



UOPISA

University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association

President of the University of Otago Pacific Island Students' Association

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2nd Quarterly Report 2025

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Part 1: Executive Officer position Description Duties

1.1 The University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association President shall be a voting ex-officio member of the OUSA Executive

Yes! I have voted in all the meetings I have attended.

1.2 The duties of the University of Otago Pacific Islands Students Association President are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Otago University Students' Association and the University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association (UOPISA)

The MoU between OUSA and UOPISA has been passed. Shout out to Daniel who helped me get this done quicker than usual and to Liam for adding more practical clauses!

1.3 Where practical, perform the general duties of all Executive Officers

See in Part 2.

Part 1: Continued

The President is the primary elected representative of members of UOPISA. The President will lead UOPISA in fulfilling its core functions and achieving its goals.

1.1 Main spokesperson or representative for UOPISA

I have represented UOPISA at events such as:

- I. Attended and spoke at Taimane (Pacific Academic Mentoring Programme)

- II. Meetings with Hon Grant Robertson, Vice-Chancellor
- III. Pacific Graduation Breakfast
- IV. Meetings with Garret George – Pacific Trust Otago
- V. Meet and Greet with Professor Tim Cooper – Dean of Teaching and Learning and Chair of CALT
- VI. Committee for the Advanced Learning and Teaching (CALT)
- VII. Monthly meetings with Jo Oranje – Manager of Student Support Services
- VIII. Dunedin Campus Activation Review Panel
- IX. Student Space Strategy - Pacific Student Meeting and created the Student Focus Group.
- X. UOPISA Presidents' Standing Committee Meetings
- XI. OUSA Constitutional Review Committee Meetings
- XII. OUSA PolCom Committee Meetings
- XIII. Monthly meetings with University of Otago Pacific Leadership Group (PLG)
- XIV. Senate

Member Association Events

- XV. Chaired and attended the Melanesian Students' Association SGM and Welcome.
- XVI. Attended the Samoan Students' Association welcome and represented UOPISA in their ava ceremony.
- XVII. Attended the Pacific Biomedical Students Association Welcome
- XVIII. Attended the Pacific Humanities Students Association Welcome.
- XIX. Attended the Pacific Island Commerce Students Welcome
- XX. Attended the Otago Tongan Students Association Welcome
- XXI. Attended the Fijian Students Association Welcome and SGM
- XXII. Attended the Pacific Island Law Students' Association Camp
- XXIII. Hosted the annual UOPISA Leadership Weekend.
- XXIV. Attended the inaugural IGM of the Tokelauan Students' Association

1.2 Chair and convener of executive and general meetings

I have chaired all UOPISA meetings and Presidents' Standing Committee.

1.3 Chief Representative and responsible for all internal and external relations

This quarter it was a goal of mine to be as accessible as I could. Facebook Messenger > Emails. Pacific Presidents are able to just text me if they need anything, it has made liaising easier and made me more accountable. How sustainable is this though? Not sure, but it's working so I'll keep doing it.

1.4 To establish and maintain our relationship with OUSA, Te Rōpū Māori and the University, where appropriate

The OUSA Executive has been an awesome group to work alongside. Everyone brings different views and approaches which can lead to challenging discussions but it always makes for robust and honest meetings. Liam has also

been great to work with. I don't hesitate to push when UOPISA needs something, and to his credit, he handles it with understanding despite his insane workload. His support has made my job easier.

Ngātiki and Pou have been equally great. Their workloads are just as hectic but they're always responsive, understanding and always keen to grab lunch (see you next week Pou). The TRM x UOPISA Night market was a cool example for what our rōpū can achieve when our communities come together.

1.5 Establish and maintain relationships with external/internal stakeholders where appropriate

- i. Professor Dianne Sika-Paotonu (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Pacific)
- ii. Tagiilima Feleti (Manager of Pacific Islands Centre)
- iii. Dr. Edmond Fehoko (Associate Dean Pacific Division of Sciences)
- iv. Dr. Michelle Schaaf (Associate Dean Pacific Division of Humanities)
- v. Dr. Rose Richards (Deputy Director of the Va'a o Tautai in the Division of Health Sciences)
- vi. Jo Oranje (Manager, Student Pastoral Care)
- vii. Garret George (Pacific Trust Otago)
- viii. Esmay Lemalu-Eteuati (Associate Dean, Commerce)
- ix. Tautaiolefue Bradley Watson (Deputy Warden, Selwyn College)
- x. Lupeti Finau (Volunteer Service Abroad)

Member Associations <3

- xi. Biomedical Otago Pacific Island Students' Association
- xii. Humanities Otago Pacific Island Students' Association
- xiii. Otago Cook Island Students' Association
- xiv. Otago Fijian Students' Association
- xv. Otago Kiribati Students' Association
- xvi. Otago Melanesian Island Students' Association
- xvii. Otago Niuean Students' Association
- xviii. Otago Samoan Students' Association
- xix. Otago Tongan Students' Association
- xx. Pacific Island Health Professional Students' Association
- xxi. Pacific Island Law Students' Association
- xxii. Otago Pacific Island Commerce Students' Association
- xxiii. Science Students' Pacific Island Association

Part 2: General Duties of All Executive Members

2.1 The appointed for all OUSA Executive officers shall commence from the 1st of January and will terminate on the 31st of December of that same year

Still in progress.

2.2.1 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 have been able to attend most OUSA meetings this quarter. Meetings that I couldn't attend either overlapped with UOPISA related meetings or I came down with a gross cold ☺. I attended Te Whare Tāwharau training session which was awesome and I'm looking forward to the cultural intelligence workshops next semester.

2.2.2 Assisting with elections and reference where appropriate

N/A.

2.3 All Executive officers shall:

2.3.1 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;

N/A

2.3.2 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;

As someone who prides themselves on being a know it all I've realised that it is also important to understand the experiences of my own people. I want to make sure that UOPISA makes an active effort to welcome those who sit at intersections, notably queer Pacific students. Next semester I hope to meet with some queer Pacific Students and Leaders to see how the University can adequately provide intersectional pastoral care.

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

Not a stranger to this but looking forward to actively contributing to this through UOPISA's Pacific Week next semester.

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

Again, my role encompasses this already which I'm super grateful for. Not 'voluntary service' technically, but I love my job as a youth worker and if I'm not doing UOPISA or uni work you will catch me

there. I think I contribute more to my local community in that respect.

2.3.5 Regularly check and respond to all communications

I still think I'm pretty good at this although I've chilled out in this aspect in the latter part of this quarter because looking at my phone every 5 seconds is not normal apparently.

Part 3: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

1. Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CALT)
2. OUSA Executive
3. PLG (Student Representative)
4. Senate
5. UOPISA Presidents' Standing Committee
6. OUSA Constitutional Review Committee
7. OUSA Political Action Committee

Committees yet to begin:

8. University of Otago Blues and Golds Panel

Committees delegated to UOPISA Executive members:

9. Distance Learning Advisory Board
10. OUSA Academic Committee
11. OUSA Residential Committee

I'm sure there is more I have missed so apologies in advance!!

Part 4: Goals and your Progress

1. Building meaningful relationships with associations

I think I have accomplished this to an extent. I've now had the time to get to know association members and their Presidents on a more personal level and I love when I get a message just for them to catch up and rant about student politics. I hope they trust me as much as I trust them to carry out their roles. It's tough gig and I need to make sure they feel supported. Next quarter I hope I can transfer this trust from me to UOPISA as an association.

2. Establishing a space for UOPISA

I feel like the term 'UOPISA Fale' is synonymous with UOPISA at least for staff anyway. Every second meeting there is a staff member asking whether we have a Fale yet. Short answer, no. Long answer, it is in the University's hands now. We have a temporary space in IBS (G.E 18). It's a shared space with Career Development. This quarter it has mainly been used for association members

meetings, emergency room bookings for associations and UOPISA meetings. This semester break my team is working on making it feel like a Pacific space and opening it up to students next semester. The Pacific Islands Centre has offered to pay for the rent which I am incredibly grateful for. Although there is no furniture and the walls are blank, I'm glad my team finally has something to work with.

As for the Fale, Campus Development is waiting for an ideal space to make itself available. Planning the future of the campus is underway at the university and now it's my job to ensure the long term goal of a UOPISA Fale does not go away with time.

3. Gather advocacy priorities and lobby

So here's what's annoying, there are no 'radical' changes or proposals associations have been concerned about. At most, they are initiatives implemented in other universities such as Pacific Law Pathways, or associations asking for bare minimum staff support in their respective academic disciplines. I have met with the Pacific Island Law Students Association to give them context as to what UOPISA has done in the past (because this has been lobbied for in past years).

I have talked to some academic associations who have brought concerns to light about having little to no staff support despite having Pacific liaisons. I have voiced these concerns to Student Support Services and Jo Oranje who has been great help to me in terms of where to start in tackling all this. There is so much work to do here but next semester and I hope to take a more forward approach in ensuring our Pacific students have the support they don't just need, but deserve.

Next semester I want to coordinate a more structured approach to this across all Pacific associations. Looking ahead I want to compile a formal document outlining the recurring and systemic challenges our Pacific student leaders face at the University. The purpose of this will be to provide clarity to the reality our Pacific students and Pacific student leaders face. I also hope that it will serve as a tool for future UOPISA Executives to build on, rather than repeat the work already done.

4. More UOPISA Events

Watch this space in Sem 2!

Part 5: General

Being the President of anything is hard and this role is no different, in saying that I genuinely wouldn't trade it for anything except for a UOPISA Fale and greater support for Pacific students 😊.

Thank you to my Executive who are so independent and great and spectacular and all things good in the world.

Also thank you Donna you are so awesome and understanding. Let me know if you are willing to take a 100% pay cut to work with UOPISA.