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Political Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report 2023  
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### **13. Part One: Duties of the Political Representative**

**13.1. Write a variety of submissions on behalf of the Association, including, but not limited to:**

#### **13.1.1. Local and national government documents:**

##### **13.1.1.1. Student related parliamentary bills;**

I'm not aware of any specific student related parliamentary bills that have come up this quarter. I will provide feedback on the bilingual signs submission to uphold our obligations to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

##### **13.1.1.2. Student related Government projects/proposals;**

I travelled to Balclutha to lobby the Otago Regional Council to join the free fares coalition and to provide a report on off peak transport. Both motions passed!

##### **13.1.1.3. Referenda.**

N/A this quarter

##### **13.1.1.4. Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and; Otago Regional Council Annual Plan.**

I spoke at an Otago Regional Council public forum prior to their annual plan being confirmed to highlight the need for free bus fares for tertiary students.

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

I haven't received 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 representative of students;**

I haven't written submissions this quarter but looking forward to it next quarter.

##### **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 this year but I look forward to it in the future.

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

N/A this quarter

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

I haven't written submissions this quarter but will make sure to implement this when I do next quarter.

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

I haven't had any individual engagement with NZUSA yet this quarter. Our OUSA President is our main point of communication with NZUSA.

**13.3. Where relevant, assist other Otago student groups and members of the Association in writing submissions.**

I have not had the chance to aid other student groups with writing submissions, but I can send an email next quarter letting all affiliated clubs know that I am available to support them in any submission writing they might 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.**

Submissions Committee has not been set up because we have primarily been focusing on the general elections this year over submissions.

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

N/A this has not been set up.

**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 have had direct engagement with our Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, where I asked questions on behalf of students regarding voter apathy, rental WOF, air bnb's, and the housing market. I will use the Political Strategy document (which I wrote with the President) to guide me in lobbying MPs in the lead up to the general elections.

**13.6.2. Local government officials;**

I have had two meetings with members of the Electoral Commission about how they can support us in Politics week, and what voting options will look like for students on campus this coming general election. We also discussed options to increase student engagement, to get them enrolled, and informed, to vote.

**13.6.3. Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;**

I intend to meet with Chlöe Swarbrick when she comes to talk to the exec and will continue to ask them to commit to our election demands.

**13.6.4. Relevant figures at the University of Otago.**

N/A this quarter.

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

I have been out of town. This will likely be more relevant during politics week next quarter.

**13.8. 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 been meeting weekly with the AVP unless sickness or exams have come up. This has improved since last quarter, and has been very useful for both of us to plan and organise political events and initiatives, as well as serving as a wellbeing check-in, and an opportunity for advice on how to manage my role and what to prioritise.

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

I have performed the general duties of our exec well this quarter. I will address this question further below.

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

I have been on bereavement and illness leave for a lot of this quarter but have endeavoured to work as much as possible during this time.

### **3. Part Two: General Duties of all Executive Officers**

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

I participated in the stall for Tertiary Open Day; spoke at, fundraised for, and participated in Relay for Life; held the banner for the OUSA Anzac Day Service, as well as for graduations. I also sat on the stage for graduations.

**3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.**

I have been planning with the Electoral Commission to help with the upcoming general elections, and this work is ongoing. The elections are planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, so this work will increase accordingly.

**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, on zoom if I can't be there in person.

For national and local campaigns, I spoke to ORC in Dunedin and Balclutha about bus fares, and spoke at and participated in the POAG protest. I have participated in elections planning sessions with some of the exec members, but there have been no other executive training or planning sessions this quarter. I have also participated in executive videos for Open 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;**

I have not seen the budget, it has not been brought to exec meetings. I haven't needed to spend any money this quarter, my petrol to go to Balclutha should come under the Executive Travel Expenses rather than exec budget.

**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;**

I have been taking a paper this semester from the education department about disability – it has covered the history of disability in New Zealand, current disability policies and attitudes, as well as looking at several contemporary disability issues. Through this course I have learned some NZSL, and have gained much more appreciation for the context of disability issues in New Zealand. It has contributed greatly to framing my perspective on these issues. I have been incorporating more NZSL into my day-to-day life, and teaching signs to my peers too. Through my degree, I have already been fortunate enough to so far take several papers on Māori society, too, 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;**

I have spoken to the AVP who studies environmental sciences about environmental related policies and the possibility of the AVP undertaking writing about this for Politics Week. My work with ORC regarding bus fares also ties into this, as I have successfully encouraged them to incorporate an environmental viewpoint when addressing these issues.

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

This quarter I fulfilled more than five hours of voluntary service, I spoke at and spent around 12 hours at Relay for Life representing OUSA.

### **3.4.5. Regularly check and respond to all communications**

I check my emails regularly and attempt to respond within a reasonable timeframe of 2-3 days. This has been impacted this quarter by exams and assessments, my bereavement, and illness. I will endeavour to improve this in the next quarter.

## **Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees**

- Member: OUSA Executive Committee
- Chair: OUSA Submissions Committee
- Member: Performing Arts Fund Committee
- Member: Frances Hodgkins Fellowship 2024 Selection Panel
- Chair: OUSA Executive Election Campaign Subcommittee

## **Part Four: Goals**

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.

I have made some progress on this goal, however most of my actions this quarter have been through forms other than submissions. I have attended and actively participated in two protests to support the tertiary sector's survival with regards to the recent proposed cuts. I have asked the Prime Minister questions relating to renting, the housing market, and the upcoming general elections. I have also been involved in several discussions about inclusion and actively supporting marginalised groups through the executive. I will also soon give advice on a submission for the bilingual signs proposal by Waka Kotahi NZTA.

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.

I have made considerable progress on this goal, through the planning of a voting magazine, which should be a great tool for students to use to guide them to make informed decisions to support their views in the general elections. This process is ongoing, and should be successfully completed in the next quarter.

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 not yet facilitated this. However, I am hoping to incorporate this into the upcoming Politics Week, which I will address below. This is still in the planning stages.

4. Helping as many students as possible to enroll to vote in time for the general election.

I have addressed this goal very successfully this semester. Through my meetings and emails with the Electoral Commission, I have encouraged them to visit the residential halls to get students there enrolled to vote, and this has been a reportedly very successful initiative. I have continued to meet with the Electoral Commission, and we have made several plans to continue this momentum in Semester Two. Much of this will also be through the Politics Week, but also through a media campaign throughout the next quarter.

5. Run a successful Politics Week later this year.

This goal is becoming a main focus for me, and will continue to be my priority in the next quarter. So far, the aim of Politics Week will be to run a wide variety of events to engage with students as much as possible in the lead up to the elections. A Youth Wing debate is planned, and I will set aside time to interact directly with students to see which issues they would most like to be addressed in any debates we hold. I have also been in discussions with the Electoral Commission to involve them in Politics Week, to help students to continue to enrol to vote. This goal is beginning to take shape now, and is very exciting moving into the next quarter!

Overall, I think that I have made good progress on my goals which I committed to in the first quarter, and have set myself up for a very successful third quarter. I have made a lot of progress in managing my role with the help of the AVP, and have felt much more able to successfully fulfill the obligations of my role.

### **Part Five: General**

- The OUSA Executive had a catch-up with OUPISA, where I met and got to know their executive. This was a great opportunity to network, and I have plans to work further with some OUPISA exec on various projects in the remainder of the year. I hope to build better collaboration opportunities, particularly through social media, for Pasifika events, like language weeks, throughout the year. We have had some discussions about this already, and these are still ongoing.
- I have caught up with Haki to discuss a few things. Firstly, to thank him for his help with the OUSA exec's meeting karakia, and also to check in with TRM's election information with regards to helping Māori students to choose which electoral roll to be on for the general election, as this deadling is approaching soon. I am personally committed to improving my understanding of te ao Māori, and upholding OUSA's commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Haki and TRM to better improve our practices as an organisation, as well as my own personal practices.
- 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. For this, I have attended two training workshops, and following those I have made plans to work with the Residential Representative to plan engagements with, and initiatives for, the students in relation to the Code.
- I have had some conversations regarding the Political Representative role description, and have plans to investigate updating this to better suit the political needs of the students.

- The voting magazine and Politics Week planning have been really key priorities for me this quarter too, and I have outlined throughout my report my work so far on these two initiatives. I will also continue planning for a Valid Voter campaign.