



Tēnā koutou,

In the first interview I gave as President-elect, in October 2018, I said I wanted to make OUSA more political - that OUSA needed to better balance the services with the union and start to return more to its political roots. In my last interview as President, in October 2019, I said that we had done it. **In the words of Mayor Aaron Hawkins, there has been “a strong return to political activism within the Students' Association this year, at a time we most urgently need it.”**

We've run a Local Body Election campaign that has enrolled thousands of students, the highest performing in the country, and seen OUSA actively play an influential role in Local Body politics - from hosting a Mayoral forum to researching and writing our own policies. We've submitted on Select Committees and Annual Plans, in particular thanks to the work of William Dreyer, which has gained us national media coverage and a cameos on prime-time TV. We've joined thousands of students to protest in calling for climate justice and publically called on our Vice-Chancellor to support it. We've lobbied on issues such as DCC parking changes through videos that reached 22,000 people. We've restructured the Constitution to create a Political Representative - ingraining political work into the Executive.

Outside of the political, there's been the strong opening of Starters, the “best ever” O'Week “in the University's recorded history”, the development of the University Book Shop building, international headlines (Fox, Guardian, BBC) around our harm-prevention Drug Testing initiative, a 72-student volunteer project to Fox Glacier, a new Constitution, negotiating the highest increase in CSSF in recent years, and countless other wins through the day-to-day running of the Association - this has truly been a massive year, ending with the **highest satisfaction with an OUSA Executive by a roughly 19% margin since the OUSA survey began.**

There is still, however, a long way to go.

Jack Manning, the 2020 OUSA President, and his Executive have a lot of work to do - building on the areas we've made progress on, improving where we've gone wrong, and taking OUSA that next step closer to what it should be.

Though as they look towards next year it is equally important they look back - at the tragic events in Christchurch and the Manor. In 2019 we were tasked with guiding our community through these events, leading vigils, clean-ups, and community support, but in 2020 what falls at the feet of Jack and his Executive is even harder. Progress. The 2020 Executive bears the responsibility of taking these tragedies and bringing from them meaningful change and action while still acknowledging the lasting impact they might still have. For both Christchurch and the passing of Sophia Crestani:

The aroha sparked from tragedy cannot be snuffed out by complacency.

Ngā mihi,
All the best,

James Heath
OUSA President 2019



James Heath
President
4th Quarter Report 2019
Submitted 20-11-2019 at 11:50pm
2600 words

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

1. Duties of the President

1.1 Be the official spokesperson for the Association.

I have acted as the spokesperson this quarter. This has been a wide range of issues, from David Seymour on campus to the changes to the Residential Tenancies Act. However the most significant was that following the passing of Sophia Crestani. This alone meant multiple media stand-ups and press conferences from media across the country - with countless media requests streaming in over the course of a few weeks.

1.2 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 media organisations, the University of Otago, Electoral Commission, Dunedin City Council, New Zealand Union of Students Associations and other local student associations.

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

I have met multiple times with the President of the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association - Nathan is doing some fantastic work over at OPSA and has built up a strong foundation for the relationship between our organisations to grow going into 2020.

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

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

1.4.2 University of Otago Senate;

1.4.3 New Zealand University Students' Association's Federation Executive; and

1.4.4 Any other national student body affiliate where applicable.

I am the Association's representative on these committees.

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

I hold membership on and, where reasonable, attend these committees.



1.6 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:

1.6.1 Planet Media Dunedin Limited;

1.6.2 University Union Limited; and

1.6.3 University Book Shop Otago Limited.

I was provided the 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.

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

Completed.

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

Completed - where relevant I have asked the CEO, on behalf of staff, to provide regular verbal updates on the Association at Executive meetings.

1.9 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 such as the above mentioned CEO reports and regular out-of-hours contact between the Executive.

1.10 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 - meeting weekly.

1.11 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. The Executive clearly understand I am always available to meet and discuss.

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

Same as 1.11

1.13 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.



Completed, such as directly leading and overseeing our Local Body Campaign which was incredibly successful.

1.14 Be an ex-officio member of all affiliated Recreation.

Completed.

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

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

1.16 Supervise the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Executive.

Completed - this includes weekly meetings and leading the completion of the 2019 CEO Performance Review.

1.17 Be available via cell phone at all practical times.

Completed.

1.18 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

Completed.

1.19 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

2. General Duties of all Executive Officers

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

N/A this Quarter.

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;



N/A this Quarter.

2.1.3 Collecting for the capping charity; and

N/A this Quarter.

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

N/A this Quarter.

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 available for all of these - aside from where my apologies were accepted.

2.3 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

2.4 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 appointments and emails.

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

A lot of what I do in this role blurs the line between voluntary service and what I am expected to do - given I regularly work over the 40 hours required I arguably provide this every week.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- *Academic Quality Agency Board (Director)*
- *University Book Shop (Otago) Limited (Director)*
- *University of Otago Council (Director)*
- *University of Otago Appeals Board*
- *University of Otago Finance and Budget Committee*
- *OUSA Finance and Expenditure Committee*
- *OUSA Grants Panel*
- *OUSA Executive Committee*
- *Compulsory Student Services Fee Advisory Board*
- *University Community Engagement Committee*



PART FOUR: GENERAL

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

- General work following the tragedy at the Manor. This ranged from handling media, joining the University's crisis team meetings, and following up on Special Consideration processes.
- Gave a speech at the Reunion of the 1979 Medical School Class
- Managing the resignation of an Executive Officer
- Assistance (leading chants) at Climate March
- Work on Strategic Plan
- Work on Advisory Board policy
- Queer Space meetings and communication
- Worked with a student to potentially provide a sensory room at the University
- Meeting regarding wider Student Services review
- Led the review of CEO Performance
- Helped William Dreyer with Marine Science
- DCC Council Induction
- University of Otago Council
- NZUSA Conference/AGM
- Sustainability Conference
- Student Job Search AGM
- Meeting with Director of Student Services
- Meeting with Electoral Commission
- Appeals Board
- Grants Panel
- Meeting around Student Hub
- Spoke at the Greg Hughsons Leaving Event
- Dunedin North Community Meeting
- CCTV Review Meeting
- Senate
- Helping some ITP Associations
- FEC meetings
- Contributed to Student Voice Submission
- Interview with Star
- Executive meeting with Vice-Chancellor
- Hosted the National Executive meeting of NZUSA here in Otago
- Called all elected City Councillors to build up relationship for next year
- Meeting with Hannah Morgan
- Meeting with Property Services
- GoodOne Meeting
- Meeting with David Clark
- 2020 Executive Lunch w Managers
- Rowing Club Dinner
- Meeting with 2020 Political Representative
- Court of Benefactors Dinner
- UBS meetings
- Discussions with Hocken Library re OUSA Photos



As discussed by the Executive, as this 'Quarterly' report falls halfway through this quarter we able to include achievements that we feel we will complete by the end of this term. The list is as follows:

- *Speaker at the Australia New Zealand Support Services Association Conference*
- *Meeting with a student group that have been denied affiliation to explain justifications*
- *Strategic Plan Workshops (x2)*
- *Meeting with David Clark*
- *Meeting with Vice-Chancellor*
- *Meetings with Vice-Chancellor, Proctor, DCC, and a wide range of stakeholders regarding systematic changing following the tragedy at the Manor*
- *Compulsory Student Services Fee Advisory Board*
- *Meeting with the Mayor*
- *University Book Shop Otago Ltd. Board meeting*
- *Mental Health and Wellbeing Network*
- *Graduation Ceremonies*
- *University Council*
- *Community Engagement Committee Meeting*
- *Work around Medical School and RTA*

PART FIVE: GOALS

Instead of addressing wider personal or Executive goals, or adding in goals that have cropped up and been achieved this year, I will instead directly address my election promises:

“Local Body Elections”

As mentioned in my first report, “one of my major goals is to see a successful Local Body Elections Campaign - to increase **enrollment, engagement, and voter turnout.**” This year we have done this and I'm fairly proud - particularly given it was my main promise during the election.

Enrollment. The campaign has ranged from hundreds of posters, with 20 various iterations, to weeks of on-campus BBQ activations and thousands of enrollment packs delivered to Colleges - the BBQ activations alone resulting in roughly 1500 direct enrollments (over 5% of the student population). There has been targeted advertising pushing our students towards online enrollment information, cooperation with the Electoral Commission at OUSA events (500 enrollments across minor events as an example), and door-knocking across student flatting areas. We directly enrolled roughly 4000 total students and likely engaged more.

Engagement. Following on from the enrollment phase, we transitioned to education. I hosted a Mayor Forum and, led by Bonnie Harrison, we hosted Candidate Clinics - opportunities for students to engage with candidates. We researched and wrote student-friendly policy and approached candidates - convincing them to publically adopt these and producing a table that outlined candidate positions on each of these policies. These tables were shared throughout various channels as well as photos of candidates to acknowledge those who turned out to meet students.



Voter Turnout. After successfully lobbying for multiple days of on-campus voting booths, we then surrounded these with free BBQs and hot-chocolate. This was alongside extensive advertising plans, Facebook event/posts, hired improvisors in Morph-Suits, banners, poster-drops, and thousands of fliers - all pushing students to get out to vote.

This campaign was a massive step up for OUSA - significantly leading to strong student engagement and the Mayor and a large number of Councillors committed to pursuing our student-friendly policies. Alongside our advocacy work this year, this is exactly what a student union should be doing. What is most exciting is how this can, and will, be built upon for next year and go from strength to strength. Thank you to the Executive, Marketing and Communications, Events, and Planet Media for their assistance on this.

“Mental Health and Wellbeing”

Hannah Morgan from Swim Straight For Life and I have finalised some ideas and plans going into 2020 - working out where best to put the funds she raised towards an OUSA Mental Health project. This year there have been other projects on Mental Health, such as the launch of the Health Yourself campaign - (this is the “large Mental Health and Wellbeing campaign” that we were “planning to work alongside the University and other stakeholders” on that I referenced in my first report). This is a major University campaign with large coverage, involving us from the conceptual phase at the start right down to advertising etc through Planet Media at the end. This Quarter has seen examples such as organising a visit from Suzy Cato, focusing on Mental Health, joining the recently established Mental Health and Wellbeing Network, and mental health and wellbeing drop-in centres following the tragedy at the Manor.

“Improving OUSA’s Engagement”

This is a general approach across all of what we do. Some specific examples include opening up the referendum to all questions, allowing more engaging questions, my “Don’t Be a Dick” rebrand of the “Voluntary Glass Ban” campaign, and the engagement in our SGM. Examples of engaging techniques have been the videos for Mayoral Forum and Study-Tips, led by Benjamin McCook-Weir, questions that students care about at the SGM, and our Local Body Elections campaign. We have also seen good engagement in OUSA’s work on the School Strike 4 Climate - showing clearly that students will engage with the issues they care about.

As mentioned before, we have had the highest satisfaction with an OUSA Executive by a roughly 19% margin since the OUSA survey began. I would attribute this, and a lot of our increased engagement this year, to the OUSA Exec returning more to the roots of student politics. Our public letter calling the Vice-Chancellor to endorse the Climate Strike, our posters surrounding it, and subsequent presence at the march with microphones and banners - all leading to positive engagement from our members.

“Increasing University Consultation”

William Dreyer and myself have been working on some big picture University Consultation alongside the Vice-Chancellor. After my recommendation, some major changes this year have been delayed until 2020 for the sake of giving proper time for consultation. William and I have drafted up a consultation plan for these changes in 2020.



“Doing the job well”

This was intended as a promise of focusing, not just on projects or campaigns, but on generally speaking doing the day-to-day role as President well - from convocation speeches to media comment, committees to negotiations. Now it is coming to the end of my term - I would say I did the job well.

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

This is still a really outdated joke. Regardless, Sinead (the Critic Reporter who has been following this) watch this space - we have an idea.

PART FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS

Handover and recommendations have been discussed with Jack Manning, 2020 OUSA President. We have a pre-planned method of handover that will start in the coming weeks, primarily resulting in Jack co-writing his handover document with me, so I am addressing the issues he needs to know, and spending a significant amount of time shadowing me in my role.

Though generally speaking the ‘deadline’ for handover is the time of this report, I see this as a default intended to capture those who are at risk of giving a poor handover. As I’m sure the Executive, and most importantly Jack, have confidence in me to do my job and provide a strong handover - I am sure a more tailored approach would be considered acceptable. As always, happy to discuss.