



# UOPISA

## University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association

### **President of the University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association (UOPISA)**

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3rd Quarterly Report 2026

Submitted: Thursday 17th September, 2026 at 7am

### **Part One: 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.**

When present at Association meetings, I have participated in voting on matters presented to the Executive, or have indicated when I am abstaining from voting.

#### **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 is still in progress to be approved. We are now at the final stages of finalizing some financial gaps from previous years.

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

See Part 2.

### **PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES**

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. This includes:



### **1.1 Main spokesperson or representative for UOPISA.**

I have represented UOPISA at events such as:

- Monthly meeting with DVC-P: Dianne Sika Paotonu
- Providing Pacific perspective to assessment policy at Otago
- Mentorship meetings with Pacific student associations
- Hosted Pacific Week 2026
- Collective Research Lab Opening Ceremony
- Pacific consultation for Centre of Educational Design and Innovation Aorua Modules
- Health Sciences Division Board (monthly meetings)
- Monthly meetings with Student Services Pastoral Care Manager - Jo Oranje
- Senate
- Committee of Advancement of Teaching and Learning
- Standing Committee
- UOPISA SGM
- Funding Bids, Compulsory Student Services Fee Meeting
- Pacific Island Centre Panel Review

#### *Member Association Events*

- SSPIA Public Lecture
- Pacific Week
  - OSSA x PILSA Tote Bag Making
  - HOPSA x OKISA Sports Day
  - BOPSA x OCISA Paint & Sip
  - UOPISA Social
- So'otaga Fiafia Night

### **1.2 Chair and convener of executive and general meetings.**

I have chaired most UOPISA Executive meetings and facilitated communication with the Standing Committee.

### **1.3 Chief representative and responsible for all internal and external relations.**

There has not yet been a Pacific Leadership Group Meeting.

I have maintained contact with the member associations of UOPISA through online platforms (Eg. messenger), email, and in person meetings.



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

I have attended fewer OUSA Executive Meetings compared to last quarter, as the demand for UOPISA-related matters have significantly increased over this quarter. This includes conflict resolution and mediation, and legal matters regarding the MOU.

I have maintained a good relationship with Te Roopu Māori (TRM) through monthly catch ups with TRM Tumuaki Jarna Flintoff and Sami Harrison.

**1.5 Establish and maintain relationship with external/internal stakeholders where appropriate**

- I. Dr. Dianne Sika-Paotonu (DVC-P)
- II. Tagiilima Feleti (Manager of Pacific Islands Centre)
- III. Dr. Vanisha Mishra-Vakaoti (Pacific student support - Sciences)
- IV. Grettel Williams (Health Sciences)
- V. Esmay Eteuati (Commerce)
- VI. Sia Leilua & Vika Piukala (Humanities)
- VII. Dr. Jo Oranje (Student Services)
- VIII. Amanda Taia (Pacific Development Office)

*Member associations*

- IX. Biomedical Otago Pacific Student Association
- X. Humanities Otago Pacific Island Student Association
- XI. Otago Cook Island Student Association
- XII. Otago Fijian Student Association
- XIII. Otago Kiribati Student Association
- XIV. Otago Niuean Student Association
- XV. Otago Samoan Student Association
- XVI. Otago Tongan Student Association
- XVII. Pacific Island Health Professional Student Association
- XVIII. Pacific Island Law Student Association
- XIX. Otago Pacific Island Commerce Student Association
- XX. Science Students' Pacific Island Association

**Part Two: General Duties of All Executive Members**



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

Still in progress.

**2.2 Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are expected to assist as volunteers for OUSA events and functions, including, but not limited to: Assisting at the OUSA Tent City and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation; and;**

N/A

**2.3 Assisting the elections and reference where appropriate**

N/A

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

I have attended as many OUSA meetings as I could this quarter.

**2.5 All Executive officers shall:**

**2.5.1 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;**

N/A

**2.5.2 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;**

My priorities this quarter have remained consistent with the previous quarters, and this has been to ensure sustainability by securing this year's equity funding. Despite the hardship and unforeseen obstacles we have faced regarding accessing our funding, we believe we are building a strong foundation for future executives to have better guidance of how



to navigate such situations. We aim to not put the future years in the same position, so that they may have a more smooth experience.

Coming up for UOPISA is the annual Pacific Awards Night. It has been a challenge to prepare for this event administratively and financially, but we acknowledge Student Services who have been very supportive.

**2.5.3 Prioritise of sustainability and minimize of environmental impacts in all aspects of their role and keep up to date with environmental issues;**

With the upcoming welcome events, we have pushed for educating students on the importance of recycling and moving away from using plastic. We still remind our associations to carry this out.

**2.5.4 Every quarter undertake five hours of voluntary services which contributes to the local community;**

UOPISA continuously engages in our local communities through church and cultural communities. This has included church feasts, community events during language weeks, community healthcare checks, etc.

**2.5.5 Regularly check and respond to all communications**

I have checked my correspondence promptly and have responded to calls, messages, and emails at my earliest convenience.

**Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees**

1. Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CALT)
2. OUSA Executive
3. UOPISA Presidents' Standing Committee
4. Senate
5. Health Sciences Divisional Board
6. Centre of Educational Design and Innovation

*Committees yet to begin*

1. Pacific Leadership Group
2. OUSA Academic Committee
3. OUSA Welfare Committee



## **Part Four: Goals and your progress**

1. To re-sign the MOU between University of Otago and UOPISA
  - a. Our situation now awaits the approval of an external institution, and will be the final stages of signing the MOU, as well as tidying up the administrative tasks for future years to be stable.
2. Establish close relationships/mentorship with UOPISA affiliated member associations
  - a. Each association has met at least twice with their mentor to discuss goals and visions of their respective associations, how they'd like UOPISA to support them, and conflict resolution.
  - b. This has been further strengthened by both efforts of UOPISA to be present at member association events and meetings, as well as regular catch-ups with presidents if need be.
  - c. We hope to encourage more talanoa among our member associations in order to create a safe and vulnerable space. Student politics can be heavy to deal with, and we hope to equip our students with better ways to navigate such challenges
  - d. With the various Annual General Meetings coming up, we are emphasizing the importance of staying grounded in purpose, culture, and sustainability. UOPISA plans to hold AGM preparation sessions with the member associations for practice, and handover workshops for the next executive teams to transition smoothly.
3. Creating UOPISA to be a space for all Pacific students
  - a. Presence has been a powerful way to engage Pacific students in the work we do. Through member association events, and divisional and community events, we have been able to gain many different perspectives on student experiences at Otago.
  - b. The way we present ourselves in front of Pacific students is to be intentional and meaningful, and we plan to do this through mentorship and our own initiatives
4. Establish relationships with other Pacific Island Student Associations across the universities in New Zealand
  - a. Yet to have a meeting with the other Pacific universities to sign an MOU. This will allow the union to stay connected for future years.
  - b. The long-term goal is to hold an annual conference for all Pacific student leaders.
5. Establish a sustainable space for UOPISA
  - a. UOPISA currently have a space next to the Student Development Building
  - b. The goal is to add more furniture and to give it a cozy feel before officially opening up the room to all Pacific students.



## **Part Five: General**

I'd like to extend my humblest gratitude to my executive team who have persevered through this year's hardships. It's not an easy job to take on, but the team has worked tirelessly to ensure our goals are met before our term ends.

Thank you to Claire Gallop and Jo Oranje for your unwavering support for our student associations - we invite you to the next cookout :)

Thank you to Dianne who has offered a lot of leadership guidance and mentorship to my role.

Thank you to Donna who is always checking up on us!