

Fergus Parks

Postgraduate Representative

Second Quarter Report 2025

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Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties

1.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the Association and on campus which is supportive of postgraduate students.

I have taken part in various social media announcements, critic articles, and Radio One interviews. Alongside this has been meeting with fellow post-graduates and trying to hear about any potential issues that may be currently affecting them

1.2. Be one of the Association's representatives on the University of Otago Senate.

I have participated and contributed concerns arising for students in all senate meetings for this quarter.

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

1.3.1. Academic Committee.

All meetings have been attended so far this quarter.

1.6. Be the Association's representative on the Graduate Studies Committee.

All meetings have been attended where practical, alongside regular catch up with GRS staff for coffee.

1.7. Maintain a good working relationship with relevant OUSA staff, ensuring that information is shared on issues of relevance to postgraduate students.

I have made my rounds with OUSA staff and have so far had a positive experience in my

handlings with them. Furthermore regular communication with fellow exec members (catching up on policy over coffee, sharing opinions on proposals, etc) to ensure nothing unexpected arises.

1.8. Facilitate a variety of student representation on postgraduate related University Committees.

Yes, I have maintained my role on the various committees and ensuring that students are actually represented.

1.9. Maintain a good working relationship with the Director of Graduate Research regarding GRS issues and liaison with OUSA.

School and endeavour to meet with them on a regular basis.

Relationship has been clear and productive with regularly planned coffee catchups to discuss matters and issues arising from uni and central govt in matters regarding post graduates.

1.10. Maintain links with and assist affiliated Postgraduate bodies.

I largely have been informed by the Divisional Representatives where needed.

1.11. Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice-President, proactively bringing issues relevant to postgraduate students to their attention, and meeting on a regular basis.

Yes, I regularly have chats with Kamesha regarding anything related to post graduates that I feel need to be brought up.

1.13. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

Yes, these duties are being performed where practical.

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

At present, I have worked 7.96 hours per week this quarter.

## Part 2: General Duties of All Executive Members

2.1. 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.

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

2.2.1. Assisting at the OUSA Tent City and other activities during Summer School,

Orientation and Re-Orientation; and;

Duties were performed at various events such as the election enrolment campaign and fees free protest alongside fellow executive members to ensure our duties are met.

2.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

I helped with the election enrolment campaign alongside helping with the advertising of the OUSA referendum as well to promote it to the wider student body.

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

Yes, all meetings have been attended where practical and apologies given when meetings could not be attended.

2.4. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are to be available for national conferences, national and local campaigns, Executive training sessions and Executive planning sessions.

Yes, I have taken part in local election campaigns and planning sessions this quarter.

2.5. All Executive officers shall:

2.5.1. 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;

Yes, no proposals for spending have been brought up yet.

2.5.2. 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, I attended the drag show quiz night alongside Rihanna representing on behalf of the exec.

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

Yes, Te Tiriti has been applied where needed.

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

Apart from chats with Sami and Jarna, and brief chats with the Māori post-grad club, I have not attended such events yet.

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

Yes, have been kept updated on various environmental issues that have been raised and have not performed any activities that could be considered excessive in any waste.

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

Again, unfortunately, this has not been met and is next to impossible regarding my roles and jobs outside of OUSA, both juggling master's studies and part-time work.

2.5.7 Regularly check and respond to all communications.

Yes, I have ensured that I have responded to requests and meetings chats between exec members.

Part 3: Attendance and Involvement in OUSA and University Committees

Yes, these duties have been performed where possible.

Part 4: Goals and your Progress

Goals:

- Handle the last handover and closure of the SPS.
- Take part in the Radio One Interview and Critic Exec collum.
- Organise soap box speech/chats to help increase awareness of OUSA and help with wider communications.

Progress:

- All matters regarding the SPS have been wrapped up with Joshua Stewart and me now reimbursed and the club put into stasis till interest in such a club arises.

again.

- These went off fine nothing crazy to report and I had a good time with both matters and felt I had represented myself appropriately while ensuring the spirit of the role and self.

- Beer crate has been obtained and will be strengthened so it does not break over the break.

## Part 5: General

Nothing wild to report as I have been busy with post-grad papers and tasks. Getting ready for a soap box chat and hoping to increase wider recognition of OUSA will hopefully be great, alongside a few ideas to encourage students to get out and have fun. Advocacy regarding govt cuts continues within senate and chats with Grant to make the plight of future post-grads, especially international one, continues.

Hopefully Ill get underway hearing from satellite campuses and look forward to hearing how Daniel's trip to Wellington goes along with any concerns that may be raised.

Cheers,

Fergus Parks.