

Josh Smith
Recreation Officer
3rd Quarter Report
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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 third quarter of the semester has been absolutely wonderful, we have been signing up a number of new clubs. I have worked at promoting the courses and facilities of Clubs and Socs through my personal networks and channels, directing interested students towards clubs and courses that might suit them well. From my experience there can be a high degree of overstimulation as far as media goes around campus – however my personal outreach has been particularly fortuitous. I have been touting the sauna highly this quarter, especially throughout the winter months.

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

The Performing Arts Fund, the OUSA Grants Committee, The Blues and Golds Panels, and the Executive Committee this quarter. This has been a wonderful opportunity to give back to this community. Unfortunately, I was sick for the Blues and Golds Panels, but kept track of the applicants, notes, and decisions made.

- 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.

This quarter we had our final allocation of grants for the year. The changes we have implemented to the grants policy gives us the ability to redistribute any unclaimed grants at the end of this year. The lack of claimed grants was a key contributor to the 20% grants budget cut we suffered this year – hopefully by demonstrating the capability to fully utilize our grants budget this change can be reversed.

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

1.5.1. Working with the Finance 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. We are both involved in the planning of the University 150th Street Parade.

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 a regular presence in the Clubs and Societies building, and regular meetings with both the Recreation Manager and Clubs Development Officer.

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.

Due to our schedules clashing rather horrendously this quarter – we have resorted to occasional digital catch-ups, with the weekly roundups in the Exec Meetings summing up all the activities and projects that we would otherwise go over in weekly meetings. There have been no issues with recreation that have needed to be brought to Cams attention.

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

My weekly hours of contributions to our community exceed this quota, but it is not practical to scale this back (nor would I want to, to be honest). I see a large portion of my role as revolving around connection and outreach, going out into the flats and streets of our students and being a highly visible and approachable point of contact for OUSA, and the more time I invest in this activity, the more cumulative impact I am observing.

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.

My interaction with elections this year has been unconventional to say the least. In the week before I was present at over 8 large scale Dunedin cultural events (eg Pint Night, Courtchela, Breakaway, numerous street and flat parties); and my presence seems to naturally create political discourse due to my current role with OUSA. The number of people coming up to me asking about voting, about OUSA, and about becoming involved was too many to count. I directed them towards the appropriate channels, informed them of the start and end dates of voting, and encouraged them to thoroughly research and educate themselves on candidates and roles.

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 been absent for 3 exec meetings due to extraneous circumstances and have attended all other this quarter.

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 often advertise my free time to attend flat drop ins, taking OUSA to the people, bringing a presence into their environments and sharing the power of democratic representation, 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.

I have well exceeded this quote through yoga alone this quarter, teaching up to 6 hours some weeks, as well as my activities on the streets and flats throughout North Dunedin.

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, but am considering putting our feelers for a North Dunedin shared community pantry, to cultivate shared responsibility, voluntarily distributed wealth, and stewardship of the neighbourhood.

SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE RECREATION OFFICER

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

Unfortunately, I was ill for a few days over the period when this Panel met – I appropriately liaised with Sarah and Donna to inform them so, and kept up to date with the nominations, decisions, and outcomes. I have full confidence in Sarah's huge repertoire of institutional knowledge, as well as the combined expertise and perspectives of the rest of the Panel, as to arrive at satisfactory outcomes for the students of our association.

- 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 Michaela has been on leave for much of this quarter. Clubs have been functioning effectively, flourishing and thriving in a well established ecosystem of support and encouragement.

- 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.

We have not had as much to talk about this quarter, but the lines of communication remain open and clear if any situation necessitates such contact.

- 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: *The 150th Parade and the Garden Party have provided a wonderful opportunity for club visibility – I am also toying with the idea of hiring a videographer to create 30 second trailers for some of the more prominent clubs and societies.*

Student Engagement: *As mentioned earlier, the gathering momentum of my activities has been palpable. After a full 3 quarters of interacting with the frothy and energetic student community I have become a very recognisable point of interaction and connection for concerns, queries, and endeavours to do with student life and the larger community. I am invited to many major events, and take honour in this privilege, to be included in the most special heritage events of the annual scarfie calendar.*

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 in the near future.*

Drug Harm Minimisation: *So many people have gotten back to me with reports about how fake substances have absolutely screwed them up, chemical wounds occurring needlessly and completely preventable.*

MDMA does not cause such pain and trauma, nor does LSD. I have had reports of Marijuana being laced with methamphetamine in Dunedin!!, people resort to interacting with criminals in order to try and step away from the toxic paradigm of alcohol.

I arranged with the New Zealand Drug Foundation and Know Your Stuff NZ – two of the leading national experts in substance testing and analysis, to come and bring their infrared mass spectrometer (a \$50,000 top of the line machine!) and supply volunteers to take data from substances present in the Otago University population.

Harlene Hayne, our Vice Chancellor (and a psychologist!), said this was not an option on campus. I have a contingency plan to implement before O-week next year.

This is an absolute necessity. I have seen the wreckage wreaked by a stream of bad tabs, of altered pills. People reporting increasing levels of anxiety, more aggression. Legitimate neurochemical wounds. This incenses me to no end, and implementing harm reduction methods is my main goal to protect my dear friends and community. The positive ripples from enacting such a policy will ripple for generations.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

This third quarter has been absolutely unreal. The connections and networks that have reached out to me have resulted in many positive cultural and social interaction, my participation in events has a noted anecdotal effect on the good vibes present. My presence as OUSA on the ground has been appreciated thoroughly by the community. I look forward to making some serious moves in the remainder of this year, and to entrenching my presence in these communities as they prepare to roll over to 2019

GOALS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1: Tangible and Authentic Engagement: *by authentically representing OUSA, having a presence that actually engages with the grassroots student culture of celebration, exploration, growth, and froth, I have smashed this goal. Always ongoing, always more people to connect with and groups to inspire, I look forward to continuing on this pathway.*

2: Alcohol Alternative Student Culture: *Supporting Breakaway through their endeavours has been fantastic. They have started to cultivate a truly and explicitly alcohol free culture, and I have provided them my full logistical and cultural support.*

3: Sharing information about dangers of Alcohol: *This is an issue that falls under the wider bracket of general harm reduction – of which my aforementioned efforts are ongoing.*

4: Black Market and Prohibition Based Dangers

I will continue to utilise this platform to speak out about the ease with which we could alleviate the vast majority of these issues – with a health based and informed scientific policy.

5: Drug Law Reform

Through reaching out this year I have made many contacts in the Drug Law Reform world, I am aiming at coordinating an on campus series of educational talks for 2019 (if necessary handing over to the incoming Recreation Officer).