

Ibuki Nishida
International Students' Representative
2nd Quarter Report 2024
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2111 words

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

12.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the Association and on campus which is supportive of cultural diversity.

This quarter I was interviewed by Laura Hewson from internal communications, to talk about my work as the International Rep, my goals for the year, and my background.

12.2. Organise and run events of specific interest and relevance to international Students.

No events run this semester as I've been focusing more on the advocacy side of things, but have started laying the groundwork for International Cultural Expo which is at the end of the year!

12.3. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the Association. Chair or co-chair weekly/bi-weekly meetings of the Otago International Students' Association (OISA), 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.

Meetings have been mostly going on as usual with a couple of extra ones. This quarter OISA was focused on settling in with our new members, getting ready for establishing a radio show running on OAR with the help of the lovely Arina Aizal, and sorting out our annual exam packs.

12.4. Take direction from the Otago International Students' Association, on all matters relevant to international student members.

I will make sure to continue listening to Mr. Nishida the Co-President of OISA very carefully and work closely with him throughout the year. He and I have had a lovely partnership so far and I hope to continue our cherished partnership through to Semester 2.

12.5. Work on issues specific to international students at the University of Otago, including, but not limited to:

12.5.1. Academic issues within the University; and;

This quarter we took huge strides in getting our lecture recordings and close captions policy off the ground, managing to get from the initial stages of conceptualizing the policy and strategising, all the way through to the beginning of student consultation, which has been fantastic. Stella the Academic Representative, and Tara the Welfare and Equity Representative are absolute powerhouses and definitely have the dog in them. Sem 2 will be busy with more work on this, but I am looking forward to Student Consultation, and the next steps of this meaningful work to hopefully make a key part of the university's academic experience more accessible for international students, as well as everyone.

12.5.2. Social and welfare related issues within the University and the wider Community.

The same as Section 12.6.1. This lecture recording policy, once through, will make studying much more accessible to students, and address some existing social and welfare issues in the way our lectures (the main form of knowledge transmission for most degrees) are done.

We also made exam packs with OISA and shared some aroha during a stressful time for students. In the second semester I'd like to work with them on more of an advocacy front, and work closer with cultural clubs, who are very good at running events, and tie them together in a larger capacity to better gauge and address the on-the-ground specific issues that international students are facing.

12.6. Maintain a good working relationship to the Association Student Support Centre Manager and Advocates so that the opportunity to share information about academic and welfare issues of relevance to international students is available.

I have met with Dwayne from Student Support a few times this quarter with regards to an internal issue and he along with his team was incredibly helpful with helping me figure out the best way forward. I am looking forward to continue to work with him, and will be in touch with him if any issues of relevance to international students arise.

12.7. Maintain a good working relationship with the International Office of the University, sharing information and ideas with them when appropriate.

I have a monthly meeting with Jason who is the Director International, and maintain a good relationship with Chelsea and Sam who are international student advisors. They have all been good support for me with regards to event planning and being available to reach out to. I'll be working with them early Sem 2 with some orientation events.

12.8. Work in conjunction with the Finance and Strategy Officer and the Clubs Development Officer and the Clubs and Societies Representative to ensure the affiliation and support of international student groups.

I haven't heard about any issues with affiliation from the cultural clubs this Semester either.

12.9. Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice-President, proactively bringing issues relevant to international students to their attention, and meeting with them on a weekly basis.

I've been meeting with Emily on a biweekly basis and it has been very cool. We get to steal the cool chairs inside Keegan's cool room sometimes when she's not looking. She's been absolutely killing it with the Exec Instagram posts like the Exec Bulletin and general marketing for the exec which is awesome. I believe the account can make it to one million followers by the end of the year, but only time will tell.

12.10. Maintain a good working relationship with the Dunedin City Council

I attend the SDAG meetings and maintain a good relationship with Akari from the Economic Development team there. I've also done a promotional interview for study abroad programs in Japan with them this semester, and I look forward to working with them further in Semester 2.

12.11. Sit on the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) as a member and maintain and fulfil the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding held between Association and NZISA.

NZISA has had one meeting since the last report where we all updated each other on what has been happening at our Unis. I also keep them updated on our side of things (i.e. lecture recordings) talking to Pauliasi their treasurer. Since I have an established relationship with Irfaan who is the PR officer, and Sean who is the president, I am kept closely updated about NZISA.

12.12. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have performed the general duties of all Executive Officers, details of which will be under "Part 2: General Duties of All Executive Members."

12.13. Where practical, work not less than ten hours per week.

This quarter's been a bit less work for me due to exams, so the hours have fallen a bit, especially in the last couple of weeks. However I have lots of things upcoming Sem 2 with regards to the role, so Q3 and 4 will be a lot busier I think!

PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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.

Woah real? That's great to hear.

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

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

Helped out a bit with Open Day but not many other activities this quarter.

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

It was appropriate! I assisted so hard in that meeting.

3.3. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers attend Executive meetings.

Done!

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.

There hasn't been any training sessions or campaigns this semester I believe, but I was there for our planning session near the start of Q2.

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;

"The exec Beyblade tournament will have to come out of my pocket then."

is what I wrote in my last report, and lo and behold there IS a Beyblade tournament organized by OUSA, and I didn't even have to pay for it, life is good. I'll make the exec proud.

Otherwise, will do.

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, committees and OUSA events;

Have been attending rallies organized by students and community members this semester as much as possible, and supporting student groups that have come together, as well as actions organized by our cultural clubs.

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

I aim to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all of my work at OUSA because it is one of our core guiding principles in our current strategic plan, but also because I am a visitor/tangata Tiriti in this country and so of course my actions should reflect that.

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

Same as 3.5.2, I have attending events and rallies this semester as much as possible.

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

Absolutely and always, it's an important issue for me. I keep up to date as much as I can and do what I can to support/attend local groups/actions.

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

I went out to the Otago Peninsula with Save the Otago Peninsula for Unicrew's Good Mahi day with some members of OISA for a whole day of tree planting. Unicrew is an absolute gem of an organization, and I try to attend most of their events.

3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

Done!

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- OUSA Executive
- Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust
- Otago Internationalisation Committee
- Otago Distance Learning Advisory Board
- Otago Summer School Operational Group
- Otago Health Science Internationalisation Committee
- Study Dunedin Advisory Board

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

Establishing ongoing "Welcome" volunteering trips at the beginning of Semesters for international students

As I've been busy with work on the lecture recordings policy this quarter, I haven't been able to make much headway on this goal. Something I have learned this quarter is that event planning is really difficult and time-consuming, so I might have to reassess how I am to continue working on this goal given that my energy is limited and will be tied up in other work in OUSA. I am still passionate about this and think it will be an awesome event to set up, so I will need to find a balance between events and advocacy.

Lecture Recording Policy

This one, on the other hand, MUCH progress made! Stella has been absolutely key with her overall strategy and execution, meeting with the DVC and seeing through the progress of this policy coming together from step one. We've come pretty far in this quarter and hope to keep up this momentum to hopefully have the policy passed by the end of the year. I'm looking forward to Student Consultation and engaging students and getting them on board, which is where I think my strength lies. I'm very excited to see how far we can get this.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

Can't believe that a half of my time here is done already! This semester's definitely been a lot more in terms of workload, balancing with the tougher second half of semester as well the OUSA work ramping up. This role continues to be a constant learning experience for me in the best of ways, and it's been an absolute treat. And everyone here is so cool.

I want to acknowledge and thank Tara Shepherd and Stella Lynch for their absolutely incredible work in the lecture recordings policy, and for being SO KNOWLEDGEABLE in their respective fields. If you two are reading this you guys are insanely good at what you do and OUSA is so lucky to have both of you for real.