

Keegan L. Wells

President

1st Quarter Report 2024

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PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

4. Duties of the President

4.1. Be the official spokesperson for the Association.

I have done this to the best of my ability! I've been on breakfast tv (live to air), 6pm news (pre-recorded), a bunch of comments surrounding poor housing quality, Grant's appointment, fees free comments, and then a bunch for Critic Te Ārohi. These comments have been given to: ODT, TVNZ, RNZ, Critic, Canta (weird I know), Newstalk, Stuff, and probably a few I'm forgetting.

4.2. In liaison with any appropriate affected parties, coordinate and oversee all interactions with other student associations, media organisations, the University of Otago, the Dunedin City Council, the Government of New Zealand, local authorities and any other external organisations and their representatives.

I have done this with the media outlets mentioned above, the University, both ORC & DCC, NZUSA (where applicable), and the other students' associations. I have met with Jules (Mayor homie) once so far! We discussed the necessity of free breakfast (frekfast if you will). In regards to the DCC, I met with the waste team at the start of the year and continue to discuss the issue of trash within North Dunedin and the implementation of the new waste management scheme. Additionally, I met with the transport planners to consult on the potential of new bike storage in the tertiary precinct. Other parties from DCC I continue to liase with on relevant matters where necessary.

I've also been in contact with Councillor Elliot Wier from ORC in talks about transport issues but are due for a catch up soon. Other than that, I have not dealt much with the regional council besides the occasional email with a GIS analyst.

I engage with MP Rachel Brooking who I have a close working relationship with. I attended her and the Hon Ayesha Verrall's Smokefree seminar which was great and informative. The Hon Rachel Brooking and I have meetings set every 6 to 8 weeks to discuss any matters arising and work together to tackle the issues in North Dunedin (glass).

This quarter I have worked closely with VUWSA, TMĀ, Te Tira Ahu Pae, and LUSA in talks about NZUSA reforms. These students associations have been the backbone

forming NZUSA National Council (alongside me evidentially) and keeping the lights on at NZUSA while major constitutional reforms and strategic reworks happen. We meet semi-regularly but communicate more in the chat.

Maintain a good working relationship with the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association (OPSA), and coordinate joint activities when relevant or practical.

I have met with Sarah at the start of the year but have not checked in recently. Sarah if you're reading this, I hope you are well. I'll call soon.

4.3. Be the Association's official representative on relevant external boards, committees or executives, including, but not limited to:

4.4.1. Council of the University of Otago (and requisite sub-committees);

I sit on the University Council, Appeals Board, Finance and Budget Committee and also the Vice-Chancellor Selection Group. Council meets monthly and had our first official sitting yesterday and I didn't cry. Yay! I also attended the discussions and one dinner for VC selection at the start of the year. I did not attend the interviews as I would have been on zoom and that is not fun for anyone involved.

4.4.2. University of Otago Senate;

I have attended the one senate that has occurred so far.

4.4.3. New Zealand Union of Students' Association's National Council; and

Absolutely I have attended every national council, including the emergency one from a bus in Japan. Don't worry, it was a tourist ski bus so I did not break cultural expectations.

4.4.4. Any other national student body affiliate where applicable.

NZUSA board is not running as of currently. However, I am the NZUSA representative for CUSPaC. That is meeting for the first time in the coming weeks.

4.4. Hold membership and, where reasonable, attend all internal committees of the Association.

Lovely Emily had her first Polcom meeting the other week which I attended. Fesc has not started yet but will be there when it does. Other committees are coming back as well which is quite cool! But none have held meetings yet.

Be given first opportunity for appointment as a Director of any company where the Association holds the power to make such an appointment, including, but not limited to:

4.4.1. University Union Limited; and;

The Finance and Strategy Officer serves on the University Union Limited Board.

4.4.2. University Book Shop Otago Limited.

OUSA President no longer sits on this board as a director.

4.5. Chair all meetings of the OUSA Executive and ensure that the standing orders of the Executive are adhered to.

I have chaired all executive meetings this quarter. I could not undertake this large task without the incredible Donna Jones for her guidance and reassurance.

4.6. Ensure that an adequate level of consultation between the Executive and staff is maintained on all relevant matters of interest to the Association.

I believe that this is done! Debbie and I have a great working relationship. We have standing meetings but more likely just have a chat around any matter that arises in this arena. I also have catch up with most every other department in one way or another, all of which are informal but good to know what's going on.

Where relevant matters arise, prepare verbal reports to the Executive and a written summary for the Executive, of all relevant matters of interest to the Association.

I have not found a written report is necessary for anything yet. I largely believe in verbal reports as a first step and if more complex issues come to our attention then I am happy to create more substantial documents.

4.7. Report on NZUSA activity at regular OUSA Executive meetings

There is a standing item on the executive meeting for NZUSA updates. I have yet to report on NZUSA activity however as it is undergoing a lot of changes and don't want to overwhelm/ confuse people. I will most likely be doing so at the next executive meeting for the first time.

4.8. In conjunction with the Finance and Strategy Officer and Political Representative, oversee any political campaigns undertaken by the Association actively seeking to inform the student body and general public on student issues and concerns.

We have not undertaken any full meetings surrounding campaigns for the year. There has been some informal ideas floated between people but am looking forward to getting this done in the coming quarter.

Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice-President, Finance and Strategy Officer, Academic Representative and Welfare and Equity Representative, meet with them weekly and, where reasonable, liaise with them on a daily basis.

I think we all have great working relationships! I see Emily the most due to the nature of the roles but also have enjoyed my time with each of them. I have standing weekly meetings with some and fortnightly set with others just as some demand more consistent catchups.

4.9. Maintain a good working relationship with all other Executive Officers and, where reasonable, liaise with them individually on a weekly basis.

I have a good working relationship with everyone! Right? Right! Right..?

4.10. Maintain a good working relationship with Te Rōpū Māori Tumuaki and uphold the duties of the President as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Otago University Students' Association and Te Rōpū Māori.

Gemella !!! my absolute queen!! I think we have a great relationship and have gotten ice cream together when stressed. I have upheld the duties of President to the best of my ability.

Maintain a good working relationship with the Chief Executive Officer and, where reasonable, meet with them on a weekly basis.

Debbie and myself have a good working relationship indeed. We don't have scheduled meetings weekly

4.11. Supervise the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Executive, including setting and reviewing of annual Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

I supervise the CEO through the weekly catch ups and being present in the office every day where possible. I have reviewed the KPIs as the calendar reminder told me to do so. The executive will be looking into this further in the coming quarter.

Where appropriate, seek advice from the Honorary Solicitor on legal matters relevant to the Association.

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

I am so chronically online. But if that doesn't work I think the homing pigeons I'm training in the accounts office will come in handy.

4.13. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have! I grilled at tent city (not as much as I would have hoped but sadly other commitments got in the way). But I did go to every single Ori event and helped the staff every night / day. I ran as the inflatable parrot in the inflatley 180 (cheated and lost).

4.14. In the final quarter, write and submit an Annual Review as President, for the purpose of inclusion in the Annual Report. Where practical, work not less than forty hours per week.

N/Annual review (if you will)

I did not work 40 hours per week – Instead sitting on 39.78. This is probably from the time I went to Japan but I tried to work back all the hours. I will do better next quarter I promise.

PART TWO GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

3. General Duties of all Executive Officers

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.

Heck yeah dog. I'd like to see you try and get rid of me (@immigration nz).

3.2. 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; Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

I so totally helped at summer school and completely forgot until reading this. I also spent time at tent city where possible, and every single night of Oweek was spent at the events and the dayger. I am always in awe of the events team,

3.3. 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 attended all exec meetings, and chaired every executive meeting this quarter. I attended the NZUSA Congress in Wellington at the end of last year and continue to talk with other student associations on campaigns.

Executive planning sessions have been a huge push for this year as well. We had the training session with the advisory board on governance which went great. New this year was a committee training session by the lovely Tim Cooper and Ray O'Brien as well as a How to OUSA exec session that I led. I really hope the executive found them helpful in creating an ideal but also a stepping stone for their roles this year.

All Executive officers shall:

3.3.1. 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;

There has not been much spending from the executive this quarter and as Abby is still settling into the role this has not been done (yet). All questions I have had surrounding budgets, I have gone to accounts about. I am looking forward to learning a lot in this area.

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 am a lifelong learner in this area. I am maybe not as well versed in certain marginalised groups as others so I am continuously trying to improve my knowledge. I am always trying to learn more about Māori and Pacific cultures as it is definitely not my strong suit. I appreciate the guidance from Tele and Gemella in these areas.

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

Yes! I am still a fish fearing vegan that loves the environment. April 5th – Save the date <3

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

I volunteer with LandSAR and hit near 20 hours this quarter. I really enjoy my training with the team and all the aspects of it.

3.3.2. Regularly check and respond to all communications

I have such an organised email box you would not believe it. I don't believe I've missed any communications. Some delayed more than others but never forgotten.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

If I were to list every meeting I had this document would be much much longer than it would possibly need to ever be. Committees though I could give a reasonable shot.

- Council
- Senate
- Appeals Board
- Finance and Budget Committee
- NZUSA Council
- Tuakiritaka Project Steering Committee
- Blues and Golds
- Grants Pannel
- Fesc
- Polcom
- Good One
- Freespeech working group
- Learner success plan governance group
- Focus Groups for PVC Health Science recruitment
- Focus Groups for DVC External Engagement recruitment

I'm absolutely sure I am forgetting ones so apologies if it is your committee. I have really enjoyed my time on these and am learning with every meeting I attend. If anyone has really any specific questions on what I do in a day let me know and I can send my calendar. Maybe even we could "cross paths" outside the bagel truck.

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

Goal One: International Student Pastoral Care

Yay! First goal of the year and it is tracking decently well. My reasoning for discussing international students specifically is because I am an international student and might be able to see where the pastoral care cracks a bit within the university more so than others. This is not to say the university doesn't do a great job with most international students. They do. There are just some instances where I have noticed they could do better.

Firstly, some issues with uniflats. Housing, as one of the key pillars of survival and wellbeing, must be near perfect for these international students who are in a foreign country. That has not seemed to be the case with every student. While I have received

multiple complaints and later discussed larger trends with student support to find complaints are not uncommon. I have since raised these issues with COO, Director of International, and Director of Pastoral Care. I hope to create conversations around how we can better serve the students that don't know the lay of the land with housing.

The other two avenues I have not yet explored include attempting to work with student health to find a week or two that international students could get medicals at student health instead of going to costly urgent doctors for visa requirements. Secondly, I would like to see the increase of availability for scholarships for international students, especially those that are postgrad and research specific. I have yet to do work on this yet however.

Goal Two: Make progress with a student bar.

Not much to update on last quarter as the progress is commercially sensitive. Progress is being made.

Goal Three: I can fix them! (NZUSA)

NZUSA reforms! The general working goal is to end the year with a fully functioning NZUSA that all student executives are excited to be a part of and believe in the Kaupapa of. This is obviously a very large goal but I do believe, alongside the help of National Council, this can be accomplished this year.

So far national council has spent the last few meetings sorting through everything that does exist to create a strong basis for everything to grow off of. I am looking forward to working with everyone into the coming months to keep making progress on this.

Goal Four: Not so interesting internal ousa actions

If you are a general student reading this (why) these actions will only affect you indirectly. I would like to see OUSA executive become a lot smoother than in previous years in order to better serve the needs of students. This includes a lot of really quite boring ground work on ourselves here at OUSA.

I've started by attempting to create really strong relationships with the staff at ousa so we can keep each other informed of work and work closer with the departments in the future. This has come in the form of me probably annoying the departments for catch ups, ssc x exec hui, and just being around them.

I also have led / coordinated 2 extra training sessions for the executive in hopes they understand the whole complicated role a bit better. I know there is a disparity between my knowledge of OUSA (simply by being executive last year) and theirs and I try to be aware of it when discussing matters.

I am also working on a larger handover document for the OUSA president so there is a reference book on nearly all matters of the job. The current handover document I received from Quintin was great, and I am so glad he is willing to accept my calls at all times (thanks homie). However, a large living document of all matters concerning the role would be incredibly helpful I think for coming years.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

Oh my god I have absolutely loved my time as President so far. It is really about standing on the shoulders of giants. I cannot thank Quintin enough for fielding all my sporadic calls and questions. This is not to say they will stop anytime soon though.

I am constantly trying to bring a lot more of myself into the role but also not lose myself to it which can be a hard balance. I would love to do more work and try to accomplish more but I find myself needing to ensure I'm still a person at the end of the day. That being said I hope to bring a bit of light into the office and OUSA in general.

I always grew up wondering if the people in the medieval ages knew they were in a sad time period. I almost fear that is us now. Cost of living crisis, general fear in the tertiary sector, bad housing, AF8 looming, no bitches, etc. I just try to bring maybe a bit of optimism and unseriousness that I hope is well received in the role.

Before I rant myself sick, I just want to say a big thank you to everyone I've worked with so far this year and I'm looking to three more quarters.

KEEGAN OUT.