Francesca Dykes

Political Representative

2nd Quarterly Report 2020

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Goals: 564

**Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties**

**13.1 Write a variety of submissions on behalf of OUSA, including, but not limited to:**  
**13.1.1 Local and national government documents:**

**13.1.1.1 Student related parliamentary bills;**  
**13.1.1.2 Student related Government projects/proposals;**

**13.1.1.3 Referenda;**   
**13.1.1.4 Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and;**  
**13.1.1.5 Otago Regional Council Annual Plan.**

**13.1.2 University of Otago reports, reviews, and consultative documents.**

This quarter I have written submissions for and orally submitted on the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill, DCC Annual Plan, DCC Kerbside Collection Consultation, ORC Annual Plan and the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 (no oral submission). Currently I am working on a submission for the ORC Bus Consultation and the Inquiry into Student Accomodation.

For each submission I read over the legislation or consultation document and other relevant documents. I will reach out to any other executive members who may be interested in the bill/consultation, to discuss whether they want to collaborate on the submission. I will then do some more research, including putting out surveys, consulting with subcommittees or working to organise student forums (this has been a challenge due to the timing of the Inquiry into Student Accomodation being during/after exams). I then start writing the submission. Depending on the length of it and the way it has been asked (whether specific questions have been put out) this can take quite a while, especially if I am collaborating with someone else and there is a lot of back and forth. A completed draft is the circulated to the rest of the Executive, for them to provide feedback. Ideally there will be several days for feedback, this has not always been the case due to the timing of the submission. The final submission is then put on the agenda, passed at the next executive meeting and then submitted.

For the oral submissions, the majority of the oral submissions have been done in collaboration with someone else. I usually spend time discussing what we are going to say and writing a script. The actual submissions usually take between 10-20 minutes depending on the forum but the whole process often takes an hour because the Select Committees are almost inevitably running behind.

**13.2 Submissions outlined in 13.1 must be:**  
**13.2.1 Well researched, written in a clear and concise manner, and address the submission from the perspective of a representative of students;**

I believe this to be the case. As above, a lot of time is put into reading for and researching submissions. All submissions are read over by and receive the approval of the Executive before submission.

**13.2.2 Written, where relevant, in conjunction with the Executive Officer whose role relates to the topic of the submission;**

I have collaborated with Jack Saunders (Residential Representative) and Michaela Waite-Harvey (Welfare and Equity Representative). I have also collaborated with Miria Te Pou, (Kaitiaki Putea for TRM). I am currently collaborating with Karamea Pewhairangi (TRM) and Joshuaa Alefosio-Pei (UOPISA) (alongside Jack Saunders) around the Inquiry into Student Accomodation.

**13.2.3 Written, where relevant, with input from Executive sub-committees which relate to the topic of the submission;**

The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill, DCC Annual Plan and the ORC Annual Plan submissions were written with input from the Residential Committee. I have asked for our Survey into Student Accomodation to be shared with the Welfare and Equity, and Academic Committees.

**13.2.4 Approved by the Executive before the submission is submitted; and;**

The Executive is given the opportunity to provide feedback on each submission and then they are passed at an Executive meeting.

**13.2.5 Written in conjunction with NZUSA, where it is relevant and appropriate.**

I have not yet written a submission in conjunction with NZUSA.

**13.3 Where relevant, assist other Otago student groups and OUSA students in writing submissions.**

This has not yet occurred. However, we have shared submissions opportunities as they come up (e.g. the ORC bus fare consultation and the Inquiry into Student Accomodation. There is also a submissions party planned for sustainability week around the South East Marine Protected Area proposed by DOC and I will be providing some support there. In particular, we are producing a submissions guide in collaboration with Grace Cowley from SEA.

**13.4 Chair meetings of the Submissions 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 Submission Committee Terms of Reference has now been to the Policy Committee and approved by the Executive. The Submissions Committee has met once in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 Submission, the only submission that has been written since the Committee was formed.

**13.5 Take direction from the Submissions Committee on matters of local and national government.**

The Submissions Committee has met once in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 Submission, the only submission that has been written since the Committee was formed. This submission was written based on committee discussion and there was an opportunity to provide feedback.

**13.6 Work in conjunction with the President to raise student issues and lobby for improved outcomes on student issues with, including, but not limited to:**

**13.6.1 Ministers of Parliament;**  
**13.6.2 Local government officials;**  
**13.6.3 Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;**  
**13.6.4 Relevant figures at the University of Otago.**

Jack and I have met to discuss the Local Body Election pledges, and he raised the DCC Pledges at a recent DCC meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend as I had an exam that day.

The DCC and ORC Annual plan consultations have proved to be a valuable tool for raising student issues and as a result, I have met with the DCC to discuss upcoming changes to waste management in Dunedin and with the ORC to discuss bus fares and the upcoming introduction of the Bee Card. I have also been talking to people from the University about bus fares and am participating in consultation around developing a Travel Plan for the University.

At the time of submission, we will have met with Councilor Andrew Wiley to further discuss our annual plan submission.

**13.7 Hold consultative student meetings to gain feedback and to inform the Executive.**

Currently we are consulting on the Inquiry into Student Accommodation and Jack Saunders, Karamea Pewhairangi and I are working to set up consultations with current RAs and residents to discuss changes they would like to see. We have hosted one consultation so far, with Salmond, but due to the timing of the consultation (over exams and then the semester break) it has proved somewhat challenging to set up further consultations.

**13.8 Report monthly to the Executive on NZUSA activity.**

I have reported to the Executive once during this quarter on NZUSA Activity.

**13.9 Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice President, proactively bringing issues of relevance to their attention, meeting with them on a weekly basis.**

I believe Georgia and I have a good working relationship and we have a weekly meeting scheduled.

**13.10 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.**

This will be addressed below.

**13.11 Where practical, work not less than ten hours per week.**

I believe I have worked on average 10 hours per week.

**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; and;**

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

As a result of COVID-19 many of these were not applicable. In terms of the referendum, I provided feedback on the proposed questions at various stages and participated in discussion around them.

**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 believe I have attended all meetings and training/planning sessions this quarter.

**3.3 All Executive Officer's will keep up to date with the Finance and Strategy Officer's Executive budget, bringing to the finance and strategy officer any spending proposals, keeping track of their spending and ensuring they do not exceed budgeted expenditure.**

I have read the monthly budget updates shared by Josh Meikle (Finance and Strategy). When planning events, I am conscious of the executive budget.

**3.4 All Executive Officers are to educate themselves on needs and experiences relevant to historically marginalised demographic groups including intersectionality and promote and encourage all demographics to participate, where relevant, in clubs, societies, committees and OUSA events.**

I continue to work towards this, especially as we develop our Election Campaign, host politics week and write the politics week magazine. In particular the Submissions Committee includes a TRM and UOPISA Representative to ensure that all submissions consider a range of perspectives and experiences. Recent events in the US and the Black Lives Matter movement has re-highlighted the need to in particular consider the way systemic racism is present in our institutions and how OUSA acts to combat this in our work.

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

As a result of COVID-19, I have not fulfilled this goal as planned. However, I plan to do so this quarter.

**3.6 All Executive Officers are expected to regularly check and respond to all correspondence received.**

I believe I have responded to all emails within a reasonable period (e.g. 1 working day).

**Part Three: Attendance and Involvement in OUSA and University Committees**

* + Executive Committee
    - I have attended all of these meetings.
  + Submissions Committee
    - I have chaired and attended the only meeting that has occurred.
  + Residential Committee

I have attended all the Residential Committee meetings, in particular, in relation to the submissions that have been written in collaboration with the Residential representative. I have also provided feedback on the Te Rangi Hiroa College development, through this. I always find these meetings to be very informative and enjoyable.

**Part Four: Goals and your Progress**

*\*The italicised parts are the goals from my original report and I have updated my progress below*

**General Election Campaign**

*I will work with Josh Meikle to plan OUSA’s General Election campaign. This will take the form of three phases: enrolment, education and voting. Enrollment will involve implementing the valid voter campaign again, education will be addressed in the following two goals and voting will be about planning events and continuing the valid voter campaign to ensure students are voting.*

Marketing has commenced the valid voter campaign. As will be discussed below, we are in the middle of planning politics week. As part of that we will identify content which will be able to be made into informative social media posts and infographics as part of the education campaign. As parties begin to release their election policies, we will develop information about these as well.

**Establish a Politics Week**

*This is currently scheduled for the week of August 10th. This will include a variety of events, such as debates, forums, and talks, focused around the political system in New Zealand, significant political issues such as the Cannabis and End of Life referendums, and providing students with the opportunity to engage with politicians. The purpose will be to engage students with politics, in the lead up to the election and to provide them with information about politics in New Zealand.*

The planning for this is going well. Josh Meikle and I have dates, times and venues sorted for most events and most of our guest speakers are confirmed. We are also in the middle of producing a political magazine, which will provide students on a range of information about politics in NZ, voting, the parties, the referendums and interviews with the Dunedin and Te Tai Tonga candidates. One thing to note is that we have not currently planned as many daytime events as I perhaps initially intended, and this may be something to consider as we finalise our events. Josh Meikle and I have met most weeks to work on this

**Policy Deliverables**

*As part of providing information and education to students in relation to the election, I am aiming to create breakdowns of student focused polices, and the parties who support them and similar to the Local Body pledges, posters indicating which parties support those polices. The purpose of this is to produce brief and readable summaries, which will reduce the barriers to students in participating in the election.*

This will begin as soon as policies come out, which we expect to be around mid-to-late July.

**Organic/Green Waste Collection**

*As part of our overall goal of sustainability, I was intending to lobby the DCC to introduce some form of household green waste collection. Students tend to live in flats and are therefore, often unable to compost at home. Implementing an organic waste collection would enable students to do so.*

We have provided feedback on the DCC’s kerbside collection consultation and we encouraged them to do this in our annual plan feedback. I have also met with members of the Waste Management and Environment team to discuss this and recycling more broadly in Dunedin to consider how we can better accommodate students. Going forward I may update this goal to lobby the University to provide organic waste bins on campus, although this is something I need to research further.

**Part Five: General**

A lot of what would be included in this section has been included in my goals. Josh Meikle and I have made a lot of progress in the planning of politics week and developing the politics magazine. Recently, planning for this has taken up a lot of my time, through event planning, contacting parties and speakers, and planning content.

Other things I have done this semester include summarizing the responses to the COVID-19 Survey, writing up an explanation of employment in light of COVID-19 and the wage subsidy, producing Instagram stories, writing Facebook posts and doing some Radio One interviews about different submissions. The OUSA Instagram Stories have provided a valuable opportunity to share information with students related to my role and carry out mini surveys. I hope to continue with these.