

Kia Ora Koutou,

This quarter has had its fair share of excitement, with Diversity Week allowing the chance to include disability awareness within the range of diversity we focus on, Te Whare Tāwharau's Symposium allowing the chance to speak and to connect with like-minded students and staff, and a significant amount of time going into general exec events such as elections and voter enrolment. I have had the opportunity to take part in a wide array of events in roles ranging from organising to serving food to being part of the Are You OK? team.

Behind the scenes I have been busy attending an array of committees, including running 2 of them to get as wide a range of student feedback as possible on welfare-related issues, and passing this along to the University. Meetings with University staff have been valuable, especially in building a fuller understanding of how the Sexual Misconduct Policy is being implemented, and I am thankful to have had the chance to meet with so many relevant staff and ensure those channels are open for student feedback as needed. This doesn't change the need for an external body to be developed for oversight on this issue, which OUSA has now committed to working towards, and I will be ensuring that work continues for as long as is needed, but there is still value in knowing the system which currently exists in order to be an accountability measure. Additionally, I am working on the issue of finding more support for student parents and will continue to do so as what currently exists is nowhere near enough.

Equity issues generally have been something of a theme this quarter, directing me to find ways to improve this; the proposal to create an Equity Representative narrowly failed to meet a 2/3 majority at the SGM, so there are a number of ways to explore this going forward, from re-visiting that proposal to adding equity standards and expectations on all executive members and committees. The steps so far have been positive, but I believe there is also more to do.

Finishing the quarter with a major health issue has been immensely frustrating, but was out of my control and could have happened to anyone at any time; viral joint infections are not related to injuries, prior health issues, or anything else personal about me, and can be caused by something as simple as a common cold happening to get into one or more joints. They are incredibly painful, mimicking arthritis in their symptoms, limit mobility (hence my use of crutches), and due to their viral nature cannot be treated quicker via antibiotics. I have attempted to find a balance between avoiding the side effects of opioid painkillers (the only things strong enough to offer relief, but which also inhibit normal activities), and treating the pain when it gets unbearable, but realistically the best treatment is rest while the virus works its way through my system, and getting back to giving 100% when it won't leave me bedridden the following day.

Ngā Mihi,
Kerrin



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HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE:

- ~~1. Replace the name, position etc with your details. The word count starts at "Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties" and excludes any goals or recommendations word count (which should be stated at the end of your goals or recommendations.~~
- ~~2. Replace the "Content goes here." with your report content.~~
- ~~3. No pictures or footnotes are permitted — any additional information should be produced on demand.~~
- ~~4. Delete this information.~~

Kerrin Robertson-Scanlon
Welfare Officer

3rd^{4th} Quarter Report 2019

Submitted 18-09~~3~~-2019 at ~~2:00pm~~

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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.

I have not needed to do so 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 all except the Postgraduate Committee, due to the relationship with the Otago Postgraduate Association functioning instead of a Postgraduate Committee. Otherwise I have attended all meetings barring an Executive meeting I was unable to attend for health reasons.

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.

I have done so through the quarter.

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

I have taken the Welfare Committee's direction, both from meetings and in working with committee members where relevant, such as working with my Disability Representatives on disability issues.



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

This has not changed and continues to be a diverse committee. While this has led to some challenges meeting quorum for individual meetings, I believe this trade-off is worth it for the range of perspectives the Committee includes.

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

I liaise with committee members as is needed and works for both parties; more often when issues arise, and less so when there isn't anything to discuss. Where meetings have been fortnightly this has also ensured regular updates and discussion.

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 been willing to brief the President on Welfare issues, and to mention welfare and equity considerations in issues where they may not be immediately apparent. I have represented welfare interests on all committees and boards I sit on, most being within the University community, and recently attended an Otago Mental Health Support Trust board meeting in order to offer a student perspective. ~~I have not yet been expected to act as a spokesperson, although I am willing to do so on welfare related issues, but I have regularly discussed welfare issues (both ongoing campaigns and issues arising during the year) with the President. I also represent welfare issues student interests to the best of my knowledge 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, which recently had a successful event with the new Human Rights Commissioner speaking on campus.~~

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

I have contributed to informing students through publications such as my column in diversity week, and giving comment on welfare-related articles where requested, much of these focusing on disability issues this quarter. Arranging an OUSA-funded flu vaccine clinic with Student Health and awareness-raising about invisible disabilities during Diversity Week also aimed to inform students. The resource development work with Thursdays in Black around the Sexual Misconduct Policy has been ongoing. After consulting student committees on mental health and planning with the Campaigns officer, we have progressed to collecting student feedback more widely to inform OUSA's response (the most recent parts of this being down to Ben's excellent work while I have been unwell). I was also interviewed a few weeks ago for Life Matters' show on Otago Access Radio, discussing aspects of mental health and



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~~what it means to represent student welfare. 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, where the Queerest Tea Party will be held on the 4th of April on campus), 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 in the student community. I hope to have the chance to write for contribute to the Executive's column in Critic in the next quarter, as the column provides a valuable way to communicate directly with students, especially those who might not attend welfare-related events.~~

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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 continued to maintain a good working relationship with Student Support and work closely with them wherever I can.

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 maintain a good working relationship with community organisations related to welfare issues and continue to have a Committee with more connections than one person could maintain.

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

I have maintained this relationship, assisted myself wherever possible, especially during Re-Orientation, and encouraged other Executive members' involvement, but could have done more to get the Exec involved this quarter.

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

I have had a meeting of the HUAG Student Liaison Group to get more diverse student feedback on welfare issues to a committee which is open to it. Where committees are less directly open to more student representation, I have taken issues to the Welfare Committee or found other ways to inform myself with student perspectives in order to represent student viewpoints better.

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.



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I have maintained these relationships well enough to feel comfortable initiating meetings on difficult or controversial issues as they arise. Attending some of Student Health's focus groups has provided another way to both strengthen my relationship with Student Health, and to be present to engage with student feedback in a way which has been positively received. I highly encourage future executives to maintain this, as it has been incredibly valuable to me. I was also able to work with Student Health on organising a flu vaccine clinic once they were back in stock, which was a success (the initial 30 slots were able to be expanded to allow a total of 37 students to take the opportunity).

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

I have felt comfortable to engage with welfare-related clubs without always going through the Recreation Officer and have also felt able to approach and work with the Recreation Officer as needed. My existing club relationships have continued, with events ranging from helping organise the last UniQ XO for diversity week to starting the semester with a volunteer event to encourage Thursdays in Black volunteers to get to know each other and stay more involved.

1.15 Be available via cellular phone at all practical times.

I have been available via cell phone, including calling into a recent Executive meeting while I was unwell in order to meet quorum.

1.16 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have attended almost all Executive meetings in person or via cell phone, been present at Executive campaign events like voter enrolment drives and barbeques, been involved in student engagement from the SGM to OUSA Candidate Forums, and been involved in feedback behind the scenes on work such as the new Constitution. While event involvement has been limited recently by my being on crutches, I have still been present wherever possible.

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

I have achieved this through most of the quarter, including working nearly 40 hours during Diversity Week. I have had to temporarily reduce hours in the last couple of weeks due to unforeseeable physical illness and my imminent thesis deadline, which I will make up over October and November when the thesis has been submitted and I expect to have recovered.

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;



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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 events through Re-Orientation, the SGM, and the by-election and election (other points listed not being relevant either to this quarter or in general).

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 made myself available where possible for Executive meetings, although my health has necessitated missing a couple of meetings. There have not been national conferences or similar which I have needed to attend this quarter.

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.

I do not have a budget line, but I have not exceeded arranged expenditures.

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 has been the case throughout the year, I have publicised that hours are by arrangement, and have regularly checked and responded to correspondence. This has also been somewhat impacted by my recent health issues, especially as they have affected my access to the office but will be remedied as quickly as I can without exacerbating the health problem.

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

I spent an evening in July baking for the Cat Rescue Dunedin fundraising bake sale (held on the 20th of July), along with Matthew and another friend.

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*



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—Chaplaincy Consultative Body

PART FOUR: GENERAL

In addition to everything discussed above, this quarter's work has included:
Attending and speaking at the Te Whare Tāwharau Symposium.
Working with the Graduate Research School on planning wellbeing initiatives for postgrads.
Meeting the SMART Co-ordinator.
Researching the state of resources for student parents, especially around the lack of anything resembling parental leave, and exploring ways to propose improving this at both tertiary and national levels.
Exploring ways to increase OUSA's equity beyond merely adding it to the Welfare job title.
Reaching out to MUSA to offer support around how their University handles sexual misconduct, particularly on assisting with policy proposals based on what Otago has implemented.
Continuing to work on improving oversight of the Parents' Room due to ongoing issues with non-parents using the space.
Meeting with candidates running for the position in 2020 to discuss the role.
Introducing the new chaplains to OUSA's work and discussing student welfare issues with them. (including attending and volunteering at the new Māori Chaplain's induction service).
Background support for some student initiatives and events which don't fit under earlier categories.
Working with Student Support to explore how student volunteering could be organised to respond to unexpected issues (e.g. illness), to take pressure off flatmates.

PART FIVE: GOALS/RECOMMENDATIONS

~~Responding to Christchurch:~~

- ~~I have been working more on the lobbying side of things, especially around the parental leave issue, and intend to continue work on both this and leading the work campaigning for an independent sexual misconduct oversight body. 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. Working with the Postgraduate Officer on assessing where policies can be made more supportive to parenting students, and formulating proposals where these can be amended, is one of my goals for the no~~
- ~~I want to continue working to improve equity within OUSA, including bringing the idea of splitting Welfare and Equity up for further discussion after positive feedback from a range of student groups, and find structures to make existing representation~~



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less tokenistic, such as entrenching enough disability representation to have accessibility issues better considered.

- *I need to continue working on physical spaces, as this has not been fruitful over the last couple of months, but there is potential with the suggestion that a Queer space be part of a larger central space for Student Support, so I will continue to explore all options.*
- *I will continue to work on the mental health work currently being done, to ensure it develops towards something meaningful and effective for students.*
- *I will plan and execute wellbeing-related events not only for Mental Health Week but also during the exam period and will in general continue my work over the summer.*
- *I will work with the incoming Welfare and Equity Representative to ensure they are well prepared to step into the role and ensure as smooth a transition into next year as possible, hopefully with continuity wherever relevant.*

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