



otago uni **students'** association

Tēnā koutou,

In the name of transparency, I am disclosing that I have been unable to dedicate time to my OUSA duties during the examination period. Now that this period is over, I am hoping to complete my goals, especially international student wellbeing, work exploitation and the handover document. However, I have been unable to dedicate time towards looking at alternative models for international student course fees. I am wary that this goal may not be realised upon the completion of my time at OUSA.

I am especially pleased with the progress on work exploitation as there are many positive changes, especially on a national level. International student wellbeing has improved, although there are still many aspects and areas that need further improvement. Further details on the progression of my goals can be found on the last two pages of this document.

As this is the final report for the year, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication put in by my fellow Executive members this year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

If anyone has any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at international@ousa.org.nz.

Ngā mihi,

Sabrina Alhady

International Students Officer

4th Quarter Report 2019

Submitted 20-11-2019 at 12pm

1538 words

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

1.1 Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the Association and on campus which is supportive of cultural diversity.

The International Cultural Carnival took place on 21st September. I worked with the OUSA Marketing team to ensure the event was marketed on both social media and traditional media, i.e. newspaper. On the Facebook page for the event, we provided daily content in the week leading up to the Cultural Carnival centred on the Cultural Clubs taking part in the event. Although event turnout was not as large as I had hoped, there was significant engagement between the general public and the cultural communities.

1.2 Organise and run events of specific interest and relevance to international students.

(a) International Cultural Carnival

I organised Cultural Carnival, which took place 21st September, with the help of the Marketing and Events teams. I oversaw the promotion of this event on social media and on campus. I was actively assisted and guided through the organisation of this event by Shannon from the Events team. On the day of the event, ICOM members assisted with setting up and running the event.

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

1.3.1 International Cultural Council;

International Cultural Council has been updated and is currently International Committee (ICOM). I chair ICOM meetings.

1.3.2 Welfare Committee; and

N/A

1.3.3 Education Committee.

N/A

- 1.4 Chair monthly meetings of the International Cultural Council, 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 Council are adhered to.**

This quarter, ICOM has not held monthly meetings due to exams.

- 1.5 Take direction from the International Cultural Council on all matters relevant to international student members.**

As stated previously, I have not chaired any formalised monthly meetings with ICOM. I bring relevant matters to the attention of ICOM members through our line of communication as they arise.

- 1.6 Work on issues specific to international students at the University of Otago, including, but not limited to:**

1.6.1 Academic issues within the University; and

During this quarter, I have attended meetings with the Director International and members of the International Student Support team. As always, I remain in contact with the staff at the International Office and bring to their attention any matters as they arise. The staff at the International Office have always been happy to meet and collaborate on ways to approach and tackle international student issues.

- 1.6.2 Social and welfare related issues within the University and the wider community.**

(a) Migrant Labour Exploitation

Within my capacity as Representative Council member of NZISA, I have attended a Migrant Labour Exploitation Consultation in Wellington facilitated by MBIE. I provided feedback during this consultation. I will also be attending the next consultation in Dunedin on 21st November at 9am in the Otago Room of OUSA Clubs and Socs.

Submissions for this consultation close on 27th November. I will be assisting NZISA with their submission and hope to write a submission on behalf of OUSA.

(b) International Student Orientation

I am currently working with Arina Aizal, the 2020 International Representative, on making sure the relevant information is relayed to international students prior to starting their course of study. We are looking at increasing visibility for cultural club communities, introducing a work rights session to raise awareness of and prevent work exploitation, introducing NZISA and providing their contacts and information, and providing useful resources for international student information such as the NauMai website.

(c) Christmas Packs

I am assisting Louisa Samson from the International Office Student Support Team, along with Amal Abdullahi from Silverline and Arina Aizal, the incoming International Representative, with planning and making Christmas packs for international students in Dunedin over the Christmas holiday period. It can be a lonely time for international students as they will be away from home, family and friends during this time. This pack is a small gesture to assure these students that they are being thought of and remembered by staff at the university.

- 1.7 Maintain a good working relationship to the OUSA Student Support Centre Manager and Advocates so that the opportunity to share information about academic and welfare issues of relevance to international students is available.**

I am confident the Student Support staff and I have a good working relationship. I will be arranging a meeting with the Student Support Centre in the coming weeks.

1.8 Maintain a good working relationship with the International Office of the University, sharing information and ideas with them when appropriate.

I am confident that I have a good working relationship with Jason Cushen, the Director of the International Office, and other staff members from the International Office.

1.9 Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice President, proactively bringing issues relevant to international students to their attention, and, where reasonable, meeting with them on a weekly basis.

I am confident Georgia Mischevski-Gray and I have a good working relationship. We are in regular communication and discuss my weekly goals and projects.

1.10 Work in conjunction with the Finance Officer, the Clubs Development Officer and the Recreation Portfolio Executive Officer to ensure the affiliation and support of international student groups.

I am confident Bonnie Harrison and I have a good working relationship. Bonnie has assisted me with all matters related to budget and expenditure, and has provided helpful advice throughout the planning of various international events.

1.11 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

During this quarter, I have done my best to attend and actively participate in majority of the OUSA Executive meetings where possible.

1.12 Where practical, work not less than ten hours.

I do my best to regularly fill in a time sheet, which the Administrative Vice President has access to. This method has proven extremely useful to track my time and maintain accountability within my role. I was unable to give priority to OUSA work during the examination period but am now shifting attention and focus onto the progression of my goals.

PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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

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;

During this quarter, I have not been a safety contact. I am happy to assist as such should the need arise.

2.1.3 Collecting for the capping charity; and

N/A

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

N/A

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 attended a majority of the executive meetings. I have put in some hours to assist the Executive with Local Body Elections, the Valid Voter Campaign and the Tertiary Precinct Project. Along with some of my fellow Executive members, I have attended the following conferences in Wellington: Student Voice Summit; NZISA Congress and AGM; and NZUSA Congress and AGM. I will be attending another ISANA Conference in Melbourne and have been invited to speak on a panel as a New Zealand international student representative.

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.

I have not exceeded the budget line assigned to me by the Finance Officer. As in the past, I will maintain detailed expenditure of this event and invoices incurred with the OUSA Accounts staff.

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.

To the best of my ability, I have maintained regular office hours and regularly check and respond to all correspondence I receive. During the examination period, I did not respond promptly to correspondence but set up an out-of-office message so that those contacting me were aware of this.

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

During this quarter, I have volunteered my services to cultural clubs and international events such as International Cultural Carnival.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

I have attended meetings for the following university committees: Otago Internationalisation Committee; Otago Health Science Internationalisation Committee; and Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board. I was unable to attend meetings of the following university committees due to scheduling constraints and clashes: Otago Distance Learning Advisory Board; and Summer School and Continuing Education Board.

PART FOUR: GENERAL

During this quarter, I attended and spoke at the Student Voice Summit on a panel, "You're the Expert". I also attended the NZISA Congress and AGM, and the NZUSA Congress and AGM. I will be speaking on a panel at another ISANA Conference in Melbourne, sharing the perspectives of a New Zealand international student representative.

PART FIVE: GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) International student wellbeing

NZISA has asked for support and assistance with sharing a survey on international student wellbeing. This survey is being carried out and studied by one of the best researchers on the topic of international students. Its findings will no doubt contribute greatly to this field of research and will provide insight on how to improve international student wellbeing at all institutions. This matter is still in progress.

As stated in Section 1.6.2 (c), I am also assisting with Christmas packs for international students.

I have made recommendations to the Internationalisation Committee in favour of having a role acting as an international support liaison on a divisional level. I have also identified that some international students hold an expectation that staff should be reaching out to international students and that some forms of support should be exercised more actively. Further discussions on this will be taking place with the relevant stakeholders.

(ii) Health insurance

The results from the Sexual Health survey have yet to be collated and discussed. I will inform the incoming International Representative of this survey.

(iii) Work exploitation

MBIE is currently consulting with stakeholders on their migrant worker exploitation review. I will be submitting on this through NZISA and hope to write a submission on behalf of OUSA. I am also working with the incoming International Representative and the Student Support Team at the International Office on minimising the harms of work exploitation and addressing the issue among the student cohort by raising awareness and informing students of their work rights during orientation.

(iv) Community engagement

The International Cultural Carnival has shown promise based on engagement by members of the public with the student cultural communities. I hope to see more of this engagement at an academic level.

(v) Handover document for future International Officer(s)

I have been in contact with the incoming International Representative and have been training her up so that she is sufficiently prepared for this role. I will be sure to have my handover document completed by Friday so that the incoming International Representative has sufficient time to prepare for the role.

(vi) Otago International Friendship Network (OIFN)

Due to the internal restructuring of the International Office, this goal is no longer viable. The incoming International Representative has also come to the same consensus.



otago uni **students'** association

(vii) International student course fees

I hope to write a document outlining recommendations in support of moving towards a different model of international student fees. However, I am wary of the limited time I have left as a member of the Executive and am cautious that I may not be able to do this in time.

445 words