



Otago University Students' Association Budget 2025

October 2024



Introduction

The Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) provides advocacy and services to students at the University of Otago. The majority of OUSA's funding comes from a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the University. The SLA funding comes from Students and is gathered by the University in the form of the Compulsory Student Services Fee (CSSF) to fund both University and the Associations own. To make up the rest of OUSA's operational costs, additional income is derived from a range of student-focused and commercial streams.

Since the Voluntary Student Membership was introduced in 2012, the CSSF, which ultimately funds OUSA, is no longer set by students. The University currently sets this fee, and the proportion given to OUSA is negotiated based off consultation with students. The SLA then forms the basis for OUSA's budget for the following year.

Other income streams include investments, event ticketing, advertising sales and building leases. The majority of OUSA's services are not designed to make a profit. However, the Association actively looks into alternative income streams to strengthen our financial security, in the event that University funding is cut.

OUSA is committed to providing the best advocacy and services for our students. We annually assess our expenditure to ensure students are getting the most from their money. We regularly provide opportunities for feedback the biggest being our annual survey on OUSA services which goes out during second semester.

The budget has been prepared according to the values of OUSA and the interests of University of Otago students.

Daniel Leamy
Finance and Strategy Officer 2024



Budget Descriptions

The OUSA budget is broken down into sub-sections, mostly tied to service departments. Below are the descriptions of those individual budget areas and the changes in the budget for 2025. In general, the 2025 budget has been built to try to minimise the cost increases across the whole of the organisation based on spending from this year. Based on the budget provided, we predict that OUSA will be in a cash surplus of approximately \$118,000 for 2025. This is an improvement on the projected cash surplus when compared to the 2024 budget. Historically, OUSA has been in a position of general growth without the financial means to maintain or provide additional funding to services at the current growth rate. Going forward, the long-term strategy of the OUSA is to continue to grow and be self-sustaining so that we can widen our outreach and improve as well as add in additional services for students.

2024 Actuals

For the 2025 budget, we have yet to negotiate the Service Level Agreement (SLA) funding from the University. OUSA has requested a 9% increase to cover the rising costs but as this is unconfirmed at this stage, thus the budget may have to adjust accordingly. Outside of the SLA, the forecasted expenditure has been kept to a minimum where possible.

Income

OUSA's income for 2025 is due to increase because of the negotiated increase from the SLA. The increase is essential as it allows the association to continue offering services to students. Planet Media will be an important income stream over the coming year as it encompasses a large portion of the non-SLA fund revenue stream. Projected revenue is down due to challenging media advertising sales currently.

Other costs

Other costs encompass administrative costs, capital expenses, University Union Limited building leases, membership fees for national bodies, the executive, and the communications and marketing of OUSA. The 17% increase in executive operating costs is due to a planned increase in pay for the OUSA executive. This would be the first increase in the executive honorarium in three years and hopes to encourage more students to run for an executive position. The final approval for the honorarium increase will be decided by the student body at the AGM.

Advocacy

Advocacy represents the Student Support Centre costs. There is a 21% increase in student support costs. Student Support have moved to a larger building on campus, hardship grant amounts have increased, and there has been an increase in staff due to greater student demand. These increased costs allow Student Support to provide more services to support student's needs. All of this comes off the back of a large demand increase from students.



Media

Costs for Critic Te Ārohi have decreased primarily due to costs shifting to a different cost centre. Radio one expenditure increased by 15% mainly due to a recently created position in an attempt to boost listenership and give the wider student body more value from the station.

Clubs and Societies

This segment of the budget includes the Aquatic Centre and OUSA Club Development Grants. Expenditure for clubs and societies is in line in the previous budget with a slight increase due to the introduction of a new club system which is intended to streamline operational processes.

Sports and Recreation

Events and Recreation includes OUSA Events, and the recreation programme put on by OUSA Clubs and Societies. The OUSA Clubs and Societies budget line has an expenditure decrease because of a correction made to the 2024 budget. Revenue from events has decreased as ORI 2024 made a loss due to lower-than-expected ticket sales. The Capping Show had an increase in revenue in this year, so the 2025 budget has been adjusted to match this.



Budget Category	Budget name	Total Budget 2024	Proposed Budget 2025	Change	% Change
Income					
	Comm income	\$ 36,458	\$ 49,056	\$ 12,598	35%
	Investment income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	Uni Contr	\$ 4,259,801	\$ 4,644,088	\$ 384,287	9%
	Planet Media	\$ 259,675	\$ 197,874	\$ -61,800	-24%
Income Total		\$ 4,555,934	\$ 4,891,018	\$ 335,084	7%
Other Costs					
<i>Administration</i>					
	Admin G	-\$ 156,828	-\$ 156,233	\$ 594	0%
	Admin M	-\$ 1,041,391	-\$ 1,100,575	-\$ 59,184	6%
	UUL building lease	-\$ 120,281	-\$ 120,000	\$ 281	0%
	Admin total	-\$ 1,318,499	-\$ 1,376,808	-\$ 58,309	4%
<i>Capital expense</i>	Capital	-\$ 150,000	-\$ 125,000	\$ 25,000	-17%
<i>NZUSA</i>	NZUSA	-\$ 45,000	-\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000	-67%
<i>Executive operating costs</i>	Exec Gen	-\$ 237,051	-\$ 276,972	-\$ 39,921	17%
Communication, Design and Marketing	Comms	-\$ 449,105	-\$ 455,940	-\$ 6,835	2%
Other Costs Total		-\$ 2,199,655	-\$ 2,249,721	-\$ 50,065	2%
Advocacy					
<i>Student Support Centre</i>	SSC	-\$ 586,174	-\$ 703,467	-\$ 117,293	20%
Advocacy Total		-\$ 586,174	-\$ 703,467	-\$ 117,293	20%
Media					
	Critic	-\$ 402,253	-\$ 359,852	\$ 42,401	-11%
	Radio One	-\$ 290,565	-\$ 333,616	-\$ 43,051	15%
Media Total		-\$ 692,817	-\$ 693,467	-\$ 650	0%
Clubs and Societies					
<i>OUSAs Clubs and Socs</i>	Aq	-\$ 73,022	-\$ 68,613	\$ 4,409	-6%
	Club dev	-\$ 61,600	-\$ 70,120	-\$ 8,520	14%
Clubs and Societies Total		-\$ 134,622	-\$ 138,733	-\$ 4,111	3%
Sports and Recreation					
<i>Clubs and Socs Operating</i>	Recreation	-\$ 651,084	-\$ 672,741	-\$ 21,657	3%
	Rec programme	\$ 50,188	-\$ 590	-\$ 50,778	-101%
Recreation total		-\$ 600,896	-\$ 673,331	-\$ 72,435	12%
Events					
	Events Gen	-\$ 554,028	-\$ 571,077	-\$ 17,049	3%
	Events Ori	\$ 71,209	-\$ 23,481	-\$ 94,691	-133%
	Events Hyde	\$ 85,400	\$ 97,720	\$ 12,320	14%
	Events cap	-\$ 18,280	\$ 4,304	\$ 22,584	-124%
	Events BOB	-\$ 7,450	-\$ 10,374	-\$ 2,924	39%
	Events ReO	-\$ 22,538	-\$ 23,384	-\$ 847	4%
	Events Art WK	-\$ 11,720	-\$ 12,420	-\$ 700	6%
	Events other	-\$ 2,110	-\$ 2,280	-\$ 170	8%
	Events Total	-\$ 459,516	-\$ 540,993	-\$ 81,477	18%
Sports and Recreation Total		-\$ 1,060,412	-\$ 1,214,324	-\$ 153,912	15%
Total Expenditure		-\$ 4,673,681	-\$ 4,999,712	-\$ 326,032	7%
Depreciation		-\$ 188,308	-\$ 227,160	-\$ 38,852	21%
Operating Deficit/(Surplus)+ Capital Expenditure		\$ 70,561	\$ 118,466	\$ 47,904	68%