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Postgraduate Representative

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report 2023

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### **Executive Summary:**

Wowie third quarter is already here! It's gone by so quickly but hey time flies when you're on so many committees. This week I filled my 10 hours with just 2 meetings and readings required. But I'm still going to be a good person and go to my other ones but that's really the trend that has occurred the last few weeks.

### **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 is up and wowie is it a whole lot of fun. The team is currently planning a ball in collaboration with CLASSOC and other cool fun and sporty clubs.

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

Another quarter goes by, another few months of having absolutely zero idea of what this means.

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

I have attended every senate meeting.

#### **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!

##### **1.4.2. 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.**

We've had a bit more sporadic timing of meetings but we are still absolutely chugging along.

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

Yep! I received a really good email the other day about no-cost extensions of PhD's which I'm trying to work on with the scholarships committee, but it is really difficult to get more free money sometimes. Whom'st've'thunk'd.

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

Yep, I've been to all of meetings where possible.

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

I think I've done a rather good job of being good with OUSA staff, I still adore the team at clubs and socs and really look forward to the times of day spent over there.

**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 endeavor to meet with them on a regular basis.**

Dave Baxter and I have met once to discuss post-grad matters and have another meeting coming up Friday.

**11.11. Maintain links with and assist affiliated Postgraduate bodies.**

If I can't maintain links, I don't want to be on the grill subcommittee (that is a sausage joke for all those playing along at home). But yes I have been doing this! The other post-grad clubs or clubs that have post-grads in them don't really reach out but GEMS are always keen for a chat or advice in the Garnier Room which is great.

**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.**

I believe that Imogen and myself have a very serious and professional working relationship. Sometimes I complain to her and other times, her to me. It works. While I don't necessarily inform her of post-grad matters, I also don't think there is much anyone who is not a postgrad or licensed therapist can do to help.

**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.**

Yes I have been doing this! I love OPA and the silly little things we do.

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

I am probably more of a general OUSA exec than necessary at times. I've been doing the voter bbq, I am a part of the furniture in the office, and spread the good word of voting when necessary. You know, vibes and such.

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

I've been consistently hitting 10-hour weeks if not more. I took a mid-sem break off but have been trying to recover those hours.

**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.**

That sounds lovely.

**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;**

Re-O week was great! I think all those events came together great. While I was not on the ground helping with them, it seemed to go off a success.

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

I submitted a bunch of questions to the referendum and while none of them made it on, that is showbiz baby. I also have to stay at least 20m away from this election as I am a candidate so have not been doing much. As a citizen (not your local post-grad rep) I have showed up for the debates however.

**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.**

The student voice hui went off great! Huge shout out to Quintin and Haki for running such a great morning. I have also made it to most every single one of the exec meetings with a few exceptions for emergency exec meetings that I had un-changable plans.

### **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 seen the strategy plan which was great, shot Emily. And the budget that was just released! Yay! Budget! Whilst I have a good look over the budget, it was well and truly confusing. Moreover, that emergency exec meeting that I could not attend was about the budget so unfortunately I got a bit left behind on this one. But I think overall I understand it decently well and know I can chat with Emily about that.

#### **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. Moreover, I am working on more scholarships dedicated specifically to Māori and Pacifica students.

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

Oooo environment I love that thing. As someone who typically does back to back winters, I see the effects of the warming climate first hand. I've worked with Adam this week to look at DCC's Carbon Neutral 2030 strategy alongside doing an entire degree in environmental management.

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

I am still the president of a non-profit and have put in an absolutely ridiculous amount of time, energy, and hours this year.

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

I am chronically online.

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

All of these boards are my life.

- 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)

Ayooo new committee just dropped this quarter

- Teaching and time tabling committee

For the fact this is 90% of my job, I can't believe it only gets one small measly section. I think going forward if the post-grad rep really wants to be able to carry out their responsibilities and OPA, they need to sit on less committees. I think I would recommend they are not included in the teaching and timetabling, the air travel project steering, humanities div, and the IT one (that I never go to, sorry IT dept). These are all the committees that are mostly shared with academic rep and ones that another person might have interest in so the post-grad rep can actually do more for OPA.

#### **Part Four: Goals and your Progress**

My goals:

- Student bar (in discussion as of currently – location scouting & budget reviewing)

Still location scouting. Feeling kind of like a real estate agent saying “location, location, location” but dear god. I think my next plan is create a huge facebook event boycotting the north Dunedin taco bell so we can turn that one into a bar.

- Make OUSA Exec more accessible and less corporate

Welp the elections came along and no one really still has any idea of what the positions are or what they do. Many of the candidates do not really understand how OUSA functions. I think this next quarter will be spend figuring out fun creative ways to market outside of social media for OUSA.

- Have a stronger post-grad student community.

Oh my gosh do I love the post-grads. The community is definitely still pretty far removed from each other. While the ball may help, the post grad happy hours are starting on the

29<sup>th</sup> of September and I just can't wait to be there the week after (sorry closing weekend). I think the post-grad community is strong and busy. and that is okay.

### **Part Five: General**

Student engagement is at an all time low, everyone is hitting burn out, the sun is coming out and people are happier again, and the semester keeps ticking forward. I have no real general comments at this time, besides I hope everyone is having a good day. I think I have come to terms with the 10 hour position of the role and realise it is all about the little wins in the job. I changed the MOU recently which allows OPA to get more money in alignment with OUSA's grant policies. I watched Quintin confidentially say he could back a trailer (and then not), and I have tried to respond to every course change approval with good and honest feedback. Not to mention I've had a pretty good time doing it. Oh I've also found my way back to the Critic office which is nice and written a few random news articles and helped the exec column a few times.

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Keegan