**Amy Whyman**

**Welfare and Equity Representative**

**1st Quarter Report – 2327 Words**

**Submitted: 15/6/25 2.15pm**

**Part One: Executive Office Position Description Duties**

**10. Duties of the Welfare and Equity Representative**

**10.1. Assume all the powers and duties of the President in the absence of the President, the Administrative Vice-President, the Finance and Strategy Officer and the Academic Representative.**

I have had to take over the Chair role twice in our exec meetings this quarter. Once when discussing the Daniel Leamy Fan Club, and once when discussing the conflict of interest within the Political Representative’s role. In both instances I took over the role as the most impartial party in this line up.

**10.2. Work to address issues affecting marginalised communities of students at the University of Otago, in areas including but not limited to:**

**10.2.1. Academic issues at the University of Otago; and;**

Most of the academic issues that are raised within the University go straight to Stella and she takes them under her wing with impressive speed and diligence. This quarter I have been researching and consulting more within the special consideration and alternative arrangement space. Most notably I meet with the presidents of NDSA to gather their perspectives and recommendations in this area. These policies are being reviewed some time next semester and Stella is on the review panel for these due to the new Disability Action Plan. I will make sure that all this consultation is seen by this panel.

**10.2.2. Social and welfare related issues within the University of Otago and the wider community.**

I have been working on the proposal for mandatory Te Whare Tāwharau training for all tutors and lab demonstrators for most of this quarter. I underestimated the number of people this proposal must go to before being formally presented. But finally it is at a point where it can be brought to the PVC committee for discussion. I have sent it through to the PVC Humanities as he is sponsoring this proposal.

Also, Amy (AVP) and I have been working on a ‘Safe Streets’ resource for students to know the routes to frequented spots like the library, Unipol, town, the supermarkets around Studentville, etc. We have met with the Proctor to gauge the viability of this resource and zoomed with the President of VUWSA as they have already successfully created this resource. Amy has also been corresponding with the Campus cop and DCC so measure their openness to collaboration here. The ideal timeline is have this resource created for Flo week and Orientation 2026 so that all the new students coming to University don’t have to find this information out the hard way.

I have had a couple of privacy issues within the academic sphere raised to me this quarter. Due to their nature I will not expand, but I am mainly a support person and advocate with these issues. It’s been nice to have students’ using this pathway for support and advocacy.

**10.3. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the Association, including, but not limited to:**

**10.3.1. Standing Committee of the Executive; and;**

I have only missed portions of meetings leaving early to go to the Clinical Governance Group and through my slight but habitual lateness.

**10.3.2. Residential Committee.**

So far, there has been one meeting of the Residential Committee and I was there.

**10.4. Where appropriate, brief the President on national and local tertiary sector welfare issues and representing the welfare interests of students on local body committees and boards.**

Liam is much hipper with the local and national news than I am, so he probably knows about them before I do. Any welfare issues that I find within my role I let him know about so we are on the same page.

**10.5. Actively inform the student body of issues relating to their welfare, via publications, promotions and campaigns.**

I have talked to Critic about a couple of projects and campaigns we have been doing this year. However, since most of the work that I’ve been doing this quarter is foundational work that’s University focussed. I am actively consulting student advocates to ensure my projects are informedly speaking to noticed and researched issues rather than just me soapboxing. Once the campaigns we are focusing on this year are brought more to the surface, I will actively inform the student body through key resources like Critic and Radio One to keep them up to date.

**10.6. Maintain a good working relationship with relevant Association staff, including the Student Support Centre Manager, Queer Support Coordinator and Advocates.**

I’ve met with all the relevant Association staff I could think of both through formal and informal meetings and my invitation to meet is always open. I know they are incredible at their jobs, so whenever students email me with welfare issues, I point them in the direction of the relevant OUSA Student Support person/people to make sure they are being adequately supported while the issue in question is being dealt with. They have some brilliant ideas about how to make students’ lives better and it’s great to see that those services are being utilised. Also, I have been snooping on their website over the last quarter often, mainly because they have so many tabs, and they have so many thoughtful resources they have on there from meal plans for students on a budget, study plan charts, to more specific resources like how to change your name and gender markers on official documents. I highly recommend going through and utilizing those resources as much as possible.

**10.6.1. Meet with the Student Support Centre Manager on a regular basis, where possible and liaise with them on relevant welfare issues as they arise.**

I have met with Dwaine a couple times this quarter both about broad ranging and specific issues. We have also sat around the same table at different committee meetings such as Ethical Behaviour Committee, a Dunedin Clean Up Workshop, and the Sophia Charter Hui. As I said before they are fantastic at their jobs over there and Dwaine is no exception.

**10.7. Maintain a good working relationship with community organisations and groups that may provide services to the benefit of student welfare.**

I have met with all the relevant club presidents or clubs I could think of and sent out many an email e-introducing myself and setting up in person meetings with people in the University as much as possible.

**10.8. Facilitate in conjunction with the relevant committee chair a variety of student representation across welfare and equity related University Committees and OUSA Sub-committees.**

I still provide student representation on many committees, both in the University and through OUSA, and have introduced myself to many a different University employee who works in welfare spaces so that when we correspond through email I’m not just a random faceless person. I also ask those around in the bullpen, and Liam, whenever I’m working on specific issues whether they have thoughts on useful channels to escalate issues through within the University.

**10.9. Maintain a good working relationship with the University, particularly with:**

**10.9.1. The Director of Student Services;**

I have met with Claire Gallop both one-on-one and in different committees’ multiple times. She is incredible and very interested in any ways that we can help improve students’ experience at Otago University. Since she is a very busy person, I correspond mostly with Jo Oranje, the Pastoral Care Manager in Claire’s team. She is also fantastic, and deals a lot more closely with the projects I am focusing on this year.

**10.9.2. Student Health Representative;**

I sit on the Clinical Governance Group with Margaret Charles, and attend the monthly Student Health Focus Groups. Both groups help me understand both how Student Health perceives students and their issues, and how students interact with Student Health about their issues. I continue to meaningfully contribute whenever I can about issues facing students.

**10.9.3. Disability Information Services;**

I have met with Melissa Lethaby once so far and discussed the barriers facing students currently. She is very enthusiastic about the review of the Special Considerations policy review, and I will meet with her again after this exam period is done to understand any specific areas that need to be focussed on within that review.

**10.9.4. UniQ;**

I have met with UniQ a couple of times this quarter. They are very enthusiastic about all the projects I have mentioned to them that we are trying to focus on at OUSA. From my understanding their MOU is still in the works, but that does not stop us from continuing to offer our support and continue to act as advocates in that space. Also, I went to their SGM and am very glad they now have a full Executive! Also also, they have a representative on the Welfare Committee so I will be in much more regular contact with them next semester once that meets regularly.

**10.9.5. Te Whare Tāwharau;**

I have met with Te Whare Tāwharau multiple times this quarter, both to see broadly any plans they have this year within the sexual harm prevention and advocacy space, and consulting with them about the mandatory Te Whare Tāwharau training for all tutors and demonstrators. Their work is so important for students both proactively and reactively, and to have this training implemented would be another step towards student safety.

**10.9.6. Thursdays in Black;**

I’ve met with Ella and Celia multiple times, and their knowledge and passion is outstanding. They are fabulous to collaborate with both in the feminism advocate space broadly and specifically dealing with sexual harm prevention and reduction. I’m also in the Thursdays in Black Otago groupchat, and they are all so switched on when it comes to current events and ways to engage with their students.

**10.9.7. Chaplaincy Board; and;**

I attend the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board monthly, bar last month as I had clashing meetings, and really enjoy interacting with those on the Board and the Chaplains. The more I interact with them the more I appreciate the way they interact and support students. They are a very genuine and positive group of people.

**10.9.8. Any other Welfare and Equity related organisations.**

This quarter, on top of sitting on my regular committees, I have been part of the Sophia Charter Hui and a North Dunedin Clean Ups Workshop. The Sophia Charter Hui dealt with the implementation of 5 different student welfare workstreams through local and national organizations. The Clean Up Workshop was a collaboration between many different staff and student groups within the University, discussing and brainstorming different ways to engage students in the Castle Street clean ups and make sure our streets stay clean all year round.

**10.10. Maintain a good working relationship with Clubs and Societies Representative to collaborate on welfare issues and opportunities regarding clubs**

Deborah is also a machine when it comes to her work. It’s been a pleasure to work with her so far this year. Our work so far has not overlapped much if at all, so I have not had a chance to collaborate with her.

**10.11. Be available via cell phone at all practical times.**

My number is not readily available externally, but it is internally and if anything warrants giving my phone number out I would be happy to do so. I am always reachable vie email.

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

Discussed in Part Two.

**10.13. Where practical, work not less than twenty hours per week.**

As of right now, I am sitting at an average of 18.1 hours a week for this quarter. I understand this is lower than 20. My average over the year has increased massively. Over the quarter my working hours have ranged from 17-21 consistently. Within the last month I have been dealing with a major increase in school workload, exam study, and also during this time I was tending to some intense family issues both within mine and my partner’s families. I will continue to work at increasing that average to above 20 hours throughout the rest of the year.

**Part Two: General Duties of All Executive Officers**

**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.**

Understood.

**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 took part in manning the OUSA Executive booth for the Tertiary Open Days and the Lost and Found booth at one of the Market Days.

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

I have not had to assist with elections or referenda work more than that seen by the entire executive. I am happy to do so whenever necessary.

**3.3. It is expected that Executive Officers attend Executive meetings.**

See 10.3.1.

**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.**

I make myself available as much as possible when these things are done. This year we participated in a HYBRID training session with Te Whare Tāwharau which was great. They said we were one of their most engaged groups.

**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;**

I still sit on FESC and, although I have had to miss a few meetings due to clashes with classes, I am up to date with all that is brought there. I still have not spent any OUSA money but if I do I will make sure it’s in the budget.

**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 will always make sure that what I am advocating for is truly that which supports those who need it and is improving the student experience. I have an ongoing commitment to come into every situation brought to me with an open mind and to learn. Whenever there are experiences that I cannot speak to or I am not the best person for that question, I try to reorient them to people who can speak to the issue with more knowledge or experience or make a comment after gaining permission and consulting the student population. For this and other reasons, I look forward to having ongoing relationship with UniQ, TiB, NDSA, and other groups and leaders within our community here to help advocate for historically marginalised communities.

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

I will continue to learn about Te Tiriti o Waitangi and try to uphold those values as best as possible within my everyday life both in and outside of this role. It is also important to note that I would never try to overshadow any advocate who whakapapa Māori and if a conversation at a committee or board level, I would redirect them to our co-tumuaki Ngātiki and Porourangi.

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

This quarter I have been to many of Thursdays in Black’s stalls, and attended the UniQ SGM. Any events that I am made aware of or am invited to I will try to attend.

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

I am very aware of sustainability issues both personally and within our community. The more I learn about my role the more I will try and implement sustainable practices into the way OUSA runs.

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

This quarter I attended the entirety of the Relay for Life, I then slept the whole next day. I regularly donate blood, and have started volunteering at the Dunedin Curtain Bank. If you’re a student and have bad quality curtains in your house, you can apply to them to get *free* good quality curtains to put in your flat. It has become a highlight of my week going there, and I didn’t realize how much of an arm workout it would be.

**3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.**

Still love emails, still answer them as fast as I can while being comprehensive with my answers.

**Part Three: Attendance and Involvement in OUSA and University Committees**

I am in: Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board, Vice Chancellor Staff and Student Advisory Group, Ethical Behaviour Committee, Clinical Governance Group, Equity Advisory Group, and Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Consultative Body. I have also been added to the Te Kokeka Whakamua Implementation Advisory Group, the Student Portal PCG, and recently a working group to review the University Family-Friendly Policies. I have met with the Student Portal PCG multiple times, and will be an active member of the other two once they start running.

Within OUSA I am part of the residential committee, FESC, and the Chair of the Welfare Committee. I have finally gone through the process of updating the Welfare Committee Terms of Reference so it can run the way we want it to now. However, due to poor timing on my part, it was finally able to run right before exams started. We will meet after the semester starts back up.

**Part Four: Goals and Progress**

Updates on my goals from last quarter:

1. Te Whare Tāwharau training for tutors and lab demonstrators

That proposal is going well. Discussed in 10.2.2.

1. A more accessible policy for special consideration, special arrangements and extensions for those with chronic illnesses and disabilities on campus

I’ve met with quite a few different people about this issue, and it is known by student support services around University to be an issue. I’ve consulted it with Melissa Lethaby from DIS and the Presidents of NDSA and gathered their thoughts and recommendations on the issues. As stated in 10.2.1, there is a panel reviewing these policies this year and I will make sure that these recommendations are heard by that panel.

1. Creating legitimacy for the Sub-Warden Committee this year that stays long term

This goal has shifted slightly from the start of this year. Liam, Callum, and I are organizing a campaign to shift the view of the subwarden role from the University to be more sustainable. This involves putting the actual, in depth scope of the subwarden role in the public eye. This is hopefully to do two things. To expose students who want to do this role to exactly what they would be getting themselves into, and to show the University that the way this role functions is not sustainable long term.

At this point, there are 5 subwardens I have reached out to who are on this committee. If you are a kaiāwhina whare or know of one that would want to be in this committee, please let me know.

**Part Five: General**

Still happy to be here. If you ever need help, please reach out.