

Tessa Campbell

Political Representative

1st Quarter Report 2023

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Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties

13. Duties of the Political Representative

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;

I am planning on soon writing a submission for the Climate Change Response (Late Payment Penalties and Industrial Allocation) Amendment Bill, which is due in early April. This bill seeks to amend provisions in the Climate Change Response Act, and the proposed penalty amendment for small forestry participants aims to mitigate the risk of serious financial hardship to participants.

13.1.1.2 Student related Government projects/proposals;

I haven't had the opportunity to submit on any Government projects/proposals so far this year. I have, in conjunction with the President, written a 2023 Elections and Political Strategy document, which was accepted by the executive on the 9th March, outlining our focuses for the year. I will use this document to guide me in my work this year.

13.1.1.3 Referenda;

N/A in first quarter.

13.1.1.4 Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and;

N/A in first quarter

13.1.1.5 Otago Regional Council Annual Plan.

I am planning on reviewing and submitting on the ORC Annual Plan soon, which closes on 14 April. In particular, I will be addressing the need for free bus fares for tertiary students, which I intend to speak at ORC public forum about soon too.

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

I haven't had the opportunity to submit on any documents from the University of Otago so far this year.

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 have started the process of researching the ORC, DCC, and government submission processes, and am familiarizing myself with these. I will soon arrange for the Submissions Committee for this year to be formed, which I intend to include a wide variety of students from different backgrounds on, in order to get a perspective that is representative of a diverse range of students.

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

This has not yet happened in 2023 but I anticipate that there will be opportunities to do so over the course of this year.

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

N/A in first quarter.

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

N/A in first quarter.

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

NZUSA has offered their support in implementing our Political/Election Strategy Plan, and so where relevant I will consult with them.

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

I have not had the chance to aid other student groups with writing submissions yet this first quarter, but I intend to circulate an email letting all affiliated clubs know I can support them in any submission writing they would like to do in the future.

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.

I have not yet appointed representatives to the Submissions Committee, but this is a top priority for me in the next quarter.

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

N/A in first quarter.

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;

I will be working more with the President to help with writing weekly letters to Ministers of Parliament, asking for improved outcomes on a wide range of student issues. In particular, and increasingly in the lead up to the general election, I will use the Political Strategy document (which I wrote with the President) to guide me in lobbying MPs.

13.6.2 Local government officials;

I am planning on speaking at the upcoming ORC public forum about free bus fares for tertiary students.

13.6.3 Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;

N/A in first quarter

13.6.4 Relevant figures at the University of Otago.

N/A in first quarter

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

I have not yet had the time to do this.

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 have a great working relationship with the Administrative Vice President, and we have scheduled fortnightly meetings. I will use these meetings as a way to proactively manage my deadlines and commitments, and ensure that I am meeting the expectations of my role.

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.

So far, I haven't quite managed to work ten hours per week, as I have had several periods of illness in these first few weeks of semester. I will endeavour as much as possible to catch up for lost time in the upcoming weeks.

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.

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;

I helped to run the OUSA barbeque and tent every day in which Tent City was running
this year.

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

There has not been any significant opportunity for this yet, but I have plans to soon

meet with members of the Electoral Commission to discuss how we plan to help

students to enroll to vote, be informed, and eventually cast their votes in the upcoming General Election.

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 have attended every Executive meeting since my return to Dunedin and having started with OUSA. I have also attended meetings to consult on the Tuakiritaka project, and to consult on the regulation of student services fees.

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;

N/A in first quarter.

3.4.2 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.

Through my degree, I have been fortunate enough to so far take several papers on Māori society, and disability, and I use this to help inform me in my work, as well as aspects of my own identity that connect me to several marginalized demographic groups. I actively work on ensuring I approach everything I do with compassion and intersectionality. I understand that it is my responsibility to make space for others to voice their opinions and perspectives, and I will always seek involvement and consultation from all demographics where appropriate.

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

So far, I haven't had the chance to do much meaningful work on sustainability in my role on the executive, but I anticipate that there will be plenty of work as Political Representative in writing submissions on sustainability-related issues, such as submitting to the ORC in support of free bus fares for tertiary students.

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

I have not yet had the chance to undertake voluntary community service, but I intend on participating in the upcoming Relay for Life event, and will endeavor to do as much volunteer work as I can in the next quarter.

3.4.5 Regularly check and respond to all communications.

I have been doing my best to respond to all communications, but this is still an area of active improvement for me. I will endeavor to be more prompt in my responses in the next quarter.

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

I check my emails usually daily, and attempt to respond within a reasonable timeframe of 2-3 working days.

Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

- Chair: OUSA Submissions Committee
- Chair: OUSA Policy Committee
- Member: Performing Arts Fund Committee
- Member: Health Science Divisional Board
- Chair: OUSA Executive Election Campaign Subcommittee

Part Four: Goals and your Progress

Coming in to this role, in my campaigning, I outlined three key goals, which I still believe are some of the most crucial focuses for me this year:

1. I will represent students with quality submissions for the issues that matter most to them – renting, climate change, diversity, inclusion, mental health, and more.
2. I will make concise, easy to access information for the general election, giving students the power to make an informed vote without all the hassle.
3. I will make grilling the local MP candidates fun and accessible, working hard to give students' voices the power they deserve.

So far, I have made some progress on the first goal, and will see considerable action in the upcoming quarter in regards to setting up and chairing the Submissions Committee, and having the opportunity to submit on upcoming issues of importance.

For the second goal, this essentially will be achieved through a voting magazine, which will collate information for students, and hopefully encourage them to vote.

For the third goal, I intend to arrange a forum with the local MP candidates later in the year to give the students a chance to get involved directly with the election campaign, and to get a better feel for who they might want to vote for.

I also want to focus on the following two goals

4. Helping as many students as possible to enroll to vote in time for the general election.
5. Run a successful Politics Week later this year.

With these two goals, I hope to remove barriers for students wanting to become more engaged with politics.

Overall, goals 2-5 essentially all seek to address the political apathy which is a clear challenge amongst the student population today. I would like to be able to improve engagement with politics amongst the student body, as historically students have been at the forefront of political change and progress, and I want to see this trend continue for generations to come.

Part Five: General

- I have met with representatives from NZUSA, PPTA, and NZEI to discuss the upcoming nationwide early childhood, primary, and secondary teacher strikes. At this zoom meeting we discussed the best ways in which OUSA could support this action, and I brought this to the OUSA Executive at our meeting on the 9th March for discussion.
- Through my role as OUSA Executive Officer, and alongside the Residential Representative, I have been hired by NZQA to be a champion for the new Code for learner wellbeing and safety. I will soon attend two training workshops, and following those will work with the Residential Representative to plan engagements with, and initiatives for, the students in relation to the Code.
- I have mentioned throughout this quarterly report the 2023 Elections and Political Strategy document, and as a result of this document, I will chair an Executive subcommittee, whose role will be to oversee and steer this project. The project itself centers around the theme that being a student is too expensive, and the dominating three core messages are: extending the winter energy payment to full-time tertiary students receiving any of living assistance; expansion of student allowance to a broader cohort; improving the standard of student rentals in North Dunedin, without detrimentally

impacting the affordability. My work in the next quarter will center around releasing this strategy (via the Critic and social media) to students, drafting a Voting Magazine to help students to be informed in the lead up to the General Election, and writing to MPs and parties, asking them to commit to the above core messages in their manifestos.