

Kia ora koutou,

What a first quarter it has been.

From the strong opening of now OUSA-owned-and-operated Starters, the “best ever” O’Week “in the University’s recorded history”, “a step away from convention” by addressing Mental Health in my convocation speech, taking control of the University Book Shop building, international headlines around our Drug Testing initiative (which was, according to Critic Te Arohi, “OUSA at its best”) and (so far) making our way through this year drama-free with a strong number of additional wins under our belt; I am incredibly proud of what OUSA has achieved.

It has been a hectic, challenging, and everyday I’ve felt incredibly privileged to be in this position. As it is important to address our weaknesses as much as our strengths, I see a lack of routine as an aspect of the Executive that needs to be worked on going forward. This is largely down to O’Week, the start of Semester, and recent events throwing things in the air a lot - however to ensure we are on track as a team (and looking after each other) I see this as an area of improvement for Quarter Two and am implementing techniques around this.

This quarter also saw the greatest tragedy New Zealand has seen in recent years - the Christchurch Terror Attacks. In what might have started as an attempt to divide and spread hate, never have I seen such a response of aroha, unity, and support. As this report intends to reflect on the quarter been, I will take this opportunity to reflect on how I am further proud of OUSA. Jason Schroeder, our Events and Venues Manager, pulled together an outstanding Vigil in a matter of days (and late nights), Donna Jones, our Manager of Corporate Support, was an unwavering rock, and Charlie O’Mannin, Critic Te Arohi Editor, and his team pulled together a sensitive and respectful issue - the list could go on. OUSA is indebted to our staff, not just following the attacks, but in all the work we do.

Thank you to everyone who supported us - bring on Quarter Two!

Ngā mihi,  
All the best,

James

**James Heath**  
**President**  
**1st Quarter Report 2019**  
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## **PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES**

### **4. Duties of the President**

#### **4.1 Be the official spokesperson for the Association.**

*I have acted as the spokesperson this quarter. This has included articles in the Otago Daily Times on Mental Health, Starters, a third gender option for students when enrolling, renting issues, University Book Shop and countless around O'Week. I have spoken to the Hits, Radio Live, Radio New Zealand, Oar FM, University of Otago Bulletin, RadioOne, and MediaWorks (NewsHub) on a range of issues including Lime Safety, the Christchurch Terror Attacks, Mental Health, Thursdays in Black, and, of course, OUSA. Multiple have been front page and, OUSA as a whole, has reached international news this year, such as the Guardian (UK) and Fox News (US), following our Drug Testing initiative.*

*In addition to these I have been writing weekly articles for Critic Te Arohi and pieces in Uni101, Compass Blurb, Ori 19 Mag. In my capacity as OUSA spokesperson/President, spoken on multiple occasions at various events - including 4000 and 18,000 attendees.*

#### **4.2 In liaison with the appropriate affected parties, 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.**

*I have coordinated and overseen these interactions - including but not limited to the above media organisations, the University of Otago, Electoral Commission, Dunedin City Council, Muslim University Students' Association, Otago Muslim Association, New Zealand Union of Students Associations and other local student associations.*

#### **4.3 Maintain a good working relationship with the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association (OPSA), and coordinate joint activities whenever appropriate and practical.**

*I have met with the President of the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association last year and have visited their campus a couple times. The Recreation Manager, Michaela Tangimetua, and I am working on the service level agreement between OUSA and OPSA.*

#### **4.4 Be the Association's official representative on relevant external boards, committees or executives, including, but not limited to:**

**4.4.1 Council of the University of Otago (and requisite sub-committees);**

**4.4.2 University of Otago Senate;**

**4.4.3 New Zealand University Students' Association's Federation Executive; and**

**4.4.4 Any other national student body affiliate where applicable.**

*I am the Association's representative on these committees.*

**4.5 Hold membership and, where reasonable, attend all internal committees of the Association.**

*I hold membership on and, where reasonable, attend these committees. I have been unable to attend some recent internal committees due to prior work commitments.*

**4.6 Be given first opportunity for appointment as a Director of any company where the Association holds the power to make such an appointment, including, but not limited to:**

**4.6.1 Planet Media Dunedin Limited;**

**4.6.2 University Union Limited;**

**4.6.3 University Book Shop Otago Limited; and**

*I was provided first opportunity for these (aside from Planet Media Dunedin Limited which no longer exists thus an outdated clause). I serve as the Director on University Book Shop Otago Limited however passed University Union Limited to our Finance Officer Bonnie Harrison.*

**4.7 Chair all meetings of the OUSA Executive and ensure that the standing orders of the Executive are adhered to.**

*Completed.*

**4.8 Ensure that an adequate level of consultation between the Executive and staff is maintained on all relevant matters of interest to the Association.**

*Completed - this year we are working to further build this connection between the Executive and staff.*

**4.9 Where relevant matters arise, prepare verbal reports to the executive and a monthly written summary for the Executive of all relevant matters of interest to the Association.**

*No relevant matters have arisen that require this - the Executive are kept up to date through other methods. I am considering working with Student Support to create a monthly report on student wellbeing however this is not a current priority.*

**4.10 Maintain a good working relationship with the Chief Executive Officer and, where reasonable, meet with them on a weekly basis.**

*I strongly believe I maintain a good working relationship with the CEO Debbie Downs and am confident she would say the same. I am incredibly proud of what Debbie has worked on this year and look forward to the remainder of 2019 with her and the team.*

**4.11 Maintain a good working relationship with the Officers, meet with them weekly and, where reasonable, liaise with them on a daily basis.**

*I also strongly believe I maintain a good working relationship with the Officers and am confident they would say the same. Our Executive team is coming together well and, particularly as we begin to settle in these roles, I see us going from strength to strength.*

**4.12 Maintain a good working relationship with all other Executive Officers and, where reasonable, liaise with them individually on a weekly basis.**

*Same answer as 4.11*

**4.13 In conjunction with the Campaigns Portfolio Executive Officer, oversee any political campaigns undertaken by the Association, actively seeking to inform the student body and general public on student issues and concerns.**

*This quarter there have not been any active political campaigns however we have been planning for our Dunedin City Council campaign.*

**4.14 Be an ex-officio member of all affiliated Recreation.**

*Completed by default.*

**4.15 Oversee, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, those staff that report to the President.**

*Aside from the CEO, no staff directly report to the President however alongside the CEO I have managed my relationships with staff I interact with on a daily basis.*

**4.16 Supervise the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Executive.**

*Completed - this includes weekly meetings and the beginning of setting KPIs.*

**4.17 Be available via cell phone at all practical times.**

*Sometimes even been available at unpractical times as well!*

**4.18 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.**

*Completed.*

**4.19 Where practical, work not less than forty hours per week, from January 1 until December 31.**

*I am strongly confident I have done this and more.*

## **PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

### **3. General Duties of all Executive Officers**

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

**3.1.1 Assisting at the OUSA Tent City marquee and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation;**

*Completed - I spent most of the week there.*

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

*Not required.*

**3.1.3 Collecting for the capping charity; and**

*N/A this quarter.*

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

*N/A this quarter.*

**3.2 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 available for all of these.*

**3.3 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.**

*N/A*

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

*I regularly check and respond to correspondence. Office hours, as a concept, is outdated however I have caught up with many students through appointment.*

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

*Following the Christchurch Terror Attack and after hearing there was leftover untouched food from a cancelled 150th event, I organised this to be delivered to a local Marae then, working alongside those present, had this food packaged, boxed, and sent off to local Muslim communities.*

*A lot of what I do in this role blurs the line between voluntary service and what I am expected to do.*

**PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

**Outside of my specified job description so far I sit on:**

Academic Quality Agency Board (Director)  
150th Operational Committee

**PART FOUR: GENERAL**

**Here are some examples of general tasks I have achieved this quarter that fall outside of the above. This is obviously not exhaustive;**

- Planned week-long Induction Course/Marae trip for the Executive
- Te reo Help Sheet at all receptions

- Explored the possibility of OUSA obtaining the Rainbow Tick
- Organised 4000 Enrollment forms in College Packs
- Organised representation on multiple boards, such as Animal Practice Compliance WG and Music Redevelopment Executive Planning Team
- Working with Lawyers around Executive Charter
- “How to Tie a Toga” Video
- Public call for Committee positions
- Met with Proctor on Glass ban (successful renaming and rebranding as “Don’t Be a Dick”). Started general talks around issues coming from last year and progress for students.
- DCC/DHB/ORC Campaign planning
- College visits
- Facilitating the Welfare Officer preparing for the Government's response to the Government Inquiry into Mental health and Addiction.
- Meeting with stakeholders, such as Rachel Butler (StartupDunedin) and Chancellor
- Memorandum Template changed to be te reo Māori and English
- Drafted a range of Constitutional changes; from Strict Committee, Standing Orders, Chairs of SGMs to the conflict of interest of Chairs and added reporting rules for the Executive around Referendum.
- Meeting with multiple members of DCC staff around our general relationship (outside of elections)
- Summers in Danners assistance
- Meeting with Mary Jane, President of UOPISA on how OUSA can empower the Pacifica voice in Otago
- Meeting with Lime and the University around Health and Safety and Comms
- Multiple meetings with the Vice-Chancellor
- Leftover Rummage Sale to be donated to charity that gives to homeless and recreates a shopping experience
- Helped with Compass Packing
- NZUSA Conference (Wellington)
- NZUSA Executive Meeting
- Established NZUSA Policy Committee
- Council members induction session
- Meeting regarding Australia New Zealand Student Services Association Conference (Staff Club)

### **Christchurch Terror Attacks**

*The deadline of my report was extended due to urgent work surrounding the Christchurch Terror Attacks. Owing to this, I have attached an additional report detailing some of the work I did following this incident.*

On the evening of these attacks I attended an emergency meeting with Muslim brothers and sisters and some leaders from across the University. On behalf of OUSA I reached out and expressed our love and support to a number of groups including but not limited to the Presidents of the Muslim University Students Association (MUSA) and University of Canterbury Students’ Association. I also spoke to our CEO that evening around the closure of Starters.

On the Saturday, I attended a pōwhiri for Race-Relations Week at Arai Te Uru Marae which followed with a meeting with Police, the Mayor, religious leaders, and Muslim community leaders talking about steps going forward. I spoke to those present about what OUSA is providing and what we can do. After hearing there was leftover untouched food from a cancelled 150th event, I organised this to be delivered to the Marae then, working alongside those present, had this food packaged, boxed, and

sent off to local Muslim communities. I also helped MUSA with vans and transport and started to look at cancelling the SGM/preparing for the coming week from a practical side.

On the Sunday I attended the opening of the Al Huda Mosque. Alongside Greg Hughson, University Chaplain, and Dave Cull, Dunedin City Mayor, I joined them during their prayer. Following this around 300 brothers and sisters entered the Mosque for updates from Dr David Clark MP, Clare Curran MP, Police, Ministry of Education, Dave Cull, and Muslim leaders. I was then asked to address the Mosque - passing on our and the University's love and support and speaking to the services we are providing. During this time I was in contact regarding the City Vigil - emphasizing it *shouldn't* be held on Monday but alongside the planned Amnesty International one on Thursday.

Monday morning I met with Jason and Debbie to lock in plans going forward - including the City Vigil, an OUSA organised Uni Vigil, supporting MUSA/Otago Muslim Association in providing Scarfs to non-Muslim sisters on campus so that our Muslim sisters feel supported, Posters emphasizing our support, and various steps going forward. I then attended the planning meeting for the City Vigil, a separate meeting with the MUSA, and a third meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, Director of Student Services, Director of **Communications**, and other University Senior Leadership members - keeping them all on the same page and assisting in them working together. Following this I started working towards our plans, sorting posters, attended a further crisis meeting alongside relevant parties in the evening, and spoke with sisters from MUSA regarding a drive for donations of food for our Muslim community to be organised in a few weeks time.

This gives you an idea of the workload up until Monday evening, for the sake of wordcount I'll focus on the major points for the remainder of the week. These included interviews with the Hits and Radio New Zealand, further meetings regarding the planning of the City Vigil, preparations for the OUSA-organised Uni Vigil, assisting MUSA with their Sisters Scarf drive, working alongside OUSA staff and Exec gardening in the Peace Garden, pointing student initiatives, such as bake sales and walking buses, in the right direction, a separate Compulsory Student Services Fees meeting and further meetings with the President and/or members of the MUSA. On Thursday, in particular, I attended a two hour University Book Shop Otago Limited Board meeting and AGM, spoke at the Dunedin Multi-Ethnic Council Peace Poll gathering, spoke at the OUSA-organised Uni Vigil and helped Jason with some coordination with it, and finally served as the MC for the City Vigil with a crowd of 18,000.

The week was a complete blur - I could not tell you if that's covered everything. I am proud of our OUSA team and our wider community for the amazing work they did. It is important to note that this is only the start.

## **GOALS**

*As part of my role as President I have worked on collating our Executive goals into a single document that will be released at our first SGM. Instead of touching on this 12 page document with roughly over 120 goals, I will instead directly address my election promises.*

### **“Local Body Elections Campaign”**

One of my major goals is to see a successful Local Body Elections Campaign - to increase enrollment, engagement, and voter turnout. We have already started progress on this, with 8 students currently working on policy research to inform our campaign (*including looking at BYO/Bar regulations that are better for students, as I mentioned in my campaign*), roughly 4000 enrollment packs being sent out to Colleges, multiple meetings with the Electoral Commission, DCC, and relevant people, and marketing/logistical plans going in place.

### **“Mental Health and Wellbeing”**

This is an incredibly important topic. Already we have began work towards this, such as addressing it during my convocation speech, however a lot of this is still underworks (such as work alongside Hannah Morgan and Swim Straight For Life). We are also planning to work alongside the University, and other stakeholders, on a large Mental Health and Wellbeing campaign. I'm excited to see what we can do with this.

### **“Improving OUSA’s Engagement”**

This is both in terms of Marketing, such as my “Don’t Be a Dick” rebrand of the “Voluntary Glass Ban” campaign, but also events such as the SGM. We are trialling ideas to make SGMs more engaging and pushing them away from “OUSA policy nerds” (speaking as one myself). Stay tuned.

### **“Increasing University Consultation”**

This currently is more of a general rule applied throughout our work. This includes pushing education reps to check “student consultation” clauses under new paper submissions (a clause I brought in as Education Officer) and working with the University to apply best practice representation models (such as rolling student reps who are appointed for two years, a year apart).

The Finance Officer, Bonnie, and I will be working on a new Compulsory Student Services Fee consultation plan and, most importantly, I will be working on consultation with the University regarding community goals going forward following the Christchurch Terror Attacks.

### **“Above all else, I promise to do the job well”**

Here’s hoping.

### **“2,439 dabs in the Vice-Chancellor’s Office”**

A promise is a promise.