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International Students' Representative

1st Quarter Report 2021

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Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties

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

During the Orientation Week, I communicated with all cultural clubs to submit posters and descriptions to promote their own cultural clubs to be posted on the orientation seminars.

Working with OISA now, I have re-developed the Facebook Page of International Cultural Clubs Otago to Otago International Students' Association (OISA) by changing the basic information (name, profile picture, contact details). I have also met up with Critic to discuss issues that international students are facing and hoping for more awareness about it through Critic. During Clubs' Day, I have also advised members of OISA to join other cultural clubs as well.

I was invited by Arina Aizal to feature in the first episode of Connecting Cultures Features at OARfm Dunedin (105.4FM). The episode features OISA, international students issues and how to further involve everyone in joining the international community, specifically at the University of Otago.

12.2 Organise and run events of specific interest and relevance to international students

I worked with Charlotte, Shannon, Laurence and Mitch from OUSA Events Team in organizing and coordinating International Food Festival during Orientation Week to communicate with cultural clubs.

OISA Events are under the final planning stage of creating a timeline of events to host during the year. I have been actively working alongside the respective committee members to put those ideas in a clear image.

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

12.3.1 International Committee

Because of the re-structure of International Committee, I have now become the member of Otago International Students' Association (OISA) instead of International Committee. I have been present to all 3 meetings and 1 meeting with all cultural club presidents (OISA members being present as well).

12.4 Chair monthly meetings of the International 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 chaired 3 meetings with the Otago International Committee. We have decided our regular meeting times where all committee members are available. The Secretary would take meeting minutes, and other committee members to participate when they have comments to make, updates and concerns. Agenda is prepared by the chair, following up from other committee members and circulated beforehand.

I chaired a meeting with all cultural club presidents to introduce OISA and the support available to them. Otherwise, all communication with cultural club presidents has been done through Facebook Messenger where updates of International Food Festival, events and Covid-19 announcements are posted.

12.5 Take direction from the International Committee on all matters relevant to international student members

During this quarter, the OISA committee has been actively greeting new international students and promoting cultural diversity opportunities in the University and local community. They helped in providing feedbacks of International Food Festival – starting from the preparation of documents that participating cultural clubs should know when joining IFF and communication within all committee members to clarify any doubts on infraction system and emergencies. OISA committee are planning on their own initiatives to create events that focuses on cultural diversity and their own goals for OISA.

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

12.6.1 Academic issues with the University; and;

I have not worked on any academic issues for this quarter.

12.6.2 Social and welfare related issues within the University and the wider community

I was invited by the International Office to support the on-shore Myanmar students that were experiencing the effects of the military coup in Myanmar. A Myanmar student reached out to me to ask support from OUSA and OISA on their pro-democracy rally happening on the 13th March 2021 from 10am – 12pm at the Dunedin Railway Station (postponed from 28th February 2021 due to Covid-19 alert level change). With the help of Mhairi Mackenzie-Everitt (OUSA Political Representative 2021), a Myanmar student; Hay attended the OUSA Executive Meeting on 8th March and explained the situation happening in Myanmar and shared her fearful experiences for the community. OUSA endorsed this protest and

has posted on their social media while OISA has shared the event page on their Facebook Page.

During the Official Welcome for new international students, I have recommended several key organisations that international students can go to. First, I have introduced the OUSA Executive 2021 that international students can directly go to for specific concerns. Primarily, the first point of action is to send me an email first or they can choose to send an email directly to another relevant representative. I have also recommended for new international students to join Otago International Students' Association noting the gender representation, great cultural diversity (8 different cultural background from 9 committee members), and a good queer representation in the committee. Some key organisations that I have included as recommendations are OUSA Affiliated Cultural Clubs, Unicrew, Silverline, New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) and Mental Health Hotline (1737).

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

I have met with Sage to introduce myself and discuss general international students' issues. From this meeting, I have discovered the lack of rights awareness or the number of support system in the university available to international students. This is something I will be working on as my goal – explained more in Part 4: Goals and Progress. I am looking forward to sharing my thoughts and outline of this goal with Sage.

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

I have met with Louisa Samson to discuss about International Student Orientation, Simone Freeman to discuss about accessibility of resources to international students, Jason Cushen and Danielle Yamamoto Kerr to introduce myself and the university committees that I sit in while sharing ideas on supporting the 1000 returning international students including submitting a NZISA press release to them about the sudden increase cost of MIQ and discussing how the university can support them. During the next quarter, I am looking forward to catching up with all of them and talk to more key staff to draft a plan relating with my goals and getting a sharper image on international student issues that I should be including on my goals.

12.9 Work in conjunction with the Finance and Strategy Officer and the Clubs Development Officer and the Clubs and Societies Representative to ensure the affiliation and support of international student groups

I have talked with Josh (OUSA Finance and Strategy Officer 2021) for OISA's budget for this year, and he has approved the budget. I have not yet met up with Nicky (Clubs Development Officer) and Dushanka (OUSA Clubs and Societies Representative 2021) and will work on to do so in the next quarter.

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

Emily (OUSA Admin Vice President 2021) and I have set-up a weekly regular meeting time and discussed relevant issues that needs awareness. I will notify her if I cannot make it to any meeting time or if I need additional catch-up. Any other concerns will be notified via Messenger.

12.11 Sit on the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) as a member and maintain and fulfill the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding held between OUSA and NZISA

I attended the New Zealand International Students' Association meeting as a Council Representative.

12.12 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers

I have done my general duties as an OUSA Executive which are described in Part 2: General Duties of All Executive Members.

12.13 Where practical, work not less than ten hours per week

I am confident that I have worked no less than 10 hours per week this quarter.

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;

During Summer School, I actively participated in Summer in Duffers, in which students can get free ice cream and free BBQ from OUSA and Radio One. Students can enjoy a down-time moment during the event.

During Orientation, I attended three international student orientation seminars to promote the OUSA affiliated cultural clubs, OISA and tagging along other types of

clubs available ensuring that all clubs are welcoming to all new members regardless of race, sexual orientation, age and many more.

I volunteered in OUSA Tent City by cooking dumplings and giving them for free to students and getting people to sign-up for a giveaway on coffee machine, chilly bin and bungy voucher while introducing OUSA and its services to students.

I worked very closely with OUSA Events Team (Charlotte and Shannon) to ensure the smooth communication between cultural clubs and OUSA Events Team about anything and everything related with International Food Festival – Information Meeting Sessions, kitchen supervision, cleaning kitchens, wash stations tent and answering questions from club members about International Food Festival.

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

N/A

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 am present to all Executive meetings, training sessions and goal planning sessions.

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 have not used the budget yet, but I have a good image on the budget and will record its expenditures when used.

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

I have consulted with most cultural club presidents and inquire them on their needs and experiences throughout their time in the University of Otago and local community. Minority groups (notably women and/or queer) have also been mentioned as a part of their sharing. OISA Committee members have been actively promoting cultural clubs' events for all demographics too participate in.

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

I have taken five hours of voluntary service by contributing my services to Drop For Good.

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

I have checked and responded at the very best through my e-mails as quickly as possible and Messenger from cultural club presidents and OISA FB Page.

Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

- Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board
- Otago Internalisation Committee
- Otago Distance Learning Advisory Board
- Otago Health Science Internalisation Committee
- Study Dunedin Advisory Board
- Otago Summer School and Continuing Education Board
- I was present for most of OUSA Events in Orientation Week

Part Four: Goals and Progress

Goal 1: Supporting On-Shore & Returning Students Affected by Covid-19

During Summer School, OUSA has provided 'Summer in Duffers' providing a space for students to have a BBQ and ice-cream and enjoy the summer. International Office also continues to provide activities and updates in their Summer in Otago calendar. I have volunteered and promoted activities from them.

Further works are on ensuring support for returning international students. The great news is that Covid-19 vaccine for on-shore international students is free and Otago University will support returning students by creating a subsidy of 50% for the sudden increase of MIQ cost.

My next action point is figuring out on how to support and communicate effectively with distance students and developments of international students' pastoral care which I will work together with New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA).

Goal 2: Increasing International Student Network

I am aiming to host events and workshops targeting general international student community that raises awareness on academic, residential and welfare and equity issues while having safe spaces that international students can just mix and mingle – the general aim of each event is for members of the international community to create connections

with others. In general, I am working on this with OISA Committee to have at least one workshop, one social event and one huge collaborative event every semester.

Goal 3: Workshops on Rights and Services

As mentioned previously in 12.7, I aim to create a platform that contains all the information needed to understand the rights of an international student studying at the University of Otago and the support services available institutionally and nationally – covering Student Learning Development, Career Development Centre, Key People at the University for Inquiries, ENZ, NauMai and many more. The location of platform is still up for discussion, but there will be infographics to promote the rights and features of services in the platform.

Goal 4: Organise culturally sensitive collaborative events that celebrates the inclusivity of intercultural background and experiences

While the focus of already existing events is to celebrate cultural diversity. I believe there needs to be more recognition of other minority communities that international students identify, such as postgraduate, queer, disabled, to name a few. So, I will work with OISA to create events that increases the sensitivity of those minority communities, so that they have a safe space for their voice to be heard. Any OUSA affiliated cultural club providing those safe spaces for the minority community will be promoted by OISA to show solidarity of minority communities.

Part Five: General

- I have helped in the process of affiliation with the Otago Vietnamese Students' Association (starting from introducing myself as the OUSA International Students' Representative 2021 and listing the documents needed to its IGM and request for affiliation)
- I participated in the Myanmar Pro-Democracy Anti-Military Coup Protest Rally
- I attended Indonesian Community Association's Offline Game Night and Welcoming Gathering.
- I attended Otago Tongan Students' Association's Annual Welcome.
- I attended Indian Students' Association and Sri Lankan Students' Association Welcoming Gathering.
- I was invited to the Otago Malaysian Students' Association Welcoming Gathering to give a speech to the attendees of the gathering.
- I was invited by Wanli Cheng (Dunedin Multiethnic Council Youth Co-Ordinator) to give a speech about race relations – this will be done in the 2nd Quarter