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International Students' Representative
3rd Quarter Report 2024
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PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

12.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the Association and on campus which is supportive of cultural diversity.

This quarter I helped create OISA's radio show, and went on it to talk about my experiences as an International student, to help give incoming students an authentic, inside view of what it's like to study and live here.

The lecture recordings campaign is still in the pipeline, and we are trying to get it to senate during this year.

I also had the privilege to attend and speak at NZIEC Ki Tua, the New Zealand International Education Conference organised by Education New Zealand. There, I gave a speech about how there is this tendency to view international students as a monolith instrumental to a wider goal, rather than for the individual people that they are. I mentioned how we are always talked about in the context of a recruitment goal, our contribution to diversity, and increased income/rankings of institutions and stressed the need for a more human, relationship-based approach to international education that puts the experiences and satisfaction of each international student, as well as the intangible benefits that international students bring to Aotearoa, at the core.

12.2. Organise and run events of specific interest and relevance to international Students.

The International Cultural Expo is finally here, and I have been working all this quarter liaising with the clubs and our external stakeholders to organise the event and promote it. The cultural expo was much bigger before COVID, and the goal is to build it back to full form in a couple years time and expand its scale even more than it has been in the past.

This year has been a significant improvement building on the efforts of the previous year, with a DCC partnership and funding, as well as a new initiative to get existing groups in the wider Dunedin community with our cultural clubs. I believe we need more events where the community is directly involved, as this creates a direct link between students and the wider context of Dunedin, which can hopefully create another pillar of support for our international students. It would break them out of the University bubble a little bit too. Depending on the success of ICE and the feedback we get, I will look at making the community partnerships a more important part of ICE that starts earlier in the year so the clubs have more time to find them and collaborate with them.

12.3. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the Association. Chair or co-chair weekly/bi-weekly meetings of the Otago International Students' Association (OISA), 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.

Yup. OISA is going well. We had a pair of events over the break that was a great way to meet new international students and give people new here an opportunity to meet some people in Dunedin while many domestic students head home. We are gearing up for our AGM now.

12.4. Take direction from the Otago International Students' Association, on all matters relevant to international student members.

I will make sure to continue listening to Mr. Nishida, the Co-President of OISA very carefully and continue working closely with him as we enter the home stretch. Our professional relationship is going strong, and I even met up with him several times over the mid semester break outside of work.

12.5. Work on issues specific to international students at the University of Otago, including, but not limited to:

12.5.1. Academic issues within the University; and;

This quarter was the student consultation for the lecture recordings campaign, and it was a massive success. We gathered over 5500 student responses and 12,000 interactions, clearly demonstrating the demand for this policy among students. Going through the responses, it was evident that the reasons for needing lecture recordings and closed captions were varied and unique from person to person, and the implementation of it would benefit a wide range of people from different backgrounds and circumstances. The message is clear from the student body, and now it is up to see this through and have it implemented. Thank you to Tara and Stella again for another awesome quarter of progress on this, it's been awesome. And thank you Emily so much for helping us with our social media outreach, it really made a huge difference.

12.5.2. Social and welfare related issues within the University and the wider Community.

The same as Section 12.6.1, like before. This lecture recording policy will make studying much more accessible to students, and address some existing social and welfare issues in the way our lectures (the main form of knowledge transmission for most degrees) are done.

The OISA radio has been a great initiative to get my execs more confident and take leads on projects, as well as providing a platform for other clubs to come on and discuss their experiences living in Dunedin. My hope is that the recordings can be a great resource for

prospective international students (Whose first time coming to Dunedin, or New Zealand may be for their first year at uni) to listen to and gain an idea of what being a student/living here is like, some recommendations for things to do, and a reminder that there are many people in the same boat as them that have had to make friends and create a community around them from scratch, to hopefully make the transition here a little bit less daunting.

Additionally, I've been helping NZISA raise awareness of the sharp increases in visa fees that will hit international students hard, and have written a column in Critic about that as well.

12.6. 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 have not had to meet with Dwaine this quarter, which is probably a good thing since we had no issues we needed to go to him for. I am looking forward to continuing to work with him, and will be in touch with him if any issues of relevance to international students arise.

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

I have a monthly meeting with Jason who is the Director International, and maintain a good relationship with Chelsea and Sam who are international student advisors. I was unfortunately unable to attend this semester's Welcome event due to a scheduling conflict with the conference but my execs told me it was a huge success.

12.8. 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 have not heard about any issues with affiliation from the cultural clubs this Semester either. OSSF, Otago Students Speaking French, was affiliated this quarter, and I made sure to reach out to them. They now have a spot at the Cultural Expo to grow and advertise their club, which is fantastic.

12.9. 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 not met Emily in official meetings too much this quarter, but that's usually due to us being updated on what I've been up to without having the official meeting. The usual is just "ICE Prep" which involves a whole lot of liaising and organising behind the scenes, which usually doesn't make for the most entertaining update sadly.

Following up from my last report, I still think Emily can grow the @ousaexec account to one million followers by the end of the year. I have nothing but full faith in her. My rough calculations say if we grow the account at a pace of 10980.6 followers a day for the rest of the year we'll make it. Very doable I think?

12.10. Maintain a good working relationship with the Dunedin City Council

I attend the SDAG meetings and maintain a good relationship with Akari from the Economic Development team there. She's going on leave and handing over the role to a new person from late September, so I will have to introduce myself and establish a good person with them!

12.11. Sit on the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) as a member and maintain and fulfil the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding held between Association and NZISA.

NZISA has released a statement about the increasing of visa fees which I believe was a very well written statement. I maintain a great working relationship with Sean, the President of NZISA.

12.12. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have performed the general duties of all Executive Officers, details of which will be under "Part 2: General Duties of All Executive Members.

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

Done!

PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

3. 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.

In this economy?

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;

Not many other activities this quarter I think? I helped out with Market day and Liam bought me a bright yellow hat celebrating the Australian Citizenship ceremony. I am a Japanese citizen, so that was quite a reversal of expectations.

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

It was inappropriate.

3.3. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers attend Executive meetings.

Done!

3.4. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are to be available for national conferences, national and local campaigns, Executive training sessions and Executive planning sessions.

There haven't been any training sessions or local campaigns this semester if I recall correctly.

3.5. All Executive officers shall:

3.5.1. 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;

Done.

3.5.2. 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've been attending rallies organised by students and community members this semester as much as possible too, and have been annoying people nonstop about the Cultural Expo.

3.5.3. Act in accordance with and uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi while exercising their duties;

Same as always, I aim to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all of my work at OUSA because it is one of our core guiding principles in our current strategic plan, but also because I am a visitor/tangata Tiriti in this country and so of course my actions should reflect that.

3.5.4. Where reasonable, attend events hosted by clubs related to historically marginalised demographic groups;

Same as 3.5.2, I have been attending events this semester as much as possible.

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

Yup. I walk to the office every time. (It helps that I do not have a car and I live 10 minutes away.) But yes, I make sure to keep up with climate news and try to support local environmental groups whenever possible by attending their events.

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

I haven't had the opportunity this quarter to do voluntary service, but I definitely will make up for it next quarter.

3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

Done!

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- OUSA Executive
- Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust
- Otago Internationalisation Committee
- Otago Health Science Internationalisation Committee
- Study Dunedin Advisory Board

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

Establishing ongoing “Welcome” volunteering trips at the beginning of Semesters for international students

This goal has unfortunately still taken a back seat this quarter, with the majority of my hours going towards Lecture Recordings, ICE, and running OISA. I still believe the idea has legs, and I am open to exploring the options for this in collaboration with Unicrew as part of a handover for whoever is in this role next year.

Lecture Recording Policy

This has been FANTASTIC. I still can't believe the amount of responses and positive feedback we got from students. I'm very proud of where this quarter has gotten us in terms of impact, outreach and in the context of the timeline of getting this implemented. I hope in the next quarterly report I can confidently say that we succeeded in getting this implemented. But even if not, I am incredibly proud of how far our little team has gotten so far already within less than a

year, given how slowly things work at the university. Super grateful to the student body for actually filling those Vevox links out, and to Stella and Tara (broken record but).

PART FIVE: GENERAL

I've said this in every report but it's true every time, it's really hard to believe that 3/4 of my time here is done already. This role continues to be one of the most rewarding things I've ever put my hand up to do, probably only beaten by deciding to move to Aotearoa in the first place. The lecture recording campaign has been incredible to see through from the very beginning of the year as a campaign promise, to now almost a full policy that we can take to Senate and advocate for. I'm so proud of that.

And I want to give a very special shout out to Esther, the friendliest, loveliest person, possibly of all time. I've loved getting to talk to you every time I come through to the office, and our chats about Japan (specifically tamago sando on multiple occasions) always bring so much joy. I am super excited for your new chapter, and I already know OUSA will miss you, your collection of little dudes on your desk, and your memes in the morning report, dearly.