

## Final OUSA Referendum Questions + Pros/Cons

1. **Should the Otago University Students' Association Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 be received and accepted?**

Explanatory note (if needed): Each year the OUSA has its financial statements audited and published. This is a legal requirement. It also allows all students to see where their money has gone and what assets students hold.

Pros: Adopting this ensures that OUSA is legally compliant and can function efficiently.

Cons: Declining this prevents OUSA from operating in an efficient and compliant manner.

2. **Should the Otago University Students' Association Annual Report for 2016 be received and accepted?**

Explanatory note (if needed): The OUSA President has to write out an annual report every year outlining how the organisation has functioned with them at the helm. It is a Constitutional requirement. Last year's OUSA President was Laura Harris.

Pros: OUSA fulfills its requirements under our Constitution and internal policies.

Cons: OUSA does not fulfill its requirements under our Constitution and internal policies.

3. **Should PricewaterhouseCoopers be appointed as Auditors for the Otago University Students' Association for 2017?**

Explanatory note (if needed): PwC have proved to be excellent auditors asking testing questions. This is reflected in the comments in the notes to the accounts.

Pros: The advantage of supporting this question is that PwC can continue to audit our accounts utilising their cast historic knowledge of OUSA. The student executive is confident in PwC standards and conformance to NZ required legislation.

Cons: The disadvantage of this is that a fresh perspective is prevented from auditing our accounts.

4. **Should Anderson Lloyd be appointed as Honorary Solicitors for the Otago University Students' Association for 2017?**

Explanatory note (if needed): Anderson Lloyd provides excellent advice about our legal advice needs. This informal advice is free, and a discount applies when formal legal advice is needed. The key contact at Anderson Lloyd is an OUSA Life Member.

Pros: The advantage of this is that OUSA continues to receive cost effective professional advice from a solicitor who knows the organisation well.

Cons: The disadvantage of this is that there is no tender process conducted.

5. **Should OUSA financially support the redevelopment and structural strengthening of its fully owned subsidiary the University Book Shop?**

Explanatory note: The OUSA is currently considering an investment in UBS. This would involve providing half the redevelopment and structural strengthening costs from our own investments, at a fixed interest rate above our term deposits, and being the guarantor on a bank loan on the other half.

Pros: University Book Shop pays a dividend annually to OUSA. Redevelopment would allow the company to increase its profitability by tenanting out a section of the site, this would provide a larger annual return once the redevelopment has been paid off. University Book Shop would be able to provide a more effective service to students. Structural strengthening would bring the earthquake strength of the building up to regulatory standard.

Cons: OUSA would have to spend a large amount of capital. The investment would be riskier than our current investments.

6. **Should OUSA directly ask the Tertiary Education Minister to, "Commit to wipe all student loan debt by 2025 and make University attendance free within five years?" and then upload the Minister's response in an appropriate form on the OUSA website as soon as practicable?**

Pros: OUSA should be politically involved and actively lobbying on student issues, however it should remain non-partisan. OUSA may build stronger relationships with political parties and individuals that support free-tertiary education policies. OUSA may be seen as understanding the economic benefits of free-tertiary education.

Cons: OUSA may damage relationships with political parties and individuals that are opposed to free-tertiary education. OUSA may be seen as not understanding the economic costs of free-tertiary education. OUSA may inhibit the collective voice that NZUSA offers on behalf of students.

7. **Should OUSA establish an online poll to determine the most offensive costume at the Hyde Street party and then publish the three most offensive costumes each year?**

Pros: OUSA would be seen as advocates for free speech.

Cons: OUSA may be seen as advocates for hate speech. Members of cultural groups and minorities will feel less safe and targeted because of the poll. This may draw unnecessary attention to the Hyde Street event which may inhibit our ability to engage with stakeholders and run the event in the future.

8. **Should OUSA support the Dunedin Hospital SOS campaign to keep the Dunedin Hospital rebuild in the centre city?**

Explanatory note: OUSA has already released public video showing our support of the Dunedin Hospital SOS campaign.

Pros: OUSA would build stronger relationships with advocates for a Dunedin Hospital rebuild on the current site.

Cons: OUSA would damage relationships with advocates for a Dunedin Hospital relocation.

9. **Should OUSA lobby the University to cease development of a new animal research facility until the University has transparently consulted with students on the financial, ethical, and scientific value and implications of investing in animal-based research?**

Explanatory note: Some student consultation has occurred, through the boards of the University, however voting yes would be in favour of more consultation with the student body.

Pros: OUSA would be seen as advocating for student interests, transparency and consultation on University-based decision making.

Cons: OUSA would potentially damage relationships with the University of Otago by delaying decision making on the facility.

10. **Should OUSA support a change of government at the 2017 general election?**

Explanatory note: The current government consists of the National Party, the ACT Party, the United Future Party and the Māori Party. Supporting a change of government would be support of a change in the composition of the government following the 2017 general election.

Pros: In the interests of neutrality we have decided to omit pros for this question.

Cons: In the interests of neutrality we have decided to omit cons for this question.

11. **Should OUSA oppose the implementation of CCTV monitoring of the student residential area by the University of Otago?**

Explanatory note: The University of Otago intends to introduce a 60-camera, \$1.27mn CCTV monitoring and surveillance programme in the student residential area surrounding the campus. These cameras would be able to be monitored actively by Campus Watch, or reviewed by approved staff at the Proctor's office to investigate complaints and incidents. There is a University of Otago policy outlining the scope of the monitoring of the cameras, or defining what incidents are worth investigating.

Pros: OUSA would potential improve relationships with advocates of civil liberties, advocates of personal privacy and some Dunedin residents.

Cons: OUSA would potentially damage relationships with the University of Otago, the Dunedin City Council and some Dunedin residents, which could inhibit our ability to lobby the University on their CCTV monitoring policy.