

Kia Ora Koutou,

The last quarter has been a difficult one, for reasons I wish I could be more open about. It has been frustrating not to have had the time and energy I was expecting to have for going above and beyond in my role, and to feel like I never quite got ahead of things again after the first quarter. While major stories we've all seen in the national news played some part in that feeling, in terms of directing where my focus felt most needed, I should have been more proactive about developing strategies to be responsive and true to my goals. This is a lesson I have already been learning, and working to make up for, especially towards the end of the quarter, and will continue to develop from through the remainder of the year.

Without diminishing those concerns, there have also been successes; pulling off the Queerest Tea Party exceeded what I had hoped for the event, I had the chance to be part of overseeing the second awareness campaign this year that the University has launched relating to welfare (Health Yourself, through reports to the Healthy University Advisory Group, HUAG, as well as meetings with myself and Georgia), and I received approval to set up a student liaison group for the same committee, which will be completed in the early weeks of Semester 2. It has been a pleasure to be involved in the work I have in this time, and to continue building positive working relationships, especially where committees are so open to having student perspectives on welfare issues, and individual staff and students have been so positive to work with and for.

I am aware that I need to be taking more projects on in the same time commitments I have been keeping and am making changes where necessary to achieve this. That work has already begun as of the end of the quarter, and the need to be cautious with my health for a few more weeks will be a part of the process rather than a hindrance to it. I will also be working closely with the President and Admin Vice-President to remain on track in stepping up and making sure I have the right balance of support and accountability around me.

I look forward to demonstrating the results of these changes over the coming quarter and beyond, and in the meantime, to getting straight back into the many and varied ways my role allows me the opportunity to make them happen. I especially look forward to the semester resuming, and with it the increased student interactions that make this role so rewarding.

Ngā Mihi,  
Kerrin

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## **PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES**

1.1 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.*

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

- 1.2.1 Standing Committee of the Executive;
- 1.2.2 Postgraduate Committee;
- 1.2.3 Colleges Committee; and
- 1.2.4 Welfare Committee.

*I am a member of the above committees, except for the Postgraduate Committee, due to it not being formed in the usual sense. I have attended all Colleges Committee and Welfare Committee meetings to date, and have been present for all Executive meetings bar two. Those two were firstly during Rape Awareness Week when I was part of setting up the What I was Wearing exhibition, and when I was away for medical reasons which could not be rearranged, and of which I gave prior notice.*

1.3 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. *The Welfare Committee has been running well since it was finalised, although this took longer than I had planned, with two meetings held this quarter prior to a break for exams and the mid-year break. We have made the decision to offer committee members the opportunity to chair meetings as they feel able, in which case I support volunteering committee members in doing so, and otherwise chair meetings. It took longer than I wanted to arrange timing around members' schedules, and in hindsight I should have been more proactive about finding solutions to this, so I will take those lessons on board in setting up times for Semester 2 as people's schedules change.*

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

*The Welfare Committee have been a source of feedback since they were confirmed, have an online group set up to allow further discussion outside of meetings, and several members have initiated discussions on ideas or issues outside the Committee setting as well, which have been especially valuable in developing plans and incorporating their input. The only exceptions to this have been either serious confidential matters where it would be inappropriate to share details without explicit*

*consent, or minor issues such as room maintenance (e.g. arranging to have door hinges oiled) which don't require direction.*

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

*The Welfare Committee is larger than has been traditional, allowing representation of students from a range of identity backgrounds, areas of study, focuses within the welfare umbrella, and relationships with relevant organisations to be involved. This included steps such as confirming two Disability Representatives to share the role, so they have more ability to balance their health with the commitment, and I would highly recommend future Welfare Officers make similar considerations to enable student contributions.*

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

1.6.1 Disabilities Rep

1.6.2 Queer Rep

1.6.3 Sustainability Rep

1.6.4 Woman's Rep

*Most of these meetings have occurred organically rather than being strictly scheduled, and I will be keeping an eye on their regularity in the next quarter to ensure they are maintained and implement a schedule if necessary.*

1.7 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 continued to be in discussion with the President on welfare issues, including in contributing to OUSA's responses to the coverage of sexual violence within the student community, and in connection with NZUSA initiatives such as the period poverty campaign. I have continued to represent students on the boards I sit on, and along with Tiana, I have been in the process of setting up a Student Liaison group for the Healthy University Advisory Group (HUAG), so there is opportunity for further student input on their projects going forward.*

1.8 Actively inform the student body of issues relating to their welfare, via publications, promotions and campaigns.

*I have been collaborating with Thursdays in Black since the release of the Sexual Misconduct Policy in planning education work with students in Semester 2. In addition to this, both the Queerest Tea Party for Pride and the What I was Wearing exhibition for Rape Awareness Week exceeded expectations, and I look forward to planning key event weeks going into Semester 2, beginning with Diversity Week. The Health Yourself campaign, on which OUSA were part of the University's consultation process, and which continues to report to HUAG was rolled out during exams, and I am developing plans with the Welfare Committee for how we can spark meaningful discussions on mental health beyond general well-being. After contributing to two*

*Critic columns this quarter, both around sexual violence, I hope to write about other welfare issues in future as well.*

1.9 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 still been in contact with all Student Support Staff members, typically communicating weekly if not more often and regularly discussing issues as they arise (most recently getting a tour of the new office set up)*

1.10 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.

*I have continued to work at building and maintaining positive working relationships with every organisation I have engaged with and intend to continue this. Members of the Welfare Committee have relationships with some organisations OUSA could work more closely with, so I hope to make the most of those relationship-building opportunities.*

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

*I will be volunteering with Are You OK again during Re-O Week, and continuing to encourage Executive involvement wherever possible. I was on call during Hyde Street, as I had my son that weekend, but everything went smoothly enough that I wasn't called in.*

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

*As mentioned earlier, HUAG have approved a Student Liaison group, so I will be having a final meeting with the Chair as soon as possible to confirm the structure and selecting students for this group when Semester two begins. I have also begun some discussions on where there might be further opportunities for student representation on welfare-related bodies, such as around health and disability.*

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

1.13.1 The Director of Student Services; and

1.13.2 The Director of Student Health.

*My Committee positions have allowed regular contact with both Directors, among others, which have been positive in terms of relationships. I have been able to approach either of them about welfare related ideas, or where relevant issues arise. Unfortunately planning with Student Health on ways to increase student uptake of flu vaccines was cut short by the announcement of the national shortage, but I will continue to work on proposals which could be enacted next year to increase vaccination rates among students.*

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

*I have continued existing club relationships, including UniQ and Thursdays in Black, but have felt less able to attend events over the quarter due to either workload or energy levels when dealing with heavy topics. I can do more to extend my involvement with these and other clubs going forward and will aim to do so. I have also been approached to support students in setting up an association for students with disabilities, so I will work to assist wherever possible, as this would provide an important welfare-focused connection which hasn't been as available in the last few years.*

1.15 Be available via cellular phone at all practical times.

*There have been some technical issues with my device, so I will pursue repairs or replacement as soon as possible. I have also been less available while I was off work recovering, although I gave plenty of notice ahead of time that I would be away for at least a week.*

1.16 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

*See the following section for the full details.*

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

*I have maintained this for most weeks, with a couple of exceptions where I had major assignments due or ill health; in those instances, I worked between 10-20 hours, making up for it in following weeks by working longer hours. I took one week off for medical reasons and will attempt to allow myself time to build back to full hours for the sake of a full recovery as soon as possible. I hope my colleagues will be able to respect necessary boundaries for my health during this time and be assured that any reduced hours will be made up over Re-O week and event weeks.*

## **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, Re-Orientation 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 ushering during Capping Show, at some of the Valid Voter Barbecues, and will be volunteering where I can through Re-O Week.*

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 involved in NZUSA meetings for Thursdays in Black, the NZUSA Welfare Committee, and NZUSA's working group on period poverty. I have attended the vast majority of OUSA Executive meetings and planning sessions, and where possible been involved in meetings with bodies such as the Otago Regional Council.*

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.

*With budget requests being made as needed, I have not exceeded expenditure. I will aim to continue to work within budget, and to make reasonable requests for additional budget towards planned projects and events.*

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 continued to have office hours by arrangement, be available to organise meetings with students promptly wherever possible, and to have time in the office most days.*

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

*I ushered at the Capping Show, and was on call for Hyde St with Are You OK? This ended up being slightly under 5 hours total, so I will ensure I do more in the next quarter. I have also continued my Equity roles in the international debating community on AIDA and WUDC Councils responding to equity issues as they arise and taking part in selecting the Equity team for a major international tournament over the mid-year break. This does not clash with OUSA work, in part because of the time zones involved.*

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

The Committees I currently sit on are as follows:

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

## **PART FOUR: GENERAL**

*This quarter has been more difficult to keep up with overall, in part for reasons external to the job, which limited the extra hours and energy I had been able to give during the first quarter. There have been more significant confidential student issues raised with me in this quarter, increasing the portion of my time which doesn't fit into this reporting format, but still being an important part of the job. While unexciting to read without details, I'm sure, responding when students bring specific issues forward is one of the most important parts of the job. Additionally there have been a number of positives through the quarter which don't fit neatly into other categories, such as the welcome events where I have had the honour of representing OUSA for both the establishment of the Muslim chaplaincy and the arrival of the new Māori chaplain. It is hard to overstate the value of the relationships I've been able to build, even with challenges making it feel more difficult to start new projects, as this has contributed to processes such as securing the new student liaison group mentioned above, and to being able to respond to student concerns on a day to day basis, including with students whose backgrounds mean that feeling safe to bring concerns to the Executive isn't a given. Continuing roles such as my position in the UniQ committee has been key to maintaining this availability and connection. Because of this, I feel confident in saying that being more ambitious and efficient in my role going forward is going to work, and that I can achieve this without compromising the focus and empathy which is so key to any interaction. I can recognise where parts of how I was structuring and prioritising my work, while not compromising the quality of what did get my attention, didn't give that attention to as many issues as I should be able to juggle in this role. The conversations about how to improve these concerns, and how I can work with others to be accountable and more effective through the process of addressing them, began within the quarter, and will be an ongoing part of the coming one. I have every reason to believe that both my skills and the capacity to enact them are improving and will continue to do so, and I know the executive will be onside to work with in ensuring this.*

## **GOALS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Engagement:**

*I hope to have more time to focus on all events in the next quarter, including running welfare-related events for Diversity Week, sexual health week, and Mental Health Week (at a minimum), being present at OUSA events and with relevant clubs, and attending significant University Events. With the Welfare Committee, I will run a Sexual Health week in addition to the event weeks already in the OUSA Calendar.*

### **Campaigns:**

*The Sexual Misconduct Policy is the basis for much of my work in the immediate future, as I work with Thursdays in Black, Te Whare Tawharau, and Student Support on the student education campaign around it. Meetings to get an understanding of how implementation looks for stakeholders within the policy allow potential for feedback into the process, as well as ensuring we deliver accurate information to students on what they should expect if they do need to engage with the Policy. Rape Awareness Week was an excellent opportunity for more general awareness raising, and it was a pleasure to work with Students Against Sexual Violence as well as Thursdays in Black to highlight the extent of the problem in our community. Confidential work behind the*

*scenes around these issues is a constant possibility, and I am thankful to be able to work the student representatives on the Te Whare Tawharau Advisory Group, Taylor and Sabrina, whenever needed. Angel Shots have been rolled out in Starters, and there is more work to do in follow-up with other bars which have had them before, and in encouraging all venues to have them available.*

*Mental health remains a complex and important issue, requiring a range of approaches. The Health Yourself campaign has been launched, leaving a clear focus for myself and the Welfare Committee on experiences which fall between general wellbeing and the high threshold for distress within the under-resourced public system. I have continued to be in contact with Student Health's team, and I aim to also work on events which raise awareness of external organisations which would be valuable for students to engage with during and after their time at University. I will be proactive going forward in communicating with key individuals around the DHB, to find more potential for input on their systems and how they take on the duties and expectations the Government have accepted, and will prepare info packs as part of this process. Along with this I will get the general report on the Mental Health Review completed.*

*I am involved with the national campaign for funded menstrual supplies, which is laying the groundwork for the issue to become more prominent in next year's general election if not sooner. I will work to ensure Otago has a part to play in this and continue to explore options for supporting our students.*

*While there have been some discussions around parental leave for postgraduate students, I need to take these further, and work with the Post-Graduate officer on this and other welfare-related issues affecting post-graduate students.*

#### Physical Spaces:

*I will complete planning for the changes in the Parents' Room this quarter, including getting Student Support's input, and I intend to make significant progress towards implementing them, if not complete them, in that time.*

*Finding a suitable Queer Space is an ongoing project, with a proposed space being under assessment for how accessible gender-neutral bathrooms are, to determine whether it would be suitable. I hope to get confirmation as soon as possible, but if it is unsuitable, the process may take longer while I work with Property Services to assess all spaces on campus which are or will become available for potential alternatives.*

*I will also support Student Support in finding a way to increase their space so they can increase staffing to recognise the increase in student demand and meet their goals.*

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