – the exec all appear to be off working really hard, but not communicating that to each other enough.

I have also tried wherever possible to be involved in University and Executive and operational campaigns and activities, such as Quiztacularly Queer, The Campus Masterplan launch, baking hundreds of cupcakes for the SSC fundraiser, the BCOM review.

I have been liaising regularly with NZUSA to plan the conference being held in early July here in Dunedin. It should be good with far cheaper food (thanks Brunch n Lunch and the Asian), better social/networking events (because I can plan good parties) and no accommodation/travel costs.

VSM Oral Submissions were held recently down here in Dunedin. I sat in on all of them (which lead to great reward as I went at the start and other people raised new issues which I got to address and answer towards the end when there was a 10 minute time space). I wrote a full report on the submissions and have since followed up with MPs. I also gave Allan Peachey (Select Committee Chair) a tour around the OUSA offices/facilities and answered lots of questions. Feeling pretty positive about the situation.

Maintain detailed budgets for their cost centres, and not significantly exceed their budgeted expenditure:

I haven't really done a huge amount of spending, except for travel to Fedex/USNZ meetings and some printing costs for the Gardies fliers but I'm working on being super diligent with recording. I also haven't been buying any porn or lobster meals on the OUSA Credit Card. The main spending has been for food/caffeine to support all the sober driving at Uni Games, which comes out of Lee's budget.

Specific duties of the President

Be the official spokesperson for the Association: So far had a lot of good coverage of OUSA and student issues. Especially that Closeup one – lots of good feedback. Been maintaining a good relationship with Chanel 9, the ODT and of course Critic to get some good media coverage of all the things we have been doing. Unfortunately a couple of not so good articles – the NZ Herald one about Vanessa from cheeky pro-VSM ex-Salient guy, complaints around Rape Crisis and the Capping Show and Critic's article about Bums. The causes of these stories were a) a media release by ALAC that got out of control – they now know to get it approved by us b) not sure how Critic (and thus ODT) found out about the Rape Crisis situation but it was really disappointing. I hope people will exercise more discretion and do less gossiping in the future as there was a lot of backlash to deal with including some poor boys from the Sextet who didn't come off too well. C) One TO'd mental health worker who complained to everyone under the sun (including the Proctor)! Nothing much we can do about that one, being separate to Critic and all. There has also been heaps of coverage of Design/other departments closing and limited entry, some on VSM, some good media releases on activities like the Thursdays in black Launch etc.

Coordinate and oversee all interactions by the Association with other student associations, media organisations, the University of Otago, the government of New Zealand, local authorities and any other external organisations and their representatives: This is the most important and time consuming aspect of my job. I have endeavoured to establish and maintain good working relationships with a vast array of relevant people in different areas of the University, with Presidents from other Students' Associations, Club Presidents, local and national MPs, The Mayor, The University Council etc. I have met with a lot of MPs this quarter including Maryan Street, Pete Hodgson, Michael Woodhouse, Jo Goodhew, Nikki Kaye, Tim McIndoe, Simon Bridges, Gareth Hughes, Allan Peachey.

I also attended a face-to-face Fedex meeting, VSM submission training, an SJS board meeting and a USNZ board meeting up in Wellington.

I have attended meetings of the North Dunedin Working Party – one of which I actually called, to implement practical measures around the closure of Gardies, including buses, food, advertising venues etc. Aaron Thompson of Student Life has also proved to be a very good ally lately.



I have continued to maintain really good relationships with both the Vice-Chancellor and the Mayor and am confident that this will be crucial to OUSA achieving its goals this year. While this is hard to measure I have received a large amount of positive feedback from people in wider networks.

Within the University structure, people I have been liaising closely with are John Price, the Director of Academic Services; David Richardson, the Director of Student Services, Jan Flood, the secretary to the University Council and Registrar and Vernon Squire, Pro Vice Chancellor Academic and International. So far they have been really helpful and supportive.

Maintain a good working relationship with the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association (OPSA) meet with them on a monthly basis and coordinate joint activities whenever appropriate and practical: Meegan Cloughly and I have a good working relationship and meet regularly – almost fortnightly at the moment

Be the Association's representative on relevant external boards, committees or executives. I represent students on: Council of the University of Otago (including the Finance and Budget and Capital Development sub-committees and Academic Appeals Board), Senate, Ethical Behaviour Committee, New Zealand University Students' Association Federation Executive; Student Job Search National Caucus and most recently the Limitation on Enrollment Working Party.

I have also been part of a short listing/interview panel to appoint a new librarian, and have been appointed to a panel to search for and appoint the next Vice Chancellor.

I have attended all meetings so far to ensure student viewpoints are put forward. The University Council meetings have gone well this quarter. I have endeavoured to liaise with Victoria Nicholson (the other student rep on council) before each meeting and be organised and prepared. I have also met with Jan Flood, the Secretary to the Council and registrar on a number of occasions, as well as Sir Professor David Skegg, Mayor Peter Chin, Grant McKenzie and John Price to discuss issues and clarify papers in order to be well prepared. The closure of the Design department was a big issue and I spent a lot of time talking to staff and students to ensure I put their views forward to the best of my ability. Limited entry being bought in was also a big one, and one that has been discussed over months. Many students appear to be supportive of it, provided the right measures/checks/balances accompany the change, and it is definitely coming in as a last resort due to funding constraints. Important issues that have come up at Council and may become bigger issues over the coming months include discussion around the Code of Conduct and OUSA relationship, alcohol and student behaviour issues, the implementation of limiting entry and the restructure of the College of Education. David Richardson's Student Services Managers Meetings have been really great and lead to some follow up meetings with managers/areas such as Careers services. Have also put time in to extra meetings with the Union, our honorary Solicitors, heads of colleges, University and Dunedin City Council members and various other stakeholders.

Hold membership of all internal committees of the Association: I have endeavoured to attend all internal committee meetings where possible, especially the Welfare committee, Education Committee, Policy Committee, Campaigns committee, promotions committee, grants committee, Finance and Expenditure Committee. This has been crucial to internal communication in the organisation. I would like to see improved two-way communication between the operational and 'political' sides of the organisation by inviting more staff to be part of the internal committee structure. Internal communication is something that I feel needs more formalised process. The first step was to implement an internal reporting structure similar to that of the University where by written reports from all external boards/committees that the executive sit on be presented to the relevant internal committee where they are discussed and fed up to the executive for noting with minutes. This has been a good initiative but requires more diligence from the executive as reports have fallen by the wayside a bit (myself included).

I have been appointed as a Director of: Planet Media Dunedin Limited; UniPol Recreation Limited; and University Union Limited and have attended all meetings.

I have chaired all meetings of the OUSA Executive (except one I think), ensuring that all members and student media outlets are advised of meeting times, that the agenda is prepared and circulated beforehand and that the standing orders of the Executive are adhered to.

Ensure that an adequate level of consultation between the President and the Executive is maintained on all relevant matters of interest to the Association: I have endeavoured to discuss all relevant issues with the executive and gather their opinions before acting to represent the Association on issues.

Prepare a regular report for the Executive of all relevant matters of interest to the Association and detailing functions performed: As well as quarterly reports I have been giving verbal reports at each meeting and am initiating a weekly email report system.

Maintain a good working relationship with the Finance and Services Officer, the Education Officer and the Welfare Officer and liaise with them on a daily basis: Weekly meetings have fallen by the wayside a bit with all the external issues but I hope to resurrect them ASAP. I have had lots of 1:1 communication though.

Maintain a good working relationship with all other members of the Executive and endeavour to meet with them individually on a monthly basis: I see many executive members very regularly and try to stop and chat to touch base wherever possible. I also tried having one on one meeting with each executive member but this was incredibly difficult to coordinate. Perhaps a 1-day extravaganza might help...

Coordinate and oversee any political campaigns undertaken by the Association, actively seeking to inform the student body and general public on student issues and concerns:

I have been involved to varying degrees in meetings to plan a number of things including:

Women's week, Men's day, Rugby/concert – heaps of stakeholder meetings, Postgrad initiatives, Art week (I am planning an installation), Networking 101, Loyalty card idea for next year, Are You OK changes.

The 'big things' campaign-wise that I have been working on are:

- Implementing pathways – MART 301 is doing OUSA as a case, Laws 462 Advocacy is also providing volunteers to work at SSC as part of the paper, have been helping with the Intern program for 2011
- Organising an Otago-Canterbury annual rugby match with big outdoor concert after party. This has taken a huge amount of liaising with stakeholders and Events have been super awesome
- Gardies closure: coordinating 'pub crawl' to raise awareness of other events, free buses, distributing info, extra rubbish collection, student deals at bars, pre-party intervention, study spaces available and awareness of the liquor ban. The firemen were helpful!
- Creating a new improved voting system that can do online SGMs and works well
- Governance Structure review and report – at its second draft stage
- Changes to SGMs – initiating conversations at the last ones, writing up a proposal
- Changes to NZUSA – trying to convince NZUSA to reduce to core business and stop charging us so damn much
- Getting the DCC to do rubbish collection twice a week. We are making progress, but its DCC paced progress not Harriet paced progress.

I have also been hosting a radio show, writing a blog, harassing Critic all the time and facebooking/tweeting like a madwoman to access as many students as possible. I also try to respond to everyone that emails/calls on



whatever issue (whether it is an angry complaint about my lack of Gardies-going-drunken-meathead-ness, queries about nets at Unipol or booking the OUSA van).

Be an ex-officio member of all affiliated clubs and societies: I have gone to the Affiliated Clubs Council and some club meetings and events wherever possible to meet with club presidents.

Oversee, in conjunction with the General Manager, those staff that report to the President; Supervise the General Manager on behalf of the Executive: I meet with the General Manager weekly but have contact with him daily. Also worked through operational reports, Strategic plan operational implementation and KPI discussions with Stephen. He's wonderful! However, given the new direction a Job Description Review will need to be undertaken next semester.

Be available via cellular phone at all practical times: Yes indeed. Radio NZ interviews in bed are a highlight. At least it's not the pub.

Work not less than forty (40) hours per week, from early January until late December: Not a week has gone by where I haven't worked far in excess of 40 hours per week. Referring back to section 32.1.2 of the constitution, I have consistently gone far above and beyond the requirement to 'lead the Association in fulfilling its core functions and achieving its goals of advancing the educational, welfare, social, cultural and sporting interests of the members of the Association.' It has been yet another intense and busy quarter, but has been thoroughly enjoyable when things have gone relatively well. There have certainly been more challenges this time but I think I've done pretty well at confronting them head on.

PART THREE: GENERAL

I have tried really hard to get to as many OUSA (operational/exec) events and activities as possible, to raise the profile of OUSA to the students, communicate with them on important student issues in order to best represent them and represent students in a positive light to the wider community. This includes heaps of University/Community events and functions such as MPs forums etc. I'm getting pretty good at schmoozing. I have also been involved in the new STARS initiative from the DCC in terms of housing standards which has been launched and we are going to launch an accompanying S2 campaign around it (see www.housingstars.co.nz).

I have been to all of the graduation ceremonies, including one Maori Pre-grad and the pre-grad religious ceremonies. The mace is really heavy but I never dropped it AND wore heels in all the ceremonies! Who needs to do weights when you can carry the 9kg mace?

I have also been liaising with Aaron Thompson from Student life and some other groups to look at implementing various initiatives to provide more constructive activities for students in Dunedin other than drinking, and that involved the community. I will be working with Vanessa (events), the DCC and the University Council to pursue initiatives to provide more activities and opportunities for students, as well as initiatives to help curb the *harmful* effects of the drinking culture and perceptions around it.

Implementing the Strategic Plan in its various ways has been the major (and ongoing) focus and so far a lot has been ticked off. The Communications Committee has evolved into a full communications review which has been initiated. We have also made some big changes to our social media strategies which are starting to be implemented. The hope is a comprehensive communications plan and committee will emerge from the review, and from the MART 301 (strategic marketing) paper that is doing case studies on OUSA next semester.



FEC has been established and had a number of meetings. We are now working with a professional external advisor and steadily developing some strategies to survive VSM which will be presented to the executive in the second semester. Operational staff are preparing to involve exec in annual plan/budget setting processes next quarter. IT is being run by Matt Tucker who has upgraded the system and is investigating some internal communication/management systems for us. The Archiving Working Party has also been established. The Recreation Review is well underway and I have made a submission. The Communications review should be formally started soon. We are looking at doing a big, full student opinion survey of everything we do. This should be really valuable and informative and will probably happen in the third quarter. Communication with staff has greatly improved and there is buy in to having more staff members on internal committees. Terms of Reference are currently being revised. There are some new initiatives for Postgrad students in the works (see Travis' report) and hopefully our survey will tell us how best to serve their needs, as well as mature/distance students. I have also put a lot of work in to maintaining good internal and external stakeholder relationships.

The strategic plan (with comments on progress) is attached to this document for reference.

GOALS/RECOMMENDATIONS

My goals are set out in more detail by the strategic plan, but to give a summary they (still) are:

1. Increase communication and engagement with students. I hope to achieve this by coming up with a comprehensive communication strategy, sorting out internal communication strategies, including better exec reporting and more involvement from operations and strengthening lines of communication with wider networks. The first step is to develop a communications committee to review what we currently do and recommend strategies. It is also important to review how we engage our members in our democratic process as part of this.
2. Fiscal responsibility: as well as VSM contingency planning, it has been a goal of mine for a long time to reduce the student levy without compromising our service levels. The next steps are to formalize the finance and expenditure committee to review our financial position and ensure we remain financially sustainable.
3. Operational efficiency: the goal here is to implement better measures of satisfaction with and demand of our services to ensure we are doing what students want. The first steps are the reviews of Recreation and Events this year. As well as this, I plan to implement a better structure of communication between executive and operations in terms of budget setting and setting annual plans and KPIs.
4. Another key goal is to increase stakeholder support of OUSA. This is both internal and external. I would like to review how we engage our clubs (in particular I would like to better engage clubs that have overlapping functions with OUSA such as: sports clubs, faculty clubs and representative clubs). I would also like to build other student networks in to our structure and better support them. I would also like to provide more events and activities that engage the wider community and review our support for community organisations.
5. Activities I would like to see happen are:
 - a. More regular debates on key political issues throughout the year, not just VSM
 - b. A sporting exchange between Canterbury and Otago Universities with a showcase rugby game and gig
 - c. A market day style fair showcasing volunteer and work experience opportunities

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