

Q4 2025 Political Representative Report

Jett Shun Groshinski

Political Representative

Submitted: 15/11/25

Essential: 1290

Total: 1,925

1. General Duties of all Executive Officers

1.1. 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

1.2. 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;

N/A

1.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

N/A

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

Attended most executive meetings but had multiple people around me pass away which factored into not attending some meetings.

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.

N/A

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 I was in FESC it had been interesting keeping up with all the financial decisions within OUSA. I have been keeping up to date with the expenditure when they have come to the executive meetings.

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 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;

Whilst acting in any capacity I have made sure all work is upheld with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and have enrolled in a Maori language program for 2026.

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

Throughout this quarter I attended and helped out with the Te Ropu Maori BBQ for Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori.

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 including meeting with local organisers and protestors within the 350 Aotearoa organisation.

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 Treasurer of Southern Young Labour.

1.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

I have been alright with checking and responding to communications.

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 have finished writing up a submission on the university's new Ethical Procurement Policy. I have also helped coach Josh on the vote for the Albany St submission.

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

2.1.1.1. Parliamentary bills;

None this quarter

2.1.1.2. Government projects/proposals;

None this quarter.

2.1.1.3. **Referenda;**

None this quarter.

2.1.1.4. **Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and;**

Done last quarter.

2.1.1.5. **Otago Regional Council Annual Plan;**

Done last quarter.

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.**

Written the Ethical Procurement Policy Submission.

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;

Political Action Committee has continued to be inactive and haven't had the chance to take the submission to Political Action Committee.

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

N/A

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

Not applicable. This submission was not an official OUSA Executive submission, so Executive approval was not required.

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, continue to be confused on the current status of ATSA.

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

Yes

2.3.1. Political Action Committee.

Yes, have continued to go to Political Action Committee this quarter.

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.

Have been to protests with Otago Students Justice for Palestine and been in touch with several political groups.

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.

I am not Chair of Political Action Committee anymore.

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 when the meetings lined up with submissions in question. Unfortunately they haven't lined up this quarter.

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 weekly meetings with Liam to discuss what we can do to improve the outcomes on student issues.

2.7.1. Ministers of Parliament;

I have written letters to key officials within both the government and opposition about issues that are affecting students.

2.7.2. Local government officials;

I have had meetings with Christine Garey and Ingrid Leary, this last quarter.

2.7.3. Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;

None this quarter.

2.7.4. Relevant figures at the University of Otago.

I have had meetings with my mentor Megan Gibbons as well as David Jenkins, Lisa Ellis, Brandon Johnstone, Brian Roper and a few staff from Otago Staff 4 Palestine.

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

Mostly this has been done by meeting up with students who would like to give feedback on issues and then I work with them to draft the submission.

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

Amy and I no longer meet on a regular 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 7.5. Overall down but most things have begun wrapping up for the year.

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 last semester but have stepped down. I am involved in the committee as a general member.

3.2. University

3.2.1. Information Management Governance Committee

I have continued to be involved in this committee and have also had a personal catchup to discuss what they are looking for.

3.2.2. Web Transformation Group

I have got involved in a new committee which has been doing interesting work in the new Otago Website!

4. Year in Review – Not essential reading

This year has been one of the most unexpected, challenging, and transformative periods of my life. When I stepped into the role of Political Representative, I had a vision of what the year might look like, the work I hoped to achieve, and the kind of executive culture I wanted to help foster. The reality ended up being far more complicated and unpredictable than anything I had imagined. Did I think everything would unfold the way it did? Not at all. There were moments I never anticipated, both good and difficult, and I have had to grow through each of them in ways that stretched me personally and politically.

A big part of reflecting honestly on the year is accepting that while I stand by the principles behind the decisions I made, there are definitely things I could have approached differently. There were times when I could have communicated more clearly, worked more collaboratively, or handled conflict with greater patience and care. I recognise that, and I genuinely apologise for the ways I fell short. Even so, I am proud that I acted with the intention of representing students and upholding what I believed was right at the time. The lessons I have taken from these experiences have been significant, and they have shaped my understanding of leadership and accountability.

Among the challenges, there have also been real highlights that I am proud of and will remember for a long time. Getting the Albany Street Project across the line was a huge achievement, not just for me but for the students who have advocated for better active transport and safer campus routes for years. Working on the Treaty Principles Bill and contributing to the debate around the Regulatory Standards Bill were important milestones. Even though the Regulatory Standards Bill ultimately passed its third reading, being part of that process and amplifying student voices in national discussions remains meaningful to me. These moments reminded me why advocacy matters and why student representation has impact far beyond campus boundaries.

If there is one thing I will carry most from this year, it is the sense that something was re-energised within the Otago student community. I genuinely believe there was a spark this year that had not been seen in more than a decade. Students were engaged, passionate, and willing to stand up for issues that mattered to them. Being part of that wider movement, whether through submissions, protests, campaigns, or community organising, has been an honour. Seeing students reclaim their voice in such a powerful way is something I will always look back on with pride.

As I finish my time on the Executive, I want to say how much I truly wish every member of this year's team the very best for the future. Despite everything, I have a deep respect for the work people put in and the intentions behind it. I also wish the incoming Executive the best of luck as they take on the role of representing students in another pivotal year. OUSA will always hold a special place in my heart, not only as a workplace but as a community that challenged me, shaped me, and gave me the chance to serve.

