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Women's Representative
2nd Quarter Report 2010
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PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

Constitutional Duties of the Women's Representative

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 an acceptable standard.

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: As per 11.11 I sit on the Welfare Committee. This Committee has been extremely helpful as I have been able to discuss women specific campaigns and events with a wider group of people.

11.3: Network with community groups: I have continued to liaise with a range of different community groups both on and off campus. As mentioned in my previous report this quarter I organised a meeting with two lovely ladies from Te Whare Pounamu – Dunedin's Women's Refuge. This organisation was unaware that my position existed in the OUSA Executive and I said that I would happily be a contact person for Women's Refuge if they ever had concerns regarding students. I also indicated that the Student Support Centre would be an excellent place to go in regards to advocacy services and etcetera.

I have also met with the Women's Representative of the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association, Gemma Ellis. We discussed what we thought were the relevant issues facing women on campus and bounced a few ideas off each other in terms of campaigns/what we could do this year. I think it's good to be able to have this relationship and note that it was definitely beneficial networking with Gemma at the NZUSA Conference at the start of the year.

I have continued to attend the monthly meetings of the National Council of Women (NCW). I think it is definitely worthwhile in having a student representative there as I am often asked to give a student's perspective. I also provided detailed feedback to one of their proposed remits that advocates for changing their stance on the minimum age for purchasing alcohol.

I have also got in contact with the Staff Women's Caucus who provide a forum for discussing common interests, affirming, supporting and strengthening the role of women in the University community. Their website states that membership is open to those employed at University or relevant organisations however I contacted their Executive and OUSA is not classified as a relevant organisation. They were very welcoming though and said they'd love to have me come along to some of their events. I have not been able to so far but will try to next semester.

I have also joined the Women's Studies Association which is a feminist organisation that promotes social change for women.

11.4 Be involved in campaigning and lobbying issues affecting women: As noted in 11.7 I organised a national day of action for Thursdays in Black. In addition I intend to run a poster campaign next semester regarding Thursdays in Black as well as a safe relationships 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 asked users of the Women's Room whether they would like me to establish a facebook group as a way of informing female members about upcoming events however I had no feedback regarding this point. It is my intention to gather anecdotal information from my female friends and see if a facebook group would be well received. I have been investigating along with James, Donna and Stephen a bank account called Women on Campus. There is some money in this account so we have been trying to ascertain where it came from. I feel slightly like a spy.

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. However, I continue to provide the Women's Room with regular notices from myself on the notice board.

11.7. Organise and run events of specific relevance to women: On the 27th of May as part of a national day of action for Thursdays in Black I organised a balloon lunch in memory of survivors of violence and sexual abuse. I have had meetings with Fiona, Zina and other interested parties about planning Women's Week. The plan is still very much in the draft stages but I'm looking forward to getting head on into planning next semester.

11.8. Maintain a good working relationship with the NZUSA National Women's Rights Officer: I have continued to have in regular contact with Sophia Blair. One of the main campaigns for TWFG this quarter was a national day of action for Thursday's in Black. In conjunction with this Sophia wishes to launch a nationwide safety audit. I think that this would be something worthwhile for this campus and intend on having such a safety audit before the end of the year. It is envisioned that this safety audit would be designed to identify potential unsafe areas on campus and encourage the University to rectify this (for example, by providing better lighting in dark areas). I note that Sophia Blair has resigned as NWRO effective from the 9th of July.

11.9. Maintain a good working relationship with the Welfare Officer: I have maintained regular contact with Claire Jackson, this year's Welfare Officer through regular WelCom and individual meetings. Claire and I have discussed a variety of women's issues/events this year including a safe relationships campaign and events to run during Women's Week. Claire also helped me organise the Thursdays in Black day of action.

11.10. Work not less than ten hours per week: I can safely say that I have met this requirement. It should be noted that some weeks I spend over ten hours here and other weeks I spend less. For example, the week before writing my report I would not have spent ten hours on OUSA work however, this would be balanced out by the weeks that I spend over ten hours on OUSA duties.

PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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

2.1.4 Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate, including advertising, collecting and counting votes: During the by election for the new Health Sciences Representative and Postgraduate Representative I was stationed at a polling booth in the Link for two hours.

2.1.5 Working with an assigned hall of residence to promote OUSA services and events: Although we have not been assigned a specific hall of residence, myself and Claire Jackson spent a lunchtime at Arana College promoting OUSA and encouraging students to make a submission against the VSM Bill through the Save our Services website.

2.3 Maintain detailed budgets for my cost centre: To this end I have provided the Finance and Services Officer with a summary of the Women's Rep budget when requested. This involved a breakdown with accompanying notes on what I have spent already and a forecast on what I intend to spend in the upcoming month.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

OUSA:

I noted earlier that I sit on the Welfare Committee. In addition to this I also sit on the Education Committee (EduCom) and have continued to consent to be note taker (usually when Dan is unavailable). Due to the recent change in the time the Policy Committee (PolCom) meets I have been able to attend the meetings on a regular basis. In addition, I am a member of the Environmental Committee (EnviroCom) and have attended the monthly meetings. I am also a sort of honorary member of the Fair Trade Steering Party as I am on the mailing list for this and help out at their events (see part five). Finally, I am a part of the Pathways Initiative which is looking into running a pilot intern scheme next semester.

University:

I attended one meeting of the Library Services Committee and was unable to attend the meeting of the Library Student Liaison Committee as it conflicted with my exam study.

PART FOUR: PROGRESS ON GOALS

One of my goals was to create a list of support services for women. I have compiled such a list but I wanted to find out more in depth information about each organisation. I envisioned this as a "Who's Who in Support Services for Dunedin Women". I wanted to list information about each organisation and their fundamental messages/ideas that they try and promote rather than just a name and number. I'm still working on this information however I intend to finish compiling this information early next semester and submit a design brief to the OUSA Designer to make it look pretty.

Another one of my goals was to run a safe relationships campaign. In conjunction with the Welfare Officer, we have had posters designed for this and the intention is to run this campaign next semester. I wish to have business sized cards made up detailing what isn't a healthy relationship and hand these out during Women's Week.

Another one of my goals is to make an inventory of the material in the Women's Room and this is still an ongoing process.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

I have taken part in numerous OUSA activities; these include but are not limited to:

- I have met with students who wish to discuss a variety of issues. One of these relates to a Women's Swimming session which I am currently looking into.
- During the mid semester holidays Ros and I spring cleaned the office. It involved a stealthy filing cabinet moving operation.
- I attended Vanessa's presentation on her 40 point plan to target the alcohol culture on campus.
- Healthy Lifestyles Week: I took part in a number of events over the week;
Monday: Helped out at the roving promotional stall at the Hunter Centre giving away nut bars and scroggin
Tuesday: Hosted a Zumba class and gave away free bottles of water
Wednesday: Took part in the Bike Rally
Thursday: Helped out at the Bottle Buy Back for three hours
Friday: Helped out at the Potato Picnic by giving hungry students the coleslaw on their potatoes, I also hosted another Zumba class.
- SGM – Imogen and I volunteered to organise this event. It involved organising volunteers, food for the BBQ, prizes for the raffle, putting chairs out and away and various things along those lines.
- Networking – I attended Katie's recent networking event.
- Tertiary Day – For this, OUSA had organised a BBQ and I helped out giving hungry high school students their bread. I also attended the de brief for this day.
- International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia – I helped Ros organise the PA system for Jaime to make his lunchtime speech and also helped out Ros with running her Quizzically Queer Quiz night.
- Fair Trade Events: I have helped out with the Easter Egg Hunt, A Hard Grind – the free coffee giveaway and the showing of Flow at Apollo Cinema
- Exam Packs - I was part of the jacket brigade that made up these packs and delivered them.
- I met with Maryon Street and Nikki Kaye (Labour and National MP's) and gathered interesting insights into how they view tertiary issues.
- I attended the Diversity Week launch.