

Q3 2026 Political Representative Report

Flynn Nisbett

Political Representative

Submitted: 14/09/2026

Essential: 1494

Total:

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.

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

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

Not relevant to quarter three.

1.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

Major election debates have been completed, with over 300 students attending the OUSA 'Leaders' Debate – making it the largest OUSA event in at least 11 years (woohoo!). The electorate debate had (slightly) less people, however still had a great showcase of ideas and personalities. Over 500 students have been enrolled to vote by OUSA, but we are losing to VUWSA which is okay given they have an Engagement VP AND a Campaigns Officer.

We have also had the two largest student protests since the 1990s making fees an election issue, and this momentum is continuing on throughout the third quarter. Keeping on keeping on with enrolments, trying to get around halls and uni clubs to encourage civic participation, as well as the right to protest and organise outside of the sandbox.

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

Have been to all but one 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.

I did not make the Pacifica training session. I did meet with the NDSA President to discuss progress on the Disability Rep which did not pass at the SGM given lack of students. Have been involved in the national-level campaign as discussed above for fees, and am leading local efforts on parking permits for students outside their flats to be presented next quarter hopefully

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;

Very close contract and keeping Troy Gibbons in line.

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;

Have been supporting work on the Disabilities Representative role as students voted for it in 2024, and educating myself with the NDSA resources at our disposal. I was also involved in exploring the place of a Queer Representative on the executive and voted for the Queer Space policy.

We put out statements with UniQ and Te Rōpū Māori, and submitted against the Gender Bill which seeks to legislate over identity and suppress those simply trying to live, and the reversal of fees free with the NDSA.

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

Always looking for ways to ensure the exec are upholding this but it is incredibly difficult when the structures are so entrenched. Would like to see mandatory te Tiriti training and closer governance with TRM if they had increased capacity and wanted to.

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

I have not attended any events hosted by clubs at all, but hope to have the time next quarter.

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

We've been fighting the conservation land sales and the government's mining efforts in Denniston.

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

Everything over my 10 hours is voluntary and I have exceeded that on average every week, though in terms of actual community work I have not had the capacity at all to do so aside from one Masters student research.

1.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

Yes!

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:

As discussed above, I have led submissions on the Gender Bill, reversal of fees free, student parking, and have kept in contact with city councillors, MPs, and candidates.

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

2.1.1.1. Parliamentary bills;

Yes as above.

2.1.1.2. Government projects/proposals;

Yes as above.

2.1.1.3. Referenda;

None this quarter.

2.1.1.4. Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and;

Yes as above.

2.1.1.5. Otago Regional Council Annual Plan;

No.

2.1.1.6. Otago Regional Council projects/proposals; and;

Have included ORC in the recommendation for free, regular buses and an alternative to the BeeCard system which students find inaccessible.

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

Palo Alto has been under fire the entire year.

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.

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

Have been in close contact with all Executive members who are involved with each decision, and informal subcommittees have been a very (very) regular occurrence.

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

As was the case last quarter, sub committees are always set up to iron out disagreements however the Executive are mostly on the same page. Kererū for Bird of the Year 2026.

2.2.5. Relevant to the strategic plan.

Yes.

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

Have been working with VUWSA, AUSA, AUTSA, and WSA on fighting the government on fees free and pushing for paid placements, reversing VSM, and improving living standards. Ethan from VUWSA has offered his VSM research so we are looking into this to see how practically it can be reversed, and NDSA reiterated to us that the ISA be amended as well in order for this to be achieved. Currently looking at options.

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

2.3.1. Political Action Committee.

Has met once however the groups attending are those part of the Education Action Group which meets weekly.

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 reached out to clubs and societies to include their questions for party leaders and feedback for government as above.

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.

No, see 2.3

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

See 2.3

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:

Attended a Dunedin City Council meeting to hear Benedict Ong's submission on fees free with Troy and Daniel.

2.7.1. Ministers of Parliament;

Met with Penny Simmonds MP, Parmjeet Parmar.

2.7.2. Local government officials;

Kept in close contact with Mcieky Treadwell who is involved in university life

2.7.3. Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;

Shanan Halbert, Parmjeet Parmar, Andy Foster, Lisa Marie Murch, Daniel Eb, Chloe Swabrick, Tamatha Paul, Kristine Ascuncion, Rachel Brooking, Francisco Hernandez, Scott Willis

2.7.4. Relevant figures at the University of Otago.

Have met with Grant at the protest.

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

Student General Meeting didn't happen but efforts were made.

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

Kamesha has done a lot of incredible work with finalising BDS, the SGM, role changes and the policy associated with this. Working well with Kamesha and she has been a great help to me. Hopefully I have been a help to her as well.

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

Lots of this yes – consult all above.

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

Yes

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

Averaged higher than 10 hours.

3. Attendance and Involvement in OUSA and University Committees

- 3.1. **OUSA**

- 3.1.1. **Political Action Committee**

No

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

No but keeping in contact and up to date.

- 3.2. **University**

- 3.2.1. **Information Management Governance Committee**

No.

4. Goals and Progress – Not essential reading

As discussed in report.