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Quarterly Report Q1
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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.

Nothing too major on this end but did a promotion of St. Patricks Day Dos and Don'ts with Flynn the political representative. On international office front the promotions were done to promote O-Week, clubs day and IFF, and the turnout of the welcome event (more on it down below).

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

OUSA again hosted the International Food Festival, which incorporated two segments – food preparation segment and food serving and sales segment.

As OUSA international student representative, I worked with the club executives of the various cultural clubs to provide an avenue (food science kitchen) for the club executives to do their food preparation. We organised a rostered shift which included supervision from executives of the Otago International Students' Association (OISA) to monitor the food prep over a two-day period.

Following which, the event, which ran on a Saturday, was a resounding success. Most clubs reported having been sold out within the first 1.5h to 2h of the IFF. There were some teething issues, with the loss of the keys to the trailer and the Sri Lankan Students' Association (SLSA) not being able to get their food on time as it was inadvertently moved to another freezer from staff of the food science kitchen, but most were managed to be sorted and solved within the first hour of the event's commencement.

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.

As Co-President of the Otago International Students' Association, I have managed to organise a scheduled biweekly meeting with executives which started in Orientation Week, to familiarise all members of the executive with the expectations of Clubs Day and IFF, along with an outlook of the year.

In this quarter, I have facilitated OISA executives' planning of the International Students' Meet and Greet which will be held on 25 March 2026 from 5 pm to 7 pm.

As I write this report I have also just started facilitating and leading the planning of the OISA/MUSA (Muslim University Students' Association) Eid-Al-Fitr gathering. Group chats with counterparts of both associations have been created, and I am involved in each chat to ensure that there is a seamless coordination and transmission of information.

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

OISA is still in the process of finding a way for international students to be able to easily express their feedback and concerns about the way OISA – and OUSA – can deliver for them. My co-president, Adlina Yusoff, and I, are working to support our executives to create a memorable meet-and-greet through which we will be able to engage international students and obtain their feedback on a regular basis.

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;

Internal committees within the University have started and gone into full swing, though these are inaugural meetings for me in which I have been attending and getting to know the various stakeholders within the University. The meetings I have attended in this quarter is the Internationalisation Committee meeting with the DVC External Engagement and Director Jason Cushen; along with the Health Sciences International Committee meeting, both of which I have attended to understand the Semester 1 intake numbers of the international students down in Dunedin.

Broadly there is an increase in the number of international students this year as the University hits pre-Covid international student numbers, which is a fantastic thing. It is due to this that I also held a meeting with Jaso Cushen, Director International, to see how we can work with the international office to curate events, and opportunities for international students to be able to integrate well in the university and have a holistic study experience.

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

We have proposed to restart the International Student Podcast, which fell through midway through last year. On Friday, myself, along with Adlina, met with OAR FM's Arina Aizal to work through the opportunities for us to restart this endeavour – this will be a biweekly initiative which we hope will continue and can keep up the momentum.

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 am seeking to work with Dwaine of the Student Support to see how OISA and the Student Support Centre could work together in order to be able to support our international taura in the city, as they navigate the ups and downs of university life.

We have engaged a staff of student support to attend our welcome meet and greet event so that we can give them some time to speak to the attendees about the services they offer (very briefly) so as to ensure students understand they have the support they need to thrive in Otago.

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

I have held a very positive working relationship with Director International Jason Cushen and he has been a fantastic source of support to provide me with guidance as I navigate the role. Together, Director Jason and I also attended an International Office-hosted Iftar session at the Al-Huda Mosque

I also work closely with Sam Mhertens in the planning of the International Students' Welcome Seminar, and the rest of the International Office staff as I prepared alongside Adlina to emcee the event. It has always been a wonderful moment working with the International Office staff.

The inputs and collaboration with the International Office concerning the Meet and Greet along with the Eid celebration with MUSA are key testaments to the strong working relationship OISA has traditionally, and continues to, share together.

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.

No new cultural club affiliations this quarter, but I will chase down some clubs that

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.

Kamesha is an awesome AVP who has worked hard to check in on myself in the work I've been doing. We've briefly discussed a possible collaboration on the AI policy, along with the academic representative Hansini. I look forward to following up on this matter and rendering my input where needed.

There has been no major international students' issue of note that I had to brief Kamesha on.

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

I have held a meeting with Study Dunedin at the start of the year as invited by Santashree Mishra during which I was able to provide a detailed update on the International Students' Welcome Orientation, Clubs Day and the International Food Festival, showing how the increase in the international students' numbers have proven to be wonderful and led to yet another year of even more success on the international front, particularly IFF.

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.

16 March 2026 is a scheduled meeting for the NZISA reps council, which I am excited to attend, but also very bittersweet considering I was last NZISA president immediately before taking on this responsibility. Have confidence in Ibuki that the meeting will be insightful and fantastic as always.

12.12. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have performed the general duties of all Executive Officers. More details in Part 2.

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

I have been able to do this, and there were way additional hours recorded during Orientation Week owing to planning, preparation, execution and packdown of the IFF, Clubs Day.

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.

Roger on this, thanks.

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;

I was able to assist at the Tent City on two of three days – one day during

which I only attended the Tent City but wasn't able to participate as I was heading for the International Students' Welcome of which I was co-emceeing.

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

Have given a list of Questions where needed to Flynn, the political representative, as he plans the Council By-Election Panel.

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

Apart from one Executive Meeting which clashed owing to the DVC External Engagement meeting on Internationalisation, I have attended all the Executive Meetings as required.

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.

No national conferences or local campaigns have been of note as needed. I should also note that I will be attending the Ramadan Bazar organised by the Otago Malaysian Students' Association (OMSA), which I have been rendering some guidance on.

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;

Have not had to make any spending in OUSA capacity so I haven't been bugging Troy as much.

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;

I am working hard every day to understand more about the various communities that make our Dunedin diverse and welcoming, and also working hard to raise the voice of the international student community as an equity group in Executive Meetings and Committee meetings within the University.

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

I reiterate my commitment to uphold the principles of Tiriti o Waitangi in all OUSA and non-OUSA work particularly because I'm a tangata Tiriti. Having taken PUBH204 (Haurora Māori) and now taking PUBH304 (Rangahau Hauora Māori), I can say for certain that my understanding of te Tiriti and our commitment to overcome inequities in healthcare (and education in the case of OUSA) is front and centre of what I do.

Furthermore, as an international representative, I am working on a way to introduce Māori culture to our international student community. I am working to see whether I can hold a meeting with Te Ropu Māori Tumuaki so that we can find a way to see how we can get Māori involvement into some OISA or International-office events. The waiata that the international office did to welcome the international students has already been the first step, and we can do more now that we have a huge number of international students in the city.

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

None at this juncture. Please see 3.5.3 where I said I intended to reach out to Tumuaki Te Ropu Māori to see how we can approach this.

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

All my minutes, notes and documents are drafted online, and managed online. I am happy that I have never had the need to do any printing for my role at this point of time. I've not used Generative AI in my work, and I hope that counts.

All OISA communications are promoted on our Instagram and Facebook channels.

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

Have not been able to do that this quarter, but will be attending a volunteering session organised by Social Impact Studio which will be in the coming weeks alongside my OISA executives.

3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

To the best of my ability I have sought to check my emails on a daily basis and responded as promptly as possible.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

OUSA:

- Election Review Subcommittee
- Constitutional Review Committee

University:

- Vice Chancellor's Staff and Student Advisory Group
- Distance Learning Advisory Committee
- Internationalisation Committee
- Health Science Internationalisation Committee
- Commerce Internationalisation Committee

External:

- Study Dunedin Advisory Board

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

More Cultural Club Collaboration

Part of my promises included facilitating more collaborations between clubs. Chiefly, I am starting work from next Quarter on the **Multicultural Ball**, where emails will be sent to all cultural clubs to get them connected and gauge interest to bring back this event for yet another year. I hope to start building the connections from the Affiliated Clubs Meeting which I will be attending with Ella, the Clubs and Societies Representative.

OISA

OISA changed to a smaller-scale event systems last year, but I'm afraid that a number of these events have not been delivered adequately. For example, some OISA events such as karaoke nights have had to be cancelled, and the board games' night plan had not gone through. This year, I intend to make a change by instituting advocacy in what we do.

OISA does value the small-scale events and look to have some of these, but we intend to put our executive out there more to scale the association as one which is welcoming, and provides a safe space for international students. This could also mean through the international students' welcome.

We are restarting the Podcasts for OISA, and we intend to expand this to the international students to increase their awareness and develop their skills in New Zealand as they complete their degree. But this also means that we will step up our Social Media presence and awareness, which is something that I have been working on with our media representative within OISA.

OISA's collaboration with other clubs is also another avenue which I am exploring this year. By fostering collaboration, OISA is able to render our experience in planning and executing events to guide clubs who might just need that slight push in planning and executing the events they hold. Through this, the international association and the international office will receive its presence in the community, so students will know that we are here to contribute and help them.

Having been an executive in many clubs and also in a previous Co-President of OISA tenure (with Ibuki!) I also have started conversing with the new Presidents of some cultural clubs, notably the Indian Students' Association and OMSA, as they share their goals and visions to hold new events, further enhance existing flagship events their clubs holds or simply throwing up a new idea.

I intend to continue doing this, because I believe I can add value to such outreach through the mentorship guidance which I also committed to in my promise on which I was elected on. By mentoring our club presidents to carry out the noble work of promoting their cultural clubs, we are able to train the next generation of leaders with the ability and the capacity to take on more.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

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