

Sean Teow

International Students' Representative

4th Quarter Report 2022

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Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties

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

Since my last report, OISA has successfully collaborated and assisted with the promotion of NZISA's 5th year anniversary roadshow and All In (a collaboration with Silverline). We also had our AGM and promoted that heavily.

OISA has been working together with the International Office, working in tandem to promote these events through blackboard, our member emails, and OISA social media.

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

'All In' was an event collaborative with the Face Value Team at the Social Impact Studio (Silverline). It was our next major event after International Cultural Expo (ICE) hosted on the 20th of September 2022. For this event I MCed and worked with Silverline very closely, participating in discussions around what this event would look like and what its intentions were. The event revolved around privileging our culturally diverse communities in a series of 'couch talks' which I facilitated. It also worked to educate, bring awareness, and open up topics of belonging to our student community. Topics covered but not limited to were: belonging, identity, biases, and ethnic experiences. Overall, students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and praised it as a unique event that uncovered many issues not easily talked about within our cultural communities. Turnout was great and the students left feeling they got an opportunity to address their underlying issues and biases. We can safely say this event was a very successful one.

After 'All In', we had another big event, the NZISA Roadshow Dunedin. For brief context, the Roadshow was a nationwide initiative to empower, hold space for, and equip our International Student community so that they may thrive in New Zealand. Dunedin was given the honour of hosting one of these Roadshows at our very own University. The event was hosted on the 22nd of September 2022. I was also MCing for this event and I worked very closely with NZISA's Secretary (Grace Zhang) to organize it. I helped book the St Dav's lecture theatre as well as assisted with any other administrative tasks needed of me. This event revolved around guest speakers talking to questions asked by me regarding their area of expertise and their experience in thriving in New Zealand as a person of an ethnic background. The students thoroughly enjoyed this experience, taking note of the resources, services, advice given during the event. I worked closely with DCC's Santashree Mitra as well and we managed to invite the Deputy Mayor of

Dunedin to the event to which she attended. The International Office was also present in assisting in promotions and being present at the event. The first part of the event revolved around guest speaker sessions with Q&A at the end. The second part had 13 booths setup by groups of relevance to International Students in our community such as but not limited to: ENZ, NZQA, New Zealand Police (Dunedin), Asian Family Services, NZISA, OISA, and more. Students readily enjoyed the refreshments during the second part and were very interested in the different organisations and how they sought to help our International Student Community. I would say this was a very successful event that has privileged our community and allowed us to provide a wide range of support and education to our beloved students.

Lastly, OISA held our annual AGM on the 8th of October 2022, unfortunately we didn't manage as big a turnout as we would have liked but we still managed to recruit enough members for next year's OISA Executive nonetheless. The new Executive members elected seem very very promising and a wholesome bunch and I will also be part of the new Executive as the new Events and Strategies Officer. I look forward to working with next year's Exec and hope to bring out more focused and better organized events using my experience that will continue to benefit the International Student Community.

I will also be helping out with the Christmas event the International Office will be organizing during December hoping to giveaway some free Christmas goodie bags to our students before they head off and finally reunite with their families after 3 years.

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

15.3.1 Otago International Students' Association

I have chaired all OISA Committee meetings this quarter and have been in attendance for all OISA Meetings. This quarter's meetings were very eventful in both the literal and metaphorical sense. Our team has been diligent at work in organising large scale events and we have had lots of productive discussion.

We have also thoroughly reviewed the structure and work culture of OISA so that next year's Execs are better equipped with roles and policies that would ultimately benefit both the committee and the community.

15.4 Chair monthly meetings of the Otago International Students' Association, 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

As mentioned in Section 15.3 I have chaired all the meetings this quarter with the OISA Committee. We continued to use the OUSA Exec Bullpen as our regular meeting venue on Tuesday, 7-8PM bi-weekly. The Secretary would take meeting minutes, and other committee members to participate when they have comments to make, updates, questions, and concerns. Agenda is prepared by the chair, following up from other

committee members and circulated beforehand. Meeting minutes would be signed by the Internal Co-Pres and circulated to our respective members.

15.5 Take direction from the Otago International Students' Association, 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

This quarter was a heavy one, large scale events and a frustrating concern around some internal issues regarding commitment levels of some Executive members. I shall not delve into this topic as that matter remains internal to OISA and should stay as such. That being said, despite whatever issues the committee was facing we have persevered and pulled through on successfully organising our large scale events. Many thanks to the people we collaborated with and the support shown from all avenues. Most of the meeting agenda items this quarter were based around reviewal of OISA structure and organization of events to which members of the committee have performed exceptionally albeit with some unexpected costs to our wellbeing. I would suggest the future OISA Team to be more diligent in their self-awareness and actively setting boundaries (and following them) between the work OISA does and their personal lives.

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

15.6.1 Academic issues within the University

Heavy assignments and exams were the focus of this quarter but many students got by regardless. I got a sense of burnout as we reached the end of the academic year, students have been hard working and taking the time out of studies to also attend Cultural Club events. They have also been eager to finish up their academic year and proceed with enjoying their summer.

I hope to see more engagement regarding International Student Academic issues within our community for next year.

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

Refer to Section 15.2 regarding how me and my team has tackled social and welfare related issues through the use of events that aim to support and empower our International Students with their respective issues.

Any students who were seeking more pastoral care has also been directed to the International Office.

15.7 Maintain a good working relationship to the Association 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 have emailed Sage Burke and he has notified me that should there be any grievances or issues pertaining to International Students he will inform me. So far, none has been raised to my concern from him.

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

OISA and the International Office continues to have a very good relationship. That being said, the heavy assignment and exam period has affected the amount of active collaboration from OISA. Despite this, we remain close in contact and they have been especially helpful in providing their support in finding potential candidates for OISA 2023's Exec

I also chaired the fourth OISA x IO meeting which continues to prove extremely collaborative and impactful in strengthening the bonds between student and staff. Discussions showed great contribution from both staff and students and there was a good balance of opinions that fed into a wider consensus on certain issues. This was the last meeting between this year's OISA Exec and the IO, we've had a good year strengthening the bonds between both parties and I want this tradition to continue for years to come. I shall do a final debriefing with the International Office to reflect upon what we did this year and how we could collaborate better in the future.

15.9 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 am confident I have a good working relationship with Emily Fau-Goodwin (OUSA Finance and Strategy Officer 2022) and have worked closely on trying to secure more funding to help support International Students. I am also confident I have a good working relationship with Tulsi Raman(OUSA Clubs and Societies Representative 2022) and Kathryn Corry (Clubs Development Officer), we work closely together to support the Cultural Clubs.

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

I have been catching-up with Maya (OUSA Admin Vice President 2022) when I can and she has always been an amazing help in directing my efforts towards supporting International Students. We communicate on a very regular basis and even if we don't catch-up more officially we are always updating each other through our chats on messenger. She has also kindly assisted me during the NZISA Roadshow by being organising and being present at OUSA's booth, for that I am grateful.

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

I have fulfilled the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding by attending all the NZISA Reps Council meetings, except one due to heavy academic commitments and contributing feedback and updates from the local Otago region. See section 15.2 again to see how I have worked closely with NZISA on their events. It has been a pleasure to get to know them and make good friends with people that are much dedicated to student advocacy in the International Student space.

15.12 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers

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

15.13 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 or at least made up for it in the following weeks or weeks before.

Part Two: General Duties of All Executive Members

3.1 The appointed term for all OUSA Executive Officers shall commence from the 1st of January and will terminate on the 31st of December of the same year.

I have a little over 1 month until the termination is applicable.

3.2 Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are expected to assist as volunteers for OUSA events and functions, including, but not limited to:

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

N/A

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

N/A

3.3 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 this quarter except for one due to personal unavailability and heavy academic commitments.

3.4 All Executive Officers shall:

3.4.1 Keep up to date with the Finance and Strategy Officer's Executive budget, bringing to the Finance and Strategy any spending proposals, keeping track of their spending and ensuring they do not exceed budgeted expenditure;

See section 15.9.

3.4.2 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 done a number of things that have allowed me the experience to fulfil this section's intentions. Aside from my academic content which covers NZ history and society, see section 15.2, specifically about All In, I have explored these topics and communities' problems very deeply.

3.4.3 Prioritise sustainability and minimization of environmental impacts in all aspects of their role and keep up to date with environmental issues;

OISA has continued recycling, reusing, and reducing any material we have used for our events.

3.4.4 Every quarter undertake five hours of voluntary service which contributes to the local community

I have achieved more than my 5 hours by helping out with OUSA Drop for Good and helping out with any tasks/chores that Donna puts a notice out for.

3.4.5 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, OISA FB Page, and Instagram.

Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

- OUSA Executive
- Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board

- Otago Internationalisation Committee
- Otago Distance Learning Advisory Board
- Study Dunedin Advisory Board
- Otago Summer School and Continuing Education Board

I was absent to a few meetings due to academic commitments (clashing tests/exams/due dates) but have always contributed my points in detail to these meetings despite my absence. Apologies were given for all absent meetings.

Part Four: Goals and Progress

Goal 1: Address the underlying issues that have been affecting international student welfare

This was realistically the most optimistic of my goals and even though I don't believe this goal to be complete I believe it has obtained considerable progress. Aside from the usual conversations that circulate around the underlying issues International Students face I believe that the work I have done and the systems that I have focused on improving this year will ultimately provide a framework that will make it easier for addressing these issues in the future.

Goal 2: Bridging students and university staff together, ensuring a stronger relationship between both parties (COMPLETED, see Section 15.8)

Goal 3: Increasing Off-shore student support and their accessibility to student services (COMPLETED)

Goal 4: Create intercultural events that privilege the cultural diversity and minority groups of the University that are mindful of their personal and cultural wellbeing (COMPLETED, see Section 15.2)

Part Five: General

Oh man, what a year. I can't believe it's the end of the year already and I am about to finish my tenure in this role. OUSA has provided an invaluable experience for me not only professionally but personally, although I have reservations around a few issues I am still very proud of the work that me and all the people I have involved myself with have done. As I look to the future, I can only say how incredibly grateful I am to have met amazing people and support this community not only within my role but also outside of it.

It has been so humbling to have been the International Student Representative this year and although I was met with many a great challenge, I am assured that when I look back on this year, I will have nothing but more fondness for my time in this role.

Thank you OUSA for being such a huge part of my university experience and thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way. Much love from me as always and I hope that the work I have done continues as a legacy for others to follow.