

Tessa Campbell

Political Representative

3rd Quarter Report 2023

Submitted Wednesday 20th September at 1:45pm

2107 Words

Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties

16. Duties of the Political Representative

16.1 Write a variety of submissions on behalf of OUSA, including, but not limited to:

16.1.1 Local and national government documents:

16.1.1.1 Student related parliamentary bills;

I provided feedback and helped to edit a submission on the bilingual road signs proposal to uphold our obligations and commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I also helped to look over a submission on the annual maximum fee movement regulations. There are a few submissions open at the moment which I will be looking to submit on in the next quarter.

16.1.1.2 Student related Government projects/proposals;

N/A – there weren't very many student related projects/proposals this quarter.

16.1.1.3 Referenda;

N/A.

16.1.1.4 Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and;

N/A this quarter.

16.1.1.5 Otago Regional Council Annual Plan.

N/A this quarter.

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

I haven't received any documents from the University of Otago so far this year.

16.2 Submissions outlined in 16.1 must be:

16.2.1 Well researched, written in a clear and concise manner, and address the submission from the perspective representative of students;

I believe that my contributions to the submission on bilingual road signage were well researched, and I have a good understanding of the cultural impacts of this project, having studied several Māori studies papers during my degree which discussed the importance of te reo Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi in different settings. We also consulted with several appropriate

groups to ensure that our submission was representative of students' concerns. I have also learnt about the AMFM through a workshop earlier this year, and so I believe I was well educated to help submit on this issue too. I helped to ensure that the submissions were clear and concise, and I believe that we created very high quality submissions on these issues.

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

The Academic Rep did the bulk of the work for the AMFM submission, as this was something she was very well researched in, and so it was very good to be able to work with her for this submission. The submission on bilingual road signs was written primarily in conjunction with the AVP.

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

N/A.

16.2.4 Approved by the Executive before the submission is submitted; and;

The submissions were sent out for feedback from the Executive, and so were approved to be submitted.

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

I haven't had any individual engagement with NZUSA this year. Q-dawg usually handles any correspondence with NZUSA. I did, however, have a meeting with a representative from VUWSA to discuss how we can support each others' political pushes and advocacy.

16.3 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 yet.

16.4 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.

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

N/A

16.6 Work in conjunction with the President to raise student issues and lobby for improved outcomes on student issues with, including, but not limited to:

16.6.1 Ministers of Parliament;

In the lead up to the general elections, I have been encouraging our local MP candidates especially to consider student issues. I have been finding ways for students to be able to interact with these candidates directly to discuss the issues that are important to them. This has been through a 'Meet the Candidates' session, which was an informal meet and greet with representatives from NZF, Greens, TOP, and Labour. We have also been planning a candidates debate in conjunction with POLSA.

16.6.2 Local government officials;

I have continued to work with the Electoral Commission to promote engagement amongst students for the upcoming general elections. They were present at our 'Meet the Candidates' session to help students to enrol or update their details. We also held a Valid Voter BBQ where they were present, which was a great success.

16.6.3 Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;

I attended a small event with Marama Davidson to discuss student issues, and how the Greens are planning to advocate for student issues, where we were able to give feedback on various approaches to relevant issues.

16.6.4 Relevant figures at the University of Otago.

We had a student voice hui this quarter with several figures from the University to discuss various student issues. This was also an opportunity for us, as well as UOPISA and TRM to show these staff members our achievements from this year, and to highlight the importance of working together to improve student outcomes.

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

We have had a fair amount of engagement with students through our political events so far, but I have not had any specific student consultative meetings yet.

16.9 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.

The AVP and I generally meet weekly, and this has been very helpful for me to check in and make sure that I am doing my job to the best of my abilities.

16.10 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have successfully performed the general duties of our Executive, and I will address this question further below.

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

I have been trying to meet ten hours per week, but have found this quite difficult due to my health this quarter. In recent weeks this has been much better, and hopefully next quarter I will be able to meet this requirement.

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;

N/A this third quarter.

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

I gave feedback on the referendum questions, and have been encouraging people to participate in the referendum, survey, and election. I did some lecture bashing to encourage students to run for the exec, and helped a candidate to choose which role to run for based on their passions. I attended the candidates forum, and have been doing a lot of work to encourage voting by sitting at a polling booth and lecture bashing too.

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 have attended every Executive meeting this quarter that I have been able to (and have given apologies for where I haven't). I have been available for every relevant event this quarter 😊

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.

The Valid Voter BBQ was budgeted for, and we stuck to this budget.

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.

Through my degree, I have already been fortunate enough to so far take several papers on Māori society, and also on 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 try to incorporate te reo Māori and NZSL more into my day to day interactions. 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.

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

I've not yet had the chance to write a sustainability related submission to local or national government this quarter. I will be sure to continue to keep sustainability at the forefront of any work that I do.

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

I have volunteered at our Market Day stall this quarter, and also to clean up the Peace Garden. I also had the opportunity to adjudicate a choir competition between Knox and Selwyn which was a great event.

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

I check my emails regularly and attempt to respond within a reasonable timeframe.

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 and your Progress

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 been able to help with two submissions this quarter, which is great! I have several more on the horizon which I am in the planning stages for too ☺

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.

Critic has taken control of this goal this quarter, having an elections edition of their magazine. I have been encouraging students to access resources such as policy.nz which is a great resource for viewing policies from each party in the lead up to the election.

3. I will make grilling the local MP candidates fun and accessible, working hard to give students' voices the power they deserve.

I have successfully ran a 'Meet the Candidates' session, and have also planned a candidates debate in conjunction with the prez and POLSA.

4. Helping as many students as possible to enrol 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, we were able to arrange for them to be

present at our 'Meet the Candidates' session, as well as at the Valid Voter BBQ, both of which facilitated students to enrol to vote and update their details in time for the general election.

5. Run a successful Politics Week later this year.

Instead of a Politics Week, we decided it would be best to spread our political events out in the lead up to the elections, and so we have been doing these events successfully, but as a result, have not successfully run a Politics Week.

Overall, I think that I have made a fair amount of progress on the goals I set for myself in the first quarter, and I hope that I will be able to improve on this for next quarter. This quarter has been very challenging for me due to my mental health, which has impacted my ability to carry out this role effectively, but I have made a lot of progress with this, and hopefully this will not be a challenge to my work in the next quarter.

Part Five: General

- We had a catch-up with TRM this quarter, which was nice to improve our relationship with them and to touch base.
- I have done a fair bit of work for media and planning for Valid Voter campaign and election events this quarter.
- I have been working with the AVP to update my job description to better reflect the priorities of political representative in the future.
- I have been helping with the ousa exec instagram to plan my introductory post and also to promote my events.