

# Q4 2024 Political Representative Report

Liam Patrick White

Political Representative

Submitted: 19/11/2024

Total: 1,884

## 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.**

Unfortunately.

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

Accomplished in Drop for Good and AGM assistance.

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

Attended Beerfest? Otherwise, don't believe there were any this semester.

- 1.2.2. **Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.**

I manned the BBQ at the AGM. I was unable to assist in the election as I was a candidate in the election.

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

Yes! I don't believe I've missed any but maybe been a bit late.

- 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.**

Not done a lot of training in this last quarter. Attended the school strike for climate protest, the Dunedin Hospital protest and other protests in personal capacity. Also met with incoming political rep to discuss future campaigns.

- 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;**

Discussed with Daniel, no budget spent by me.

- 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;**

I'm always trying to further my journey in understanding the experiences relevant to historically marginalised groups. I have tried to reflect this in submissions made.

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

I always try to as outlined in our Constitution and strategic plan.

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

I don't believe any events have come up on my radar to attend.

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

Don't tell Ray O'Brien but I did print some exam material. But yes tried to maximise my sustainability... this reminds me to get my bike tire fixed.

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

Drop for Good? Assisted with the Generation Vote AGM and volunteer with Labour Party stuff.

**1.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.**

Yep, I think I've read all comms.

**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:**

Again, not a ton of submissions.

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

**2.1.1.1. Parliamentary bills;**

No Parliamentary submissions of note.

**2.1.1.2. Government projects/proposals;**

Upcoming to submit on the University Advisory Group Phase 3.

**2.1.1.3. Referenda;**

None have come up this quarter.

**2.1.1.4. Dunedin City Council Annual Plan; and;**

None this quarter. I did submit on the Local Alcohol Plan put forward by the District Licencing Committee.

**2.1.1.5. Otago Regional Council Annual Plan;**

None this quarter.

**2.1.1.6. Otago Regional Council projects/proposals; and;**

Filled out a feedback form on the ORC Public Transport Plan.

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

Made a submission to the Institutional Neutrality Working Group

**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;**

I think so? I tried to make sure submissions have been more concise and really trying to limit myself to 5 pages.

**2.2.2. Written, where relevant, in conjunction with the Executive Officer whose role relates to the topic of the submission;**

Yep, will do for the UAG Submission.

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

Again, as far as I know there are no relevant sub-committees on our submissions.

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

Yep done and done!

**2.2.5. Relevant to the strategic plan.**

I think my submissions are relevant to the strategic plan both through the value of “advocacy” principles of “Te Tiriti o Waitangi,” and strategic objectives of furthering the “student voice and advocacy,” and “student experience.”

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

Again just like last quarter, not sure what is happening with NZUSA.

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

I'm part of the Finance Expenditure and Strategy Committee.

**2.3.1. Submissions Committee.**

Again, it's just me.

**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.**

Nothing of note. Met with OSJP as members of the Association to advise them on their efforts.

**2.5. Chair meetings of the Submissions 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.**

Calmed down since last report, nothing to note.

**2.6. Take direction from the Submissions Committee on matters of local and national government.**

Nothing to note.

**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:**

Again not concerted effort this quarter.

**2.7.1. Ministers of Parliament;**

I am hoping to write a letter in conjunction with the "Kill the Bill" campaign to members of the ACT Party.

**2.7.2. Local government officials;**

Met with Sophie Barker and Keegan to discuss what can be done around improving the relationship between OUSA and the DCC.

**2.7.3. Spokespeople of national level political parties; and;**

Uhhhhhhh... I haven't reached out to any political party Presidents if that's what this is asking.

**2.7.4. Relevant figures at the University of Otago.**

I think I'm doing this? Still trying to work alongside some figures in the University to support our efforts on housing and wellbeing. Should have the info back on the Residential survey soon. Wrote a letter on Code of Conduct enforcement, waiting for Keegan to get back to me.

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

None.

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

Yep! We're slaying.

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

This doesn't apply fuckers!

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

Refer to previous section. Dummy.

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

My average weekly hours for this quarter were 9.6, which puts me at the lower end of the 10 hour roles this quarter but second highest on the overall average. There were some high weeks of 20 hours and some slower ones at around 3 or 4 as a result of me distancing from the Executive during the OUSA Elections and during Exams.

But meh, my disapproval of the hours system has been noted previously.

### **3. Attendance and Involvement in OUSA and University Committees**

#### **3.1. OUSA**

##### **3.1.1. Submissions Committee**

Again never really got off the ground, have talked to Daniel about the possibility of expanding the Submission's Committee into a Political Action Committee to draw some more attention but also provide a collaborative venue from which to make campaigns and political recommendations to the Executive.

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

Not a lot happening here.

##### **3.1.3. Constitutional Review Committee**

I think the Constitutional Review Committee came to the ultimate decision to table its recommendations and come back to them next year.

#### **3.2. University**

##### **3.2.1. Humanities Academic Committee**

Still rocking and rolling on this side. Nothing has really happened to be honest. Hugh Campbell is great. I've also joined onto the Humanities Specialisation Group which is a group that is seeking to add broader "specialisations" alongside the major and minor categories.

##### **3.2.2. Humanities Divisional Board**

Refer to previous answer.

##### **3.2.3. Humanities Divisional Leadership Group**

Refer to previous answer.

### 3.2.4. Teaching and Timetabling Committee

Yep! Grant bullied me here for not bringing cake to a meeting on my birthday. Hello! He's supposed to bring cake.

## 4. Goals and Progress – Not essential reading

What a crazy quarter. I have done very little of what I promised (classic politician) and yet I feel so accomplished and successful by the end of it. Not necessarily as Political Rep but certainly as a member of the 2025 Exec. This quarter has really flown by and not had a lot of opportunity for proactive work for me both with the Presidential Election, Exams and me trying to get on top of my master's dissertation.

So remember how last report, I asked you to ask me if it's hope that kills you? Well, I'm not sure anymore. The longer I am in student politics the more hopeful I become, recognizing the massive potential for great work being done by enthusiastic people. However, I become more and more aware of the sheer magnitude of work to be done and the level of despondence from students.

Last quarter I promised to either be a conquering hero or a postgrad and, in many ways, I feel like both.

I'd like to echo my last report, that the Association's political interests are far too large for a 10-hour role. I know that's kind of silly to protest that the job is simply too big, because that applies to everyone. But with political campaigns there's a lot on: Toitū Te Tiriti, nationwide Hikois against the Treaty Principles Bill, the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the question of institutional neutrality, public sector job cuts, tertiary underfunding, climate change, cost of living and more.

I think I overestimated what was possible in a single quarter. However, I did make some progress:

- 1) Student Fees – In the end, after learning more about the issue it didn't seem right to protest the fees increase because it's difficult to identify who its protesting.
- 2) Set the groundwork for an advocacy campaign exposing just how poor the standard of housing is in Studentville - Met with 2025 Political, Residential and FSO and we discussed what 2025 could look like.

- 3) Lead a lobbying campaign with SYL and OCG to extend the winter energy payment plans to students – Liased with SYL and NZ Young Labour about what their priorities are.
- 4) Work with SEA and Aotearoa350 on organising fast-track action – probably left this until too late in the year

As this is the last report, I'd just like to thank the Exec and all the people that make the Association run for all their hard work this year. Everyone should be proud of their work, even if unappreciated.

Bless up,

Your (outgoing) pols rep

Liam