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Academic Representative

Second Quarter Report 2026

Submitted 13th September 2026 at 9.15PM

1439 Words

Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties

9.1. Assume all the powers and duties of the President in the absence of the President, the Administrative Vice-President and the Finance and Strategy Officer.

I did not assume the power of the President this quarter.

9.2. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the OUSA, including, but not limited to:

9.2.1. Standing Committee of the Executive; and;

Yes

9.2.2. Academic Committee.

Yes

9.3. Chair monthly meetings of the Academic Committee, ensuring that all committee members are advised of meeting times, that the agenda is prepared and circulated beforehand and that the standing orders of the committee are adhered to.

Was not needed this semester due to increased engagement with Student Voice (there are Student Rep focus groups right now who are doing epic work around Aoroa and the DLE developments, and I want to change the Academic Committee Policy to incorporate the student rep groups more heavily).

9.4. Take direction from the Academic Committee on all educational matters relevant to the Association and its members.

Yes.

9.5. Where reasonable, ensure that different representatives of student educational issues are present on the Academic Committee.

Yes.

9.6. Be one of the Association's representatives on;

9.6.1. University of Otago Senate;

Yes.

9.6.2. University of Otago Board of Undergraduate Studies; and;

Yes – this is now the Academic Committee.

9.6.3. Other University committees, boards, advisory groups and working parties as appointed by the Executive.

Yes, I am.

9.7. Where appropriate, facilitate a variety of student representation on academic related University Committees and Divisional Boards.

Yes.

9.8. Where appropriate, brief the President on national and local tertiary sector educational issues and represent the educational interests of students on local body committees and boards.

Yes.

9.9. Facilitate and provide feedback and consultation for academic proforma.

Yes. So much. Always.

9.10. Actively inform the student body of issues relating to their education, via publications, promotions, and campaigns.

Yes.

9.11. Maintain a good working relationship with relevant Association staff, including the Class Representative Coordinator, and liaise with them on relevant educational issues as they arise.

Yes, I do.

9.12. Act as the Executive's representative to the Class Representative System and assist in their promotion.

Yes.

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

9.13.1. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic);

Yes.

9.13.2. The Director of Summer School;

Have not yet met.

9.13.3. The Director of Academic Integrity;

We have a good working relationship.

9.13.4. The Divisional Associate Dean Academics;

I see them regularly in meetings.

9.13.5. The Director of Distance Learning; and;

Yes.

9.13.6. Dean of Learning and Teaching.

Yes!

9.14. Establish a good working relationship and communication with academically orientated clubs or societies, liaising with the Clubs and Societies Representative as and where needed.

Yes.

9.15. Maintain a good working relationship with the Postgraduate Representative, to facilitate communication and collaboration as necessary, across undergraduate and postgraduate academic matters.

Yes.

9.16. Be available via cell phone at all practical times.

Yes.

9.17. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I believe I do.

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

I worked an average of 21.75 hours this quarter.

Part Two: General Duties of All Executive Members

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.

Yessir.

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

My love for yap has not disappeared. I love doing this and being amongst so have helped out where and when I can – this sem it was just SGM bbq and Candidates Debate.

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

Yes! But I was sick this Market Day!!

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

Yes.

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

Yes. I think I missed one meeting due to illness, and one meeting I had to zoom into as I was in Tauranga,

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.

N/A

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;

Yes.

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,

Yes. All the time.

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

I always do my best to uphold Te Tiriti in my duties as a member of the OUSA Exec.

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

Yes – again I love to yap.

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

I still don't own a car. I still love Orbus. I still bus everywhere.

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

Can I count my DoC collabs in this? I do forest and bird work where I can!

3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

Yes.

Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

1. OUSA Exec
2. OUSA Standing Committee
3. OUSA Academic Committee
4. Senate
5. Academic Committee
6. Sciences Divisional Academic Board

7. Standing Committee for the Sciences Divisional Academic Board
8. Quality Advancement Committee
9. Digital Learning Environment Project Steering Committee
10. Committee for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching
11. Advisory Committee on Student Advising
12. Teaching Excellence Awards Panel
13. Assessment Policy Working Group
14. AI Literacy Working Group

Part Four: Goals and your Progress

Changes to the University Assessment Policy

Progress on the assessment policy has moved from drafting into review: the redrafted policy is now with senior leadership ahead of going to Senate. The AI component of this work remains the hardest to move. There is still no clear direction from central government on how AI use should be handled across the sector, and that absence of guidance continues to limit what can be settled at an institutional level. The survey responses gathered from students last semester have been suuuuper valuable here so thank you to everyone who has given their thoughts. This student feedback is now feeding into the Academic Integrity Policy and other academic policies that are being developed behind the scenes now that the assessment policy itself has moved past drafting stage.

Alongside this, I have been working this quarter to strengthen the link between student feedback and this role, by making fuller use of the Student Voice system, drawing on student and faculty representatives to gather information and to keep a read on sentiment across the wider student body. This has, in turn, led me to look at rewriting Academic Committee Policy so that the Student Voice system is constitutionally built into how this relationship and flow of information is maintained, rather than being up to the discretion of whoever is in this role.

Other

A major focus this quarter has been the proposal to split the Academic Representative role, with particular attention to continuity and governance of the executive. This work reached a written constitution stage but has not progressed past the Special General Meeting.

A significant amount of my time has also gone into reviewing the Lecture Recording Policy and how it is being implemented across the University, looking at what improvements can be made and how students are actually experiencing it. Out of this has come a draft "Catch-up Policy" to capture teaching formats that go unrecorded, though this can only really move forward alongside improved attendance data, and I haven't yet landed on how to make the case for higher attendance. (If you're reading this and skipping lectures when you really can make them - GO TO THOSE LECTURES I'M BEGGING.)

The role split, the Lecture Recording Policy review, and the Catch-up Policy are all ongoing. Next quarter, my focus will shift mainly to the attendance question and the Catch-up Policy work that depends on it, alongside continuing the various AI-related projects already underway.

Part Five: General

Nothing more from me :)