Q2 2025 Political Representative Report

Jett Shun Groshinski

Political Representative

Submitted: 16/06/25

Essential: 1660

Total: 2,088

1. **General Duties of all Executive Officers**
	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.**

Yes

* 1. **Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are expected to assist as volunteers for OUSA events and functions, including, but not limited to:**

Yes.

1.2.1. **Assisting at the OUSA Tent City and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation; and;**

Not relevant to Q2.

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

Attended executive meetings about referenda and made sure to give input on relevant questions.

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

Attended nearly all executive meetings except when sick or dealing with bereavement. Always on time too! Note: Liam has gotten better with not being late this quarter.

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

Attended a Te Whare Tāwharau session and a exec strategy and training session.

 1.5. **All Executive officers shall:**

1.5.1. **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;**

Whilst being a part of FESC it has been exciting to be fully kept up to date with the financials of OUSA and if I ever have any questions Daniel is happy to answer or give his insights.

1.5.2. **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 have continued to keep educating myself on historically marginalised communities. I have often tried to engage by talking to local community groups in Dunedin. I continue to seek out resources such as articles and forums to learn more. I have engaged in helping some groups on campus through helping them with submissions workshops where relevant. I continue to aim to ensure that my actions reflect a genuine understanding of inclusivity and support for all students.

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

Yes, I am currently working on a submission with Josh the postgrad rep on highlighting how the Regulatory Standards Bill does not align with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and am emphasizing how these could again negatively affect the rights of New Zealander’s.

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

Throughout this quarter I have been meaning to go to events hosted by Te Rōpū Māori and UOPISA but unfortunately, I have continued to not have the time.

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

I’ve made sure to keep up to date on environmental issues both in our local community and nationally.

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

Yes! I volunteered as the Trustee on the Dunedin Midwinter Carnival Trust and Vice-President of New Zealand Young Labour.

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

I have been alright with checking and responding to communications but did definitely forget about a couple of emails and came back to them far too late. My apologies out to all those who got a late response from me.

2. **Duties of the Political Representative**

2.1. **13.1. Write a variety of submissions on behalf of the Association, including, but not limited to:**

I’ve spent this quarter writing submissions relevant to the Taxation of Charities, Safety Improvements on State Highway 1, ORC Public Transport Plan, DCC 9 Year Plan and am currently working on a Regulatory Standards Bill Submission.

2.1.1. **13.1.1. Student Related Local and national government documents:**

2.1.1.1. **Parliamentary bills;**

Currently working on Regulatory Standards Bill Submission.

 2.1.1.2. **Government projects/proposals;**

Submitted to IRD our thoughts on the Taxation of Charities proposal as well as Safety Improvements to SH1 to NZTA.

 2.1.1.3. **Referenda;**  None this quarter.

 2.1.1.4. **Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and;**  I submitted a written submission on the DCC 9 year plan and spoke to it with Liam at DCC chambers.

 2.1.1.5. **Otago Regional Council Annual Plan;**  I submitted a written submission on the ORC Regional Public Transport Plan and spoke to it at ORC chambers.

 2.1.1.6. **Otago Regional Council projects/proposals; and;**

No other proposals.

 2.1.1.7. **University of Otago reports, reviews, and consultative documents.**

Discussed with Liam the Entertainment review Submission to the University.

 2.2. **Submissions outlined in 13.1 must be:**

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

YES!

2.2.2. **Written, where relevant, in conjunction with the Executive Officer whose role relates to the topic of the submission;** Yes, discussed these with the Political Action Committee. There were lots of discussions on the DCC 9 Year Plan and ORC Regional Public Transport Plan.

2.2.3. **Where relevant, with input from Executive sub-committees which relate to the topic of the submission;**

I have taken feedback from both the Political Action Committee and the Executive on the submissions.

2.2.4. **Approved by the Executive before the submission is submitted; and;**

Yes I have made sure that the executive have approved the submissions before submitting however I have brought these to the executive late before SORRY!

 2.2.5. **Relevant to the strategic plan.**

Yes, while reading over the strategic plan, I believe that the submissions that I have submitted have the values of ‘advocacy and principles of ‘Te Tiriti o Waitangi’, furthering ‘student voice and advocacy’ as well as ‘student experience.’

2.2.6. **Written in conjunction with NZUSA, where relevant and appropriate.**

No, confused on the current status of ATSA.

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

I’m part of the Finance Expenditure and Strategy Committee and it continues to be really interesting to learn about the finances of OUSA.

 2.3.1. **Political Action Committee.**

Yes, submissions have been discussed with the Political Action Committee.

2.4. **Where relevant, assist other Otago student groups and members of the Association in writing submissions and support the student body and Clubs and Societies in political action at the Political Representative's discretion.**

I have been to a Pride in Law and UniQ submissions writing workshop to help them with the process of writing submissions as well as giving them some general advice.

2.5. **Chair meetings of the Political Action 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.**

Due to my conflict of interest with now being a candidate in the Dunedin City Council elections I have stepped down as Chair of Political Action Committee and this has been passed onto Daniel Leamy. Whilst I was running the committee I did make sure to keep committee members advised of meeting times and that the agenda was prepared and circulated.

2.6. **Take direction from the Political Action Committee on matters of local and national government.**

Whilst writing submissions I have taken on advice of the Political Action Committee on this.

2.7. **Work in conjunction with the President and the Finance and Strategy Officer to raise student issues and lobby for improved outcomes on student issues with, including, but not limited to:**

Yes, been having regular meetings with Liam and sometimes Daniel to discuss what we can do to improve the outcomes on student issues.

 2.7.1. **Ministers of Parliament;**

I am planning on writing letters to key officials within both the government and opposition about issues that are affecting students. I have had a good conversation with Tamatha Paul who is wanting to collaborate on some campaigns through OUSA.

 2.7.2. **Local government officials;**

I have had meetings with Francisco Hernandez, Christine Garey and Elliot Weir this last quarter.

 2.7.3. **Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;**

I have had the opportunity to meet with Jill Day President of Labour and Ethan Reile President of Young Labour.

 2.7.4. **Relevant figures at the University of Otago.**

I have had meetings with Janine Hayward and Polsa over how OUSA can run a strong local body elections campaign.

2.8. **Hold consultative student meetings to gain feedback on submissions and to inform the Executive.**

Not done this so far.

2.9. **Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative VicePresident, proactively bringing issues of relevance to their attention, meeting on a regular basis.**

My relationship with Amy, the AVP continues to be good. We continue to meet on a fortnightly basis.

 2.10. **In an election year coordinate politics week and election campaigns.**

Due to my conflict of interest with running a Dunedin City Council campaign it was agreed that I would step down as lead from the Local Body Elections Campaign, I will continue to give advice on insights if required but taking a step back from it.

2.11. **Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.**  Yes

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

My average weekly hours for this quarter were 10.22. There have been some higher weeks and lower weeks but on average I have been practically right on.

3. **Attendance and Involvement in OUSA and University Committees**

 3.1. **OUSA**

 3.1.1. **Political Action Committee**

I have been Chair of this committee this semester but have now stepped down. I will continue to be involved in the committee as a general member.

 3.1.2. **Finances, Expenditure and Strategy Committee**

Yes, so far I have been to every FESC meeting and it continues to be an insightful experience.

 3.2. **University**

 3.2.1. **Information Management Governance Committee**

I have now taken over Daniels spot on the Information Management Governance Committee and am looking forward to going to my first meeting of it on the 15th of July.

4. **Goals and Progress – Not essential reading**

This quarter has been a defining one for me. After announcing my candidacy for Dunedin City Council, the Executive developed and agreed to a conflict of interest plan. Although there was some debate, I am grateful for the willingness of the Executive to put clear safeguards in place. This allows me to continue serving as Political Representative with transparency and accountability. I have stepped down from chairing the Political Action Committee and from leading the Local Body Elections campaign. However, I remain available to support initiatives if needed.

My main focus this quarter has been on cost-of-living pressures and housing. These are major issues for students, and I have continued to advocate for long-term solutions. I wrote and presented submissions on the DCC 9 Year Plan, the ORC Regional Public Transport Plan, Inland Revenue’s review of charity taxation, and Waka Kotahi’s safety upgrades to SH1. I also worked closely with the Political Action Committee and other members of the Executive to ensure that student voices were reflected in these submissions. I am currently co-authoring a submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill with the Postgraduate Representative, with a focus on the implications for Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Beyond submissions, I have been working to build stronger relationships with local councillors, national party leaders, and university stakeholders. These connections help amplify our advocacy and ensure that student issues are heard by decision-makers. I also supported student clubs by helping with submission-writing workshops, including sessions with UniQ and Pride in Law.

I have continued to fulfil my general Executive duties. I attended nearly every Executive meeting, with a couple of absences due to bereavement and illness. I also participated in a strategy session and Te Whare Tāwharau training, volunteered through my roles with the Dunedin Midwinter Carnival Trust and Young Labour, and attended every Finance, Expenditure and Strategy Committee meeting. I have recently taken up a new position on the University’s Information Management Governance Committee.

One area for improvement is my attendance at events hosted by historically marginalised groups. I had hoped to attend events run by Te Rōpū Māori and UOPISA this quarter but did not manage to. This is something I intend to prioritise moving forward. I also acknowledge that I was late to respond to some emails and have been working on being more timely with communication.

This quarter has involved navigating new responsibilities, facing public scrutiny, and balancing commitments. I am proud of what has been accomplished so far and remain committed to serving students with integrity and focus.