

Keegan Wells

Post-Graduate

First Quarter Report 2023

Submitted 15th of March at 11:55

1159 words

Part One: Executive Officer position Description Duties

11.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the Association and on campus which is supportive of postgraduate students.

The OPA, Otago Postgraduate Student Association which I chair had its AGM on the 9th of March and will be creating events in the future.

11.2. Work with the University and the Student Support Centre to implement the Association's policy on Postgraduate Student Representatives.

I'm gonna be real, I have zero idea what this means. But if someone knows what policy this is let me know because I can't find it anywhere.

11.3. Be one of the Association's representatives on the University of Otago Senate.

Senate has not meet in the quarter yet but you bet your bibby I'll be there when it does.

11.4. Be a member of appropriate committees of the Association, including, but not limited to:

11.4.1. Otago Postgraduate Association; and;

I chair OPA! I'm in the group chat.

11.4.2. Academic Committee.

Yep, I've been at these meetings.

11.5. Chair monthly meetings of the Otago Postgraduate 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.

Once OPA has it's first meeting I'll be there.

11.6. Take direction from the Otago Postgraduate Association on all matters relevant to postgraduate members.

OPA have not had their first meeting yet.

11.7. Be the Association's representative on the Board of Graduate Studies.

Yep, I've been to 1/1 meetings hosted and represented.

11.8. Maintain a good working relationship with relevant OUSA staff, ensuring that information is shared on issues of relevance to postgraduate students.

I've informed the committee of what I've been up to for the last weeks and passed along some subcommittees for people to sit on if they want.

11.9. Facilitate a variety of student representation on postgraduate related University Committees.

Yep, to the best of my ability.

11.10. Maintain a good working relationship with the Director of Graduate Research School and endeavour to meet with them on a regular basis.

I haven't had a one on one meeting with them yet, but I will once the first wave of board meetings settle down.

11.11. Maintain links with and assist affiliated Postgraduate bodies.

I am trying to be as approachable as possible and show up to represent students when necessary.

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

Imogen and I have our weekly meetings on Monday's discussing all things post-graduate and student bar.

11.13. Sit on the Otago Postgraduate Association as an ex-officio member and maintain and fulfil the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding held between the Association and the Otago Postgraduate Association.

As mentioned previously, we just had the AGM forming the committee for the year and looking forward to a lot of fun events.

11.14. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have given out so many sausages and been attending o-week events. Like so many sausages.

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

I've been consistently hitting 10-hour weeks if not more.

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 that same year.

Joyous, I'm all in.

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 and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation; and;

I am the sausage master at this point. Tent city was a blast and flatting day was very helpful.

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

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 was at training day!

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 Officer any spending proposals, keeping track of their spending and ensuring they do not exceed budgeted expenditure;

The strategy document just was circulated around and I am giving comment on it soon.

3.4.2. 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;

Yep! Especially in post-grad there are a lot of cultures represented which is very special and shows a diverse research output but also a need to be represented.

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

As my undergraduate degree was in Environmental Management and I'm a granola girl who's vegan – don't even worry about this one.

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

I am the President of a non-profit and did around 50 hours this quarter. 10 times the expectation yahoo.

3.4.5. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

You would not believe how active I am in the group chat. But I also got my phone stolen so people can't call me. But insurance has my claim so I can buy a new one, thanks mate.

Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

How do I spend my week you ask? On all of these boards.

- Graduate Research Committee
- Graduate Research Student Liaison Committee
- Board of Graduate Studies
- Human Ethics Committee
- Divisional Board Meeting and Divisional Leadership Groups (Humanities)
- Graduate Student Committee (Humanities)
- Air travel project steering committee
- Academic committee
- Graduate Research Student Liaison Committee (GRSLC)

Part Four: Goals and your Progress

My goals:

- Student bar (in discussion as of currently – location scouting & budget reviewing)
- Make OUSA Exec more accessible and less corporate
- Have a stronger post-grad student community. Been in chats about a post-grad happy hour J and more causal and frequent events.

Part Five: General

You may be wondering why this is so short and so informal. Let me tell you. For the fact that only Critic Te Ārohi reads these and they get published on OUSA's website for presumably very few people to click on, I figured if anyone has any questions about what I get up to or want anything done, reach me directly (postgrad@ousa.org.nz or Keegan Wells on fb). While accountability is important, it should be more streamlined than this current method. I decided my time would be better spent working on matters that affect students than typing another 2,000 words.