

Troy Gibbons
Finance and Strategy Officer
1st Quarter Report 2026
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Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties

8.1. Assume all the powers and duties of the President in the absence of the President and the Administrative Vice-President.

Not during this quarter, Daniel has not been away.

8.2. Where reasonably required, assist the Administrative Vice-President in their duties.

Working on the Deloitte Committee together but our roles have been quite separate at the moment. I did referendum in conjunction with Donna.

8.3. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the Association, including, but not limited to:

8.3.1. Standing Committee of the Executive;

No Standing Committee this quarter

8.3.2. Finance, Expenditure and Strategy Committee.

I chaired FESC, has had less teeth since the Deloitte Committee has been operating

8.3.3. Policy Committee

All POLCOM meetings attended! Nothing too exciting as waiting on governance changes proposal. Currently reading all policies and constitution to find inconsistencies, errors, and areas which I think need change.

8.3.4. Grants Panel.

Had three meetings, I missed one due to illness, but it is operating smoothly and grants are going well. \$31,190.60 paid so far, hoping to get this increased in upcoming budget.

8.4. Meet regularly with the Chief Executive Officer to ensure a governance oversight of the Association finances and capital projects.

I maintain a close relationship with Debbie. Main communication has been via OUSA Review (Deloitte) Committee, had some disagreement over Student Media and department funding but are working closely.

8.5. Chair meetings of the Finance, Expenditure and Strategy Committee, ensuring that all committee members are advised of meeting times, that the agenda is prepared and circulated beforehand and that the standing orders of the committee are adhered to.

I chaired twos FESC Meeting. We had better reporting, and an Orientation summary. Which was some very positive news especially in an uncertain economic environment. No surprises in the variances as of yet but keeping an eye on the costs of the Deloitte work. Waiting on a written report from Planet about how we as an Executive can help them meet targets.

8.6. In conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, maintain oversight of the Association's holdings, with a focus upon sound investment of student funds and adherence to the Association's Strategic Plan.

Oversight of holdings lies with the Holdings, University Union, UBS, and Commercial boards. I sit directly on the University Union Board and Holdings reports to Debbie regularly and the executive quarterly and I try and keep up with this. Wanting more in the way of reporting from holdings to help form a deeper understanding of the true picture.

8.7. Maintain a sound understanding of the position of any of the Association's holdings, ensuring that all relevant documentation is filed as soon as is reasonable and accessible and that financial controls are understood.

I spend extensive time on studying the history of OUSA and its holdings particularly the former entities. Have not received any report from holdings have asked Daniel to chase it up.

8.8. In conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, ensure that the Association produces annual audited accounts and an Annual Report.

The annual audited accounts have been signed off and approved by the student body, along with the Annual Report I drafted in conjunction with 2025 President Liam White, I am beyond happy with our work here

8.9. Ensure expenditure and budgeting is in line with the Association's Strategic Plan, and advise the Executive of any significant discrepancies.

Yes, no bad surprises as of 2nd of June 2026. Orientation came in well over budget and the next event numbers for the Hyde Street Party will be ready for Q3 Report. So far Hyde numbers are looking positive.

8.9.1. Authorize transactions from the Association accounts relating to the Executive expenditure.

Yes, I sign off invoices related to the Executive and oversee any other expenses.

8.10. Oversee the Executive budget setting process.

Has just begun as of Tuesday the 9th of June. Aiming for increases in campaigns.

8.11. Ensure that all Executive Officers are familiar with the Executive Budget, expenditure processes early in the year and assist them where necessary.

Yes. No requests for this quarter. Flynn has expressed that he would like funding for voter enrolments. Zoe has her green sticker campaign coming up so starting to figure out how much money we have left. So far it is around \$5000 for the rest of the year.

8.12. Update the Executive monthly on the Executive Budget expenditure.

Have not had any expenditure of note. Conversations around NDSA MoU, still have NZISA to pay so may not be up to the number that they would want.

8.13. May be appointed a Director of any company where the Association holds the power to make such an appointment, including but not limited to:

8.13.1. University Union Limited.

Yes, I have attended all meetings including the AGM. David Thomson, Scott Gordon, Debbie Downs, and I maintain a close working relationship outside of the board. Laura is going on maternity leave soon. Audited accounts have been accepted and discussions around the future of Union Hall are underway. Battling with the University on acknowledging our ownership of the building.

8.14. Assist and liaise with students and Students' Associations on University of Otago satellite campuses.

This has been a sore point for me, still trying to get a trip to Wellington or Christchurch approved. I am going to Wellington on the 19th of June in a personal capacity to catch up with MP's and 5x former OUSA Presidents.

8.15. Oversee any campaigns undertaken by the Association, actively seeking to inform the student body and general public on student issues and concerns and liaising with relevant officers such as the Political Representative, including but not limited to:

8.15.1. Encourage voter participation;

N/A, Election time isn't here yet, Flynn and I maintain an extremely close working relationship which makes life easy a lot of work around voter enrolments will be coming up.

8.15.2. Local Body Elections; and;

Helped plan the by election debate. It was held but was met with a lot of criticism. Cr Jo Galer defeated former mayor Aaron Hawkins in a close election turnout was high for a by-election. Special voting makes it increasingly hard for students to vote. It's almost like we have an entire commission to handle elections so Anyway, that's local elections done for the year. I maintain a very close relationship with Sophie, Mickey, Steve, and Christine allowing local government discourse to flow freely.

8.15.3. National Body Elections.

Invites have gone to all Party Leaders for the General Debate. Have been meeting extensively with political parties particularly Greens, Labour, and NZ First as they are the only ones engaging. I have many connections in Labour, NZ First, and National which are providing useful, the Greens are always receptive to engaging so the only hold out is ACT. Some of the rhetoric around asset sales is particularly concerning me (My Keynesianism will remain strong). Continuing to lobby for tertiary education quite pleased with the Greens and NZ First at the moment with their engagement in this space particularly around Fees Free and VSM.

8.16. Support and act as a reference point for all Executive Officers in the running of campaigns and initiatives, ensuring they are executed in line with the Association's Strategic Plan and objectives, and that the student body are informed of these events.

Zoe led an extremely successful campaign with her pamphlets and I am beyond proud. Positive feedback from all stakeholders particularly colleges and MPs! Fees Free getting repealed has become our central focus for the 2026 election. Students very dissatisfied with the government and have asked OUSA to express an opinion of no confidence in the government. Continuing to do a lot of work around VSM but it's a long road.

8.17. Liaise regularly with the Chairs of all Association committees to ascertain the campaigns, initiatives and directives from those committees, and act on those directives where appropriate including but not limited to:

8.17.1. Residential Committee;

Zoe and I have been battling trying to get this off the ground. A lot of effort for no reward so far but hopefully we can get this up and going. She has been a superstar, essentially a one-man band on tenancy campaigns and is hitting it out of the park!

8.17.2. Affiliated Club Council; and;

Did not meet this quarter

8.17.3. Academic Committee.

Hansini prepared a great Agenda for the first meeting and I have said I would love to show up and help were I can but she is beyond qualified. I did not attend due to a conflict but she has a full plate with AI so am trying to help where I can.

8.18. Be available via cell phone at all practical times.

Yes

8.19. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

Yes

8.20. Where practical, work not less than twenty hours per week.

My Q2 Average is 25.73 hours

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.

Have only taken Easter off. Worked all other public holidays and had a few sick days. Fully committed to working even during exams and breaks. Frustrating to see the slowing down during exams but it is a stressful time for the executive.

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;

Have not had any of these events this quarter. I attended capping show!! Fantastic effort by the cast & directors. We had ANZAC Day service which I MC'D and attended all Graduation parades and ceremonies.

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

Ran the referendum with Donna, helping at the drop of a hat

3.3. It is expected that Executive Officers attend Executive meetings.

Yes, I have attended all executive meetings this quarter.

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.

Attended the fees free protest and the governance workshop

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;

No budget lines have been exceeded but this is due to weird line titles (Matt and I are fixing this) I keep up to date with the budget as it's mine

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;

Yes! NDSA training was a success, heading into pride month focusing on educating myself. Making good progress, on this front.

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

Yes,

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

NDSA Training, helped UOPISA with a financial issues, and I am building a closer relationship with TRM particularly Tia who I work with in multiple clubs!

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

Yes, I do not drive so I produce way less CO2 emissions.

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

Church, Clubs. GIG for GAZA was a smashing success raising \$1400. OUSA can often feel slow and selfish, so I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to give back. Thank you to Fairleigh, Dave, Ammonita, DIBS, Liquid Lucy, Zara Rose, and Cleos. Could not have done it without these legends. Bright futures for them all ridiculous levels of talent. Also MC the ANZAC service which was an honor

3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

Yes

Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

University Union Limited Company - Director (Attended All Board Meetings and AGM)

Finance Expenditure and Strategy Committee - Chair (Attended All Meetings)

Policy Committee (Attended All Meetings)

Political Action Committee – Chair (Did Not Meet)

Residential Committee (Did Not Meet)

Grants Panel (Attended 1 out of 2 Meetings due to Illness)

Clubs Council (Did Not Meet)

Vice-chancellors Student Staff Advisory Group (Attended All Meetings)

Web Transformation PSC (Attended Last Meeting – Now Finished)

Timetabling Committee (Attended All Meetings except one due to Review Clash)

OUSA Review Committee (Missed Two out of 9?)

Academic Committee (Missed Meeting due to Conflict with MP visit)

Part Four: Goals and your Progress

Student Bar – Looking at Dropkicks but the university are still being hopeless

VSM Campaign – VSM seems to be here to stay which sucks. Not many student unionists left in the Labour party anymore.

Transparency – Got a big telling off! Formally warned, the executive decided but was glad to have some support. I feel like OUSA is being very hush hush which I do not like particularly in relation to Deloitte. But I will keep pushing for us to notify students (will use my critic column next semester to talk about everything I'm allowed too, not that anyone reads)

Part Five: General

Q2 was an absolute success. From seeing my dear friend Caitlin graduate and being on stage for that, to running a well-attended by election debate. It has been a busy quarter on the politics side meeting with representatives from each party aside from ACT allowing them to talk about what issues they think are important to students and what they are doing to address them. Fees Free will be a nightmare, it means all of our other campaigns get put on the back burner which is ridiculously annoying. In terms of the association review, it has been slow rolling which is super frustrating, but Daniel and I have been working well together on this. I am excited for budget as this is where I can make meaningful change hoping to get more club grants and student hardship funds. Also starting to figure out the student bar process as I am meeting with the University CFO in the coming week. I maintain strong relationships within the University particularly David Clarke and David Thomson who have been very helpful. And as always, I have to thank the amazing people who help me carry on and do this job to the best of my ability. Thank you to Donna for being a fountain of wisdom understanding the history of the association makes it a lot easier to make good choices. A big Thank you to Jack Manning, Quintin Jane, and Liam White for their advice and guidance. Thank you to Zoe & Flynn for making OUSA an extremely fun place to work and for all their help. Thank you to Daniel for all of his work with me on the Review Committee and helping get things moving. Thank you to Matt from Accounts for his help on Budget. And to everyone else I haven't named thank you for making this job a lot easier than it could be.