

## Q1 2025 Political Representative Report

Jett Shun Groshinski

Political Representative

Submitted: 17/03/25

Essential: 1733

Total: 2,105

### 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.**

Yes

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

Yes.

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

I attended Tent City all three days and attended Clubs Day during Orientation week

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

Not relevant to Q1.

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

Proud to say I haven't missed a single executive meeting, nor have I been late like Liam.

- 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.**

Before Orientation Week, the executive had a training week and an exec planning retreat. I attended 2 out of 5 days of the training week, but due to prior commitments with my internship I had to skip 3 days. I also stayed the entire weekend for the exec retreat.

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;**

Whilst being a part of FESC it has been exciting to be fully kept up to date with the financials of OUSA.

- 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;**

Although I'm still at the beginning of this journey, I'm committed to continuously educating myself about the experiences of historically marginalized communities. I seek out resources such as articles and forums to learn more. I aim to ensure that my actions reflect a genuine understanding of inclusivity and support for all students.

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

Yes, in the oral submission on the Treaty Principles Bill that Liam and I did, we spoke out against the bill that doesn't align with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, emphasizing how it could negatively affect the rights of Māori. We pointed out that it didn't do enough to involve Māori in decisions that impact them and failed to protect Māori cultural values.

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

Throughout this quarter I have been meaning to go to events hosted by Te Rōpū Māori and UOPISA but unfortunately haven't had the time! I'll make sure I attend some next quarter!

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

I can't say I've even used a printer once in the office. I've made sure to keep up to date on environmental issues both in our local community and nationally.

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

Yes! I volunteered as the Trustee on the Dunedin Midwinter Carnival Trust and Vice-President of New Zealand Young Labour.

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

I have been alright with checking and responding to communications. There hasn't been much that came in but I did have a problem for a week where I wasn't receiving my emails. If I missed anything I'm sorry!

**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:**

I've spent this quarter learning how to write submissions to both local councils and Parliament. I've been getting to grips with what makes a good submission, from understanding the details of laws to listening to what people think and need, so I can put our students' views forward effectively.

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

**2.1.1.1. Parliamentary bills;**

None this quarter, but I did do an oral submission on the Treaty Principles Bill with Liam as I mentioned earlier!

**2.1.1.2. Government projects/proposals;**

None but I'm planning on submitting on the Inland Revenue's official issues paper seeking thoughts on the taxation of charities and non-profits.

**2.1.1.3. Referenda;**

None this quarter.

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

None this quarter.

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

None this quarter.

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

None this quarter, but have been in touch with Elliot Weir from the Regional Council about setting up an engagement event for the Regional Transport Plan.

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

None this quarter.

**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 haven't yet submitted but in the future yes!

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

Again, will do while working on relevant submissions.

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

I don't believe there are any relevant committees other than the Political Action Committee and the general executive.

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

Yes, I will make sure when I write submissions that they will be approved by the executive before I submit them.

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

Yes, while reading over the strategic plan, I believe that the submissions that I plan to submit through the values of 'advocacy and principles of 'Te Tiriti o Waitangi', furthering 'student voice and advocacy' as well as 'student experience.'

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

No, I am assuming this will be replaced with ATSA at some point.

**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 and it has been really interesting to learn about the finances of OUSA.

#### **2.3.1. Political Action Committee.**

Yes, submissions will be talked about with the Political Action Committee to get a broad range of opinions and views that accurately represent the student body.

#### **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.**

I am interested in trying to work closer with groups that already write submissions such as the political action groups like Southern Young Labour, Otago Campus Greens, Young Nats and Politics Students Association. In the next quarter, I would also like to involve other groups outside the traditional political clubs that also create submissions like the Tramping Club. If any other clubs would like to collaborate, please send me an email at [political@ousa.org.nz](mailto:political@ousa.org.nz)

#### **2.5. Chair meetings of the Political Action 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.**

We have not yet had our first meeting, but when this committee is held, I will make sure to follow due process.

#### **2.6. Take direction from the Political Action Committee on matters of local and national government.**

We still haven't had our first meeting, but I will be consulting with the committee when it comes to matters of both local and national government.

#### **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:**

Yes, been having regular meetings with Liam and sometimes Daniel to discuss what we can do to improve the outcomes on student issues.

##### **2.7.1. Ministers of Parliament;**

I am planning on writing letters to key officials within both the government and opposition about issues that are affecting students. I have had a good conversation with Tamatha Paul who is wanting to collaborate on some campaigns through OUSA.

##### **2.7.2. Local government officials;**

I have had meetings with both Sophie Barker and Steve Walker and intend to send letters to more councillors inviting them to meet to discuss issues like the state of student housing.

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

I have the opportunity to speak with the President of the Labour Party Jill Day on Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.

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

Not done this so far but will make sure on future issues I will be consulting with relevant figures within the University.

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

Not done this so far.

**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.**

My relationship with Amy, the AVP, has been good. Our catchups have always been great and she's always great to have a yarn to.

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

Yes, I will be arranging a meeting with relevant people within OUSA to try to coordinate both politics week and local body election campaigns.

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

Yes

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

My average weekly hours for this quarter were 12.13. There have been some higher weeks due to training weeks and orientation, and there have been a couple of weeks where there has been less than 10.

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

**3.1. OUSA**

**3.1.1. Political Action Committee**

So far, we haven't set up a meeting but I have sent out our first meeting to be had in the next week. Will report on how this committee goes in the next quarterly report. There are positions available for people not involved within OUSA if you're interested, please send me an email at [political@ousa.org.nz](mailto:political@ousa.org.nz).

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

Yes, so far there has been only one meeting of FESC but it has been incredibly interesting to learn about and I will be attending regularly.

### **3.2. University**

I am currently on no University committees.

## **4. Goals and Progress – Not essential reading**

As the Political Representative for OUSA, I came into this role with many goals and plans. Once you're in the position, you realize how massive these issues are, and you see how much there is for one person to tackle. Whether it's addressing the executive's overall goals—such as the cost of living or student housing you start to ask yourself: "Where do I even begin to solve these massive issues?"

I find this role to be one primarily focused on advocacy, more so than other roles on the student executive. Acknowledging the limitations of what can be achieved by the student association alone, I plan to work with key individuals within the University, local councils, and Parliament to ensure they take student issues seriously.

My main goals centre on improving the quality of student housing and addressing the cost of living. These issues are critical concerns for students, and OUSA can play a crucial role in advocating for policies that lead to better outcomes. This includes lobbying the government to implement rent controls, introduce a rental WOF, and support student housing subsidies.

I plan to build stronger relationships with community organizations and housing advocacy groups to help amplify our voice and extend our influence on behalf of all students.

This year, with the local body elections coming up, I would like to bring back Politics Week as a platform to engage students and educate them on the importance of advocacy. There are enough students to significantly influence the election's outcome here in Dunedin, and the goal is to empower them to actively participate in political advocacy for their rights.

In the long term, I hope to set up ongoing discussions with parliamentarians and policymakers to ensure the student perspective is always heard.

In conclusion, by broadening our focus beyond the University to local and national advocacy, we aim to tackle the root causes of the housing and cost-of-living challenges facing students. Through targeted advocacy, strategic partnerships, and empowering students to engage politically, OUSA is committed to making a substantial impact on these issues.