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Welfare Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report 2019  
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## **PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES**

9.1 Assume all the powers and duties of the President in the absence of the President, the Administrative Vice-President, the Finance Officer and the Education Officer.

*There have not been any situations requiring me to assume this role this quarter.*

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

- 9.2.1 Standing Committee of the Executive;
- 9.2.2 Postgraduate Committee;
- 9.2.3 Colleges Committee; and
- 9.2.4 Welfare Committee.

*I am a member of all of the above committees, and have attended all Standing Committee of the Executive meetings to date.*

9.3 Chair monthly meetings of the Welfare Committee, ensuring that all committee members are advised of meeting times, that the agenda is prepared and circulated beforehand and ensuring that the standing orders of the committee are adhered to.  
*I am finalising the Welfare Committee to ensure the required representation is accounted for. I will prepare these documents for each meeting once this is complete.*

9.4 Take direction from the Welfare Committee on all welfare matters relevant to the Association and its members.

*As above, this will be formalised as soon as possible; in the meantime I have sought student perspectives on welfare matters (for example discussing Queer issues within the UniQ committee, and working with the Thursdays in Black executive).*

9.5 Where reasonable, ensure that as many different representatives of student welfare issues are present on the Welfare Committee as possible.

*This is part of why committee formation has taken longer than expected, but opening up applications for Committees has been a positive step for allowing this to happen.*

9.6 In order to provide feedback and information, liaise weekly with members of the Welfare Committee, including, but not limited to:

- 9.6.1 Disabilities Rep
- 9.6.2 Queer Rep



9.6.3 Sustainability Rep

9.6.4 Woman's Rep

*These meetings will be established once the Welfare Committee is finalised, with confirmation of students in these roles to occur at the first meeting after that point.*

9.7 Where appropriate, act as the Association's spokesperson on all welfare related issues, briefing the President on national and local tertiary sector welfare issues and representing the welfare interests of students on local body committees and boards. *I have not yet been expected to act as a spokesperson, but I have regularly discussed welfare issues (both campaigns and issues arising during the year) with the President. I also represent student interests to the best of my ability on all committees, boards, and meetings I have had, including consulting on University campaigns such as the launch for Give Nothing to Racism on campus.*

9.8 Actively inform the student body of issues relating to their welfare, via publications, promotions and campaigns. *In addition to directly planning campaigns such as Thursdays in Black, and planning for events during welfare-related weeks of the University year (the first of which will be Pride), I have been consulting with the University's marketing department on both the Give Nothing to Racism launch and on their campaign of health and wellbeing messages to be displayed around the campus, and have renewed OUSA's relationship with the Wā Collective which will be part of wider efforts to address period poverty. I hope to contribute to the Executive's column in Critic in the next quarter.*

9.9 Maintain a good working relationship with relevant OUSA staff, including the Student Support Centre Manager, Queer Support Coordinator and Advocates, meeting with them weekly where possible and liaising with them on relevant welfare issues as they arise.

*I have been in regular contact with all Student Support Staff members, and have felt able to liaise as needed on issues arising.*

9.10 In consultation with the Student Support Centre Manager, maintain a good working relationship with community organisations and groups that may provide services to the benefit of student welfare.

*To the best of my knowledge I have maintained good working relationships with all community organisations I have engaged with so far.*

9.11 Maintain a good working relationship with the 'Are You OK?' coordinator to ensure, where reasonable, Executive assistance is available.

*I have started that relationship with volunteering for the three O-Week events held at the Stadium, and through encouraging interested exec members to volunteer wherever possible; both of these efforts will be continued throughout the year.*



9.12 Facilitate a variety of student representation on welfare related University Committees.

*While there have not been opportunities to add students to committees so far, beyond the welfare committee, I have worked to consult students wherever possible, especially where specific cultural perspectives are clearly the most relevant.*

9.13 Maintain a good working relationship with the University, particularly with:

9.13.1 The Director of Student Services; and

9.13.2 The Director of Student Health.

*I have worked to build positive relationships within the committees I currently sit on at the university level, with staff including the Director of Student Services, in order to feel able to present student issues either within committees or directly to the appropriate staff members. I have also been working on the relationship with Student Health, where in addition to consulting on the Healthy University wellbeing messages campaign I have been in communication on the monthly Student Feedback meetings, and working on establishing regular meetings with the Mental Health team.*

9.14 Liaise with the Recreation Portfolio Executive Officer to assist those affiliated clubs that have a focus on student welfare.

*I have maintained close relationships with those welfare-related clubs I am connected with, most notably staying on the UniQ Executive as a general member, and taking part in affiliating Thursdays in Black as a club.*

9.15 Be available via cellular phone at all practical times.

*I have my phone with me and set to vibrate at most times, with sufficient credit for all calling and texting I could need.*

9.16 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

*See the following section for the full details.*

9.17 Where practical, work not less than twenty hours per week, from January 1 until December 31.

*With the exception of the beginning of January, when I was out of the country for the World Universities Debating Championships (and acting in my capacity as WUDC Council Equity Officer), I have worked 20 hours per week or more throughout the year. This includes weeks exceeding 20 hours, such as induction week, O week, and most recently the week following the Christchurch shooting. There will be a point in the next quarter (barring hospital delays), where I will need a week or two working less in order to undergo surgery, but I will work extra time beforehand, delegate essential commitments for the week immediately following the surgery, and build back up to 20 hours a week as soon as feasible afterwards.*



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

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;
- 3.1.2 At an individual Executive Officer's discretion, be a safety contact during Orientation, ReOrientation and other OUSA events throughout the year;
- 3.1.3 Collecting for the capping charity; and
- 3.1.4 Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate, including but not limited to advertising the election and collecting votes.

*I have assisted with volunteering throughout Summer School events, and during O-week, predominantly in the evenings and assisting in Tent City as needed. I am willing to be a safety contact at any event I attend, and plan to renew my First Aid Certification. Election work and charity collection have not yet been required.*

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 attended the NZUSA Conference at the start of the year, all Executive induction and planning sessions, and all Executive meetings.*

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.

*This will become more relevant once the budget is finalised, when I will ensure this budgeting occurs. Most of the first quarter has been planning rather than spending.*

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.

*As discussed at the Executive meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, I have publicised that my office hours are by arrangement, in order to be more flexible for responding to student needs, and this has so far worked well with the preference many students have to make contact via email. I have time in the office most days for correspondence.*

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

*I spent three evenings during O Week volunteering with Are You Ok at the Stadium, and have maintained contact with the high school where I coached debating for the last two years, so I can support some former pupils in taking the lead on coaching.*



*While not local, I have also continued my roles as Vice President for Equity of the Australasian Intersociety Debating Association Council, and as Equity officer for the World Universities Debating Council, both of which are voluntary.*

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

The Committees I currently sit on are as follows:

- *Standing Committee of the Executive*
- *Postgraduate Committee*
- *Colleges Committee*
- *Welfare Committee*
- *Healthy University Advisory Group*
- *Ethical Behaviour Committee*
- *Equity Advisory Committee*
- *Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board*
- *Chaplaincy Consultative Body*

### **PART FOUR: PROGRESS ON GOALS**

Mental Health:

*In addition to consulting on the Healthy University campaign being developed, I am in the process of analysing the Mental Health Review in order to prepare OUSA's response to the expected announcements in April, and to prepare our goals for the DHB elections. Building a closer relationship with Student Health will hopefully improve dialogue on addressing student concerns at that level, and allow me to seek advice on engaging with the DHB on student issues. As the Welfare committee get up and running, mental health will be one of the major focuses, as many of the members awaiting confirmation are passionate and experienced around this issue.*

Parents' Issues:

*I have arranged with Campus Watch to have some oversight of the Parents' Room due to increasing concerns this year with non-parents using the space, and will start on the planned updates to the space once the budget is approved.*

Consent Issues/Campaigns:



*Thursdays in Black has been the main focus so far time-wise, running a successful initial event with a day of screen-printing, and having affiliation approved conditional on a minor constitutional change. Planning for Rape Awareness Week is already underway, including a return of the 'What I was Wearing' exhibition in the Union Hall, due to its success last year, and the clear need for productive discussion in the student community on how we can support survivors. Behind the scenes I have been involved in policy work, the specifics currently being confidential.*

**Queer Issues:**

*The presence of homophobic and transphobic incidents around the campus, including a transphobic hate group putting their material up around the University (and Dunedin more widely) during O Week, is part of why I made the suggestion to Property Services of establishing an interim Queer Space on campus while a suitable permanent location is organised. I will be following this up in the next quarter, as it is important to get a timeline confirmed for having the space to set up and put into use as soon as possible. On a more positive note, I have been involved in planning meetings for events during Pride, which looks set to go well, and on developing a National Rainbow Strategy across the country in order to form a more connected Queer community.*

**PART FIVE: GENERAL**

**Responding to Christchurch:**

*The week following the events in Christchurch on the 15<sup>th</sup> has been full of positive events for rebuilding our community, which put attending these above almost all other priorities. I attended response planning meetings of University, student, and interfaith bodies on the Friday and Monday evenings, the Race Relations Week Hui at the Marae on the Saturday morning, the re-opening of the Mosque on the Sunday, and memorials on the Thursday through to last night (Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup>), in addition to planning involved with some of these events. There will be ongoing work to do in supporting our students to feel safe, and to maintain a close relationship between OUSA and the Muslim Students Association.*

**Addressing Period Poverty:**

*There are discussions occurring both within Otago and across the country about modelling a campaign for addressing period poverty on the recent success in Scotland with having the government subsidise products for students, which would be an important initiative to have in conjunction with OUSA's efforts to support our students, both with the historical provision of free products in our reception spaces, and with our ongoing involvement in the Wā Collective so students can have an affordable and sustainable option.*



## Responding to Student Issues:

*There have been several instances through the year of students contacting me about various concerns and initiatives, primarily in the form of email unless they already know me personally, and these discussions have been largely positive and productive. Some of these emails have been the basis for actions outlined previously in the report, or given direction to existing ideas. This is hard to include in any plans or goals, but I hope students will continue to feel comfortable enough to continue bringing things to my attention.*

## GOALS/RECOMMENDATIONS

### Consent Campaigns:

*My goals are to develop effective responses to issues around sexual violence in colleges, to plan and execute Rape Awareness Week, liaising with all groups involved, and to look at student safety in town, including the Angel Shots campaign.*

### Engagement:

*I aim to coordinate more with other Executive members on liaising with welfare-related clubs, including cultural clubs. Having Welfare-run events on campus will also improve engagement, as will being present at University and student events.*

### Interfaith Presence on Campus:

*Specific follow-up from events over the last week is on-going, working on relationship building and addressing specific concerns. In addition to this, I will continue my involvement with the student interfaith group on Campus, and will soon have the pleasure of attending a welcome event for the Muslim Chaplains.*

### Mental Health:

*I will finish analysing the Mental Health Review for preparing OUSA's responses to national developments, and for briefing DHB candidates on student needs. Having meetings with student health allows a forum for discussion there, and I hope to develop similar channels with the DHB. With the Welfare Committee I will focus on engagement and initiatives on campus, including planning Mental Health Week for Semester 2.*

### Period Poverty:

*I will work on developing a menstrual product provision campaign in the next quarter so it can begin making traction, and on campus I will work on holding events for Period Week to raise awareness of the issue. Promoting the Wā Collective cups can also impact students who are comfortable trying a cup, and I will work on promoting this.*

### Physical Spaces:

*I will start on the Parents' Room once the budget is confirmed, updating some set-up, replacing damaged toys and books, and getting resources laid out for parents. Once there is a Queer Space to set up I look forward to undertaking this project.*

### Policy Aims:

*Working with the Postgraduate Officer on assessing where policies can be more supportive to parenting students, and proposing amendments, over the next two*



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quarters. I will also write a proposal to open the doors between the Parents' Room and the closest toilets to reduce the challenges of being on campus with young children. There will hopefully be implementation of other welfare-related policies which are currently in confidential stages, which I intend to be involved in. Policy goals to present for the DHB will also need to be crafted, which I aim to complete this quarter.

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