

Josh Smith

Recreation Officer

2nd Quarter Report 2018

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PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

- 1.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns the existence of, and encourage participation in, clubs, societies and recreation at the University of Otago.

The second half of the semester has been good, signing up a number of new clubs. I have worked at promoting the courses and facilities of Clubs and Socs through my personal networks. It is fascinating how many people are still not aware of the opportunities right on campus, even with all the promotional material up. I have found interpersonal contact is the most effective at getting through, due to the media saturation on campus. I have directed keen groups I have noticed in the community towards many of these services, such as the yoga, sauna, courses, clubs, and room booking functions.

- 1.2. Represent clubs and societies on University and Association committees as required by the Association.

I have enjoyed representing the clubs and societies through my participation in the Performing Arts Fund, the OUSA Grants Committee, and the Executive committee this quarter. Having been so involved in the community for a number of years, it is validating to be in a position where I can give back, being involved in the behind the scenes work that most people aren't aware of.

- 1.3. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the Association, including, but not limited to:

- 1.3.1. Grants Committee;
- 1.3.2. Blues Panel;
- 1.3.3. Golds Panel;
- 1.3.4. Affiliated Clubs Council.

- 1.4 Chair meetings of the Grants Committee, ensuring that all interested affiliated clubs, societies, and OUSA members are given the opportunity to apply for OUSA grants.

Recent meetings have been awesome, the Committee has been going over revisions to the grants policy, we have been allocating decent amounts of our budget, and generally streamlining the process. There were two meetings I was not able to attend, so the responsibility was passed onto Sarah – who I have complete confidence in (and helps me chair the meeting in practice anyways, due to her huge amount of institutional knowledge).

- 1.5. Assist the affiliation of all clubs and societies by:

1.5.1. Working with the Finance and Services Officer and Clubs Development Officer in affiliating clubs and societies; and

I have brought these affiliations to the executive and notified Sarah of approved affiliations. Several students have come to me with questions about creating clubs, and I have helped them through the process and directed them to the appropriate channels.

1.5.2. Working with the International Students' Portfolio Executive Officer and other Executive Officers to facilitate the affiliation of cultural clubs.

Communication has been clear and regular with Umi around grants, cultural club affiliations, and club involvement in the international events she has been running.

1.6. Maintain a good working relationship with the Recreation Manager and Clubs Development Officer, and where practical, meet with them on a monthly basis.

I have had extensive meetings and historically a long working relationship with the Clubs and Socs Manager and the Clubs Development Officer in my role as a club President, this year adding in monthly meetings and a high degree of email contact.

1.7. Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice President, proactively bringing issues relevant to recreation to their attention, and meeting with them on a weekly basis.

I have a good working relationship with Cam, we communicate easily, and keep each other up to date. So far there have been no relevant issues requiring his attention. We have touched base weekly, through exec roundups, and bullpen conversations, and occasional one on one catch ups.

1.8. Where practical, work not less than ten hours per week.

This quarter I have focused more on my studies than last, scaling back my investment of time into OUSA duties to around the prescribed ten hours per week.

PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

2.1. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are expected to assist as volunteers for OUSA events and functions, including, but not limited to:

2.1.1. Assisting on the OUSA Help Desk and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation;

2.1.2. At an individual Executive Officer's discretion, be a safety contact during Orientation, Re-Orientation and other OUSA events throughout the year;

2.1.3. Collecting for the capping charity; and

2.1.4. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate, including but not limited to advertising the election and collecting votes.

I was rostered on multiple schedules for outreach during the referendum, used my personal networks to great effect, promoting voting and student empowerment through the street specific Facebook groups, in person while at social and cultural

events, and through my own digital channels. For weeks after I had people coming up to me on the streets, exuberant at having exercised their right to vote, and telling me tales of how they had exhorted their flatmates and peers to engage with democracy.

2.2. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are to be available for Executive meetings, national conferences, national and local campaigns, Executive training sessions and Executive planning sessions.

I have attended all Exec meetings so far, putting forward my perspectives on a variety of issues as well as representing clubs, societies, and the general student body. Correspondence with Jono from NZUSA has been awesome, getting the nationwide perspective definitely helped me understand a lot more about both their and our associations

2.3. All Executive Officers, where possible, shall maintain regular, publicized office hours, and are expected to regularly check and respond to all correspondence received.

I spend part of most days in the Bull Pen, as well as checking and replying to my emails regularly.

2.4. All Executive Officers shall every quarter undertake five hours of voluntary service, which contributes to the local community.

This quarter I have again continued with my position contributing to the Dunedin Fire and Circus Club, taught many hours of yoga, and have helped out with organising and running numerous grassroots student cultural events on the heritage streets (Castle, Hyde, Leith, etc). Additionally, I have helped set up Hyde street, participated in the censorship protests, and have met with students individually.

2.5. All Executive Officers with control of budget lines, or who have been allocated a budget line, shall maintain detailed budgets and not exceed their budgeted expenditure.

I have not yet decided how to use my budget.

SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE RECREATION OFFICER

12.5 Be the Chair of the Blues and Golds Panels, as well as the Affiliated Clubs Council.

The Blues and Golds Panel are coming up! ACC has not met yet this year, I am planning on calling a meeting in the first half of the second semester as a contact point with the clubs, to see how they have been going so far this year and if there are any undetected issues or projects they would like to collaborate with OUSA on.

12.8 Liaise regularly with the Clubs Development Officer to ensure the effective functioning of clubs, societies and OUSA committees and panels coordinated by the Clubs Development Officer.

I have regular meetings with Sarah (CDO), and a good working relationship with Michaela (Clubs and Socs General Manager).

- 12.10 Maintain a good relationship with all affiliated Clubs, assisting them when required with issues pertinent to them or their members.

I have addressed all issues that have been brought to my attention this semester, of which there have been few, due to the Clubs system being well established and run by the CDO. A few clubs and individuals have had specific questions about grants and affiliations, which I have promptly answered.

- 12.11 Maintain a good working relationship with the University, in particular: The Manager of Recreation Services.

I have had in depth communications and developed a good working relationship with many aspects of the University – including Recreation Services, and specifically James Lindsay.

- 12.12 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

I am on the following OUSA Committees:

- OUSA Executive*
- Clubs and Societies Grants Committee*
- Blues Panel*
- Golds Panel*

I am on the following University Committees

- The Division of the Humanities Performing Arts Fund*
- The Caroline Plumber Fellowship*

PART FOUR: PROGRESS ON GOALS

Clubs and Societies Visibility: *Clubs day is coming up, I have some ideas around how we can make this more interactive and accessible for students which I will soon discuss with the Clubs Development Officer.*

Student Engagement: *This has been awesome again this quarter. Many people have thanked me for attending their events, at which the discussions quickly become political and relevant directly to OUSA.*

Yoga: *Again, these sessions are pumping, often with people packed in all the way back to the door, and mat to mat. People often come up to me after lessons, on the street, or even at parties – thanking me for teaching and sharing the impacts it has had on their lives. I have started an advanced session and am thinking about hosting a retreat at some point next semester 😊.*

Drug Harm Minimisation: *Several obstacles have been brought up with regards to this goal, I am actively working on them to deliver in a meaningful way. More detail below.*

PART FIVE: GENERAL

The second quarter of the year has gone well! The enthusiasm and energy that I brought to the first quarter has been paying off hugely. I now have a strong network of relationships across the campus, have been involved in multiple political events and efforts, and feel very much at home as a part of OUSA. I have taken more time to focus on my studies this quarter, and to observe how the issues I pushed for in the first quarter have panned out. From this angle I am able to now start forming a coherent strategic framework for implementation in the second half of the year.

The grassroots impact my presence seems to have had is hard to properly convey without sounding egotistical; a common occurrence in my life at this point is people randomly coming up to me in real life, or flicking me messages to thank me. This happens multiple times a day, and is an ongoing source of inspiration and energy for the activities and perspectives that I engage in.

GOALS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1: Tangible and Authentic Engagement: *As mentioned above, by providing access to myself in non-typical OUSA environments (pint night, flat parties, street parties, town, gigs, etc) – I have managed to engage and invigorate a wide swathe of the population. I have only anecdotal evidence with which to back it up – but it appears as if I have made inroads into truly tangible and authentic engagement.*

The Censorship protest was an awesome watershed moment, bringing together many streams of student activists. Response to this action was awesome from the general population, both in terms of active participation, and drumming up interest around ways pragmatic methods to take substantial action.

Our referendum was another great opportunity to engage at the grassroots, lots of discourse was created both online, and in real life. People would come up to me and ask questions about the issues, looking to find out more about OUSA and the impact that the referendum has.

2: Alcohol Alternative Student Culture: *After the university refused to let me use any of their venues for an alcohol-free event, and the OUSA events team already being super busy with their packed yearly schedule, throwing an event of this kind has proved difficult. I am looking at working with a specific city councillor that has reached*

out to me in conjunction with the Urban Dream Brokerage to host "Rise and Shine" early morning raves in town, with students being a large part of the target audience.

3: Sharing information about dangers of Alcohol: *After more thought this has proven to be a challenging issue. After discussion with my peers, reflection, and analysis of this issue, I feel that increasing the media saturation on campus will not be an effective means of sharing this message. I also have realised that people often already are aware that alcohol is bad for them – and when directly confronted have a tendency to ignore information that is not easily palatable nor convenient.*

Sharing information about the alternative options through OUSA is also not an easy option due to the illicit nature of many of these substances. A challenging goal indeed! I feel that full law reform will be needed in order to properly tackle this issue at its root.

4: Black Market and Prohibition Based Dangers

Again, after more discussion with my peers the illegal nature of these substances means that OUSA effectively has its hand tied with regards to directly implementing substance testing without full buy in from the local community. I am in the process of discussing partnerships with the relevant stakeholders. I now hope to finish this framework and policy for OUSA implemented harm minimisation in time for Orientation next year, and for it to become a lasting component of OUSA's services provided to the student body. Without hard data on this, it will be hard to measure the scale of the issue – due to the stigma around it. Typical chicken before egg type situation. Without special changes to the circumstances, we cannot gather the evidence to address the dangers and issues.

Instead of running a standalone survey, I will develop the questions I have further in time for the next referendum. The results we got back from the recent referendum were awesome – giving us a direction and mandate for action from the student population.

5: Drug Law Reform

With the 2020 Cannabis referendum coming up, I am in the process of coordinating with local experts and educators with regards the most effective methods of creating an on-campus discourse around the facts around this issue.

My literature review is growing daily, and I estimate it will be ready in the third quarter. The amount of potent information being compiled continues to rapidly accumulate.