

Cyrus Yam

International Students' Representative

3rd Quarter Report 2023

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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 the last quarter report, I have been fully focused on planning the International Cultural Expo, which is the second flagship event of OISA. The International Cultural Expo is an OISA-driven event that provides willing cultural clubs a space for them to freely express their culture. I have also been investing time into considering and drafting up a proposal for a Cultural Representative with the Clubs and Societies Representative. The Cultural Representative would be a dedicated executive role who would represent the minority cultures around campus and by extension into local communities, which I think is rather unique to Otago since Dunedin is not a large city and are very community driven.

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

As of current, as stated in 15.1, I am organising the International Cultural Expo with OISA, which would be on the 22nd of September, unfortunately right after the deadline of the quarterly report so I cannot share how it went in here, but yes, it would be the second flagship event and would be a very good way for international students to express their cultures freely in a safe space.

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 attended the meetings that were scheduled for this quarter.

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

I have attended with the Co-President for OISA. Meeting times have been facilitated to the best of every member's availability and a regular meeting time has been organized by the Secretary (Fonie Ka) in the next quarter. Fonie has continued to be diligent in taking meeting minutes, circulating agendas prepared by the Chair, and ensuring members are well informed of the meeting date and time. Other members have also contributed their thoughts and updates to these meetings and added any agenda items of concern.

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

OISA executives have been active in ensuring that we are there for the students by attending orientation seminars for new International Students during the semester two intake and sharing important information around what support services are available. They have been great at connecting with the first-year students. OISA is continuing to be more accessible this year and be closer to the students we support through the refinement of our various platforms. I plan to work with them to create more culturally sensitive events that tailor to the welfare of the International Student community.

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

I am continuing to have meetings with the Internationalisation Committee and is attempting to foster a stronger working relationship with them to ensure that the delivery and quality of online learning is being upheld. I had let them know that OISA could be and would be a pathway for students to express their concerns and provide academic support.

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

I have been actively working with the IO, OISA and other government and non-government organisations, such as DMCC(Dunedin Multi Cultural Council), ENZ

and NZQA, to provide useful information for new international students that had arrived in Dunedin for their studies, and also refreshing current international students' information as well.

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 am organizing a meeting with Sage Burke of the OUSA Student Support Centre that will happen in the next quarter.

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

I have continued the good working relationship with the IO by continuing to meet with Jason Cushen (International Director) monthly for catchups, I am also noting down a handover meeting with the general IO staff from the current to the new OISA executive for next year.

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 working with Emily Fau-Goodwin (Finance and Strategy Officer) and Reid Eberwein (Clubs and Societies Representative) so that anything that involves international students or organizations would require me present. I am organising a meeting with the Clubs Development Officer at the moment, which should be due next quarter, I will ensure that a healthy work relationship would be established between us.

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 met with Imogen Macalister (Administrative Vice President) and had set up a meeting time with her again net quarter. I have also upheld a good working relationship, asking regularly whether there is anything I can help with but also bringing issues relevant to the International Students to her for further discussion. If there are any issues or concerns from my end of the spectrum, I will continue to contact her throughout my term.

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

During this quarter, I have attended the NZISA Job Conference and Representative Council Meeting as a Council Representative. I helped their executive during the conference by keeping time and providing general help when they require it. We had also discussed multiple subjects during the Representative Council meeting, discussing matters such as tuition fees, student experience, and publicity & awareness.

15.12 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers

I have performed the general duties expected of me as an OUSA Executive, details of which will be under "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 an average equivalent to about ten hours per week.

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 am currently 9 months into my term and my term will terminate in 3 months' time.

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 have been given a one-minute time-frame to speak to new international students during semester two's international welcome, which I would kindly ask the IO to increase it for the future since one minute is not quite enough to explain what my role and what OUSA does.

I was not in Dunedin during winter break therefore I could not help on any activities that was on during the winter break.

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

I have found some time to sit on the OUSA election booth during this year's 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 was present at almost all Executive Meetings, except one where I was in Auckland for a conference which was specified in 15.11.

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 for details.

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 not been brought to attention about any targeted comments for the time being. I will continue to be on the lookout for any targeted comments that appears and continuing to promote cultural diversity and cultural literacy

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

N/A

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

I have undertaken the minimum five hours of voluntary service contributing to the All Saints Fruit & Veges Program.

3.4.5 Regularly check and respond to all correspondence received.

I have regularly checked and responded to all correspondence I have received in a timely manner. I have also been actively checking the OISA Facebook Messenger for any student concerns and responding urgently to any Cultural Club matters in the Cultural Club Execs Messenger chat.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- OUSA Executive
- Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Board
- Otago Internationalisation Committee
- Otago Distance Learning Advisory Board
- Otago Summer School Operational Group
- Otago Health Science Internationalisation Committee
- Study Dunedin Advisory Board

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

Goal 1: Encourage cultural exchange and cultural diversity in Otago

Continuing from encouraging cultural diversity and cultural exchange, I am currently pushing the International Cultural Expo higher in the large events chain, which is a way for me to spread cultural awareness and literacy to other students that are in Otago, international or not. I continued to express my concerns and attempting to find solutions regarding some cases of International Students.

Goal 2: Establish awareness of present student support systems

It is very important and not an easy job on educating and publicizing the support systems available for international students, from the university or not. This quarter I have been focusing on external sources of support systems regarding different circumstances, such as spreading NauMai NZ, a helpful information page for new upcoming and current international students regarding New Zealand. Another party is the code team from NZQA, which looks after the pastoral care code regarding secondary and tertiary education. I had met them during the NZISA conference and had a lengthy and constructive conversation with them. Interacting and establishing a close relationship is one of my priorities since not a lot of international students know of their presence, which I would like to change. The code team is also very happy to continue conversations with me regarding the situation and what can they and us do to help educate that there are support systems already online for students to utilise.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

No updates for the time being.