

Stella McCurdy

Residential Representative

1st Quarter Report 2024

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Part One: Executive Officer position Description Duties

17.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the OUSA and on campus which is supportive of University of Otago student flatting culture, education, community, and Residential Colleges.

I have run into several hurdles in this section. I had numerous discussions with first years during my campaign for this role in 2023 about the gaps in resources around flatting. It was near-unanimous from students I spoke with across the following halls: Knox, Caroline Freeman, and Hayward college that the current flatting magazine and flatting talks are not good enough or first-year friendly. However, when speaking to relevant parties that produce these talks and magazines, I've been met with a lot of resistance. I am continuing to push forward my proposals and suggestions for how to better reach the 1st year audience with these talks and magazines. I met with Dwaine from Student Support on 12/03/2024 to discuss these issues and to think about improving the OUSA relationship with college wardens.

17.2. In conjunction with relevant Association departments, Executive Officers and committees, create educational material relevant to flatting.

See above. I have been met with resistance, but I am reworking my strategy to achieve an outcome desirable for all: a good collaborative effort with Student Support that produces student-friendly material accessible for all students.

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

17.3.1. Residential Committee;

I am not aware of a Residential Committee currently in existence. My understanding is that Lilly Baird dissolved this committee.

17.3.2. Colleges Committee; and

I am on several committees relating to the colleges. These include the:

- Combined Colleges Project Steering Committee, chaired by James Lindsey
- Colleges Programme: Executive Planning Team, chaired by James Lindsey

I have attended all scheduled meetings for the EPT and PSC.

17.3.2. Subwarden Committee.

I am not aware of such a committee running this year, I will follow up on this. I have found communication with sub wardens to be problematic, due to a clause(?) in their contract about disclosing information to folks "working for the media" (their wording!)

17.7 Take direction from the Residential Committee, and by extension the Colleges Committee and Subwarden Committee, on all matters relevant to Residential Colleges, University Flats, the Locals Programme, student flatting and student locals within the University and the community.

N/A. I would like to speak to the Locals Programme ASAP to see how I could be of use to them this year.

17.8 Via, or in consultation with the Student Support Centre, maintain a good working relationship with the Campus and Collegiate Life Services of the University, sharing information and ideas with them when appropriate.

I have had a few meetings with James Lindsey (Director Campus and Collegiate Life Services). We sit on several committees together and check in via email when appropriate.

17.9 Maintain a good working relationship with the Proctors' Office and Campus Watch bringing to them issues of students within the wider community.

I have not needed to contact the Proctor's Office and Campus Watch in Q1. I will make use of them as needed in Q2 and beyond.

17.10 Maintain a good working relationship with the heads and deputies of Residential Colleges and University Flats, and the head of the Locals Programme and their student representatives.

I have attended a Colleges Warden meeting and met the representatives from each of the residential halls (affiliated and non-affiliated). I made myself known to each of them and am in correspondence via email to maintain a close professional relationship. I also have a close working relationship with Ruben Katigbak, the Head of Colleges. We sit on several committees and have met several times independently to discuss our joint plans and goals for the rest of the year.

I have not yet been in contact with the head of the Locals Programme, and I will get in touch next week.

17.11 Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice-President, proactively bringing issues relevant to Residential Colleges, University Flats, Locals Programme and the Otago Student Community to their attention and meeting with them on a weekly basis.

Emily Williams (AVP) and I work closely together. We regularly discuss what's happening, and I keep her up to date on all my duties and plans. Our most recent meeting was on 12/03/2024 to discuss Q1.

7.12 Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have fulfilled 7.12 general duties throughout Q1.

17.13 Where practical, work not less than ten hours per week, from January 1 until December 31

My average time work per week was brought down by being on field camp for my geology degree for two and a half weeks in January/February. I have done my best to balance that by doing extra work in the subsequent weeks, however my average hours worked per week is slightly below 10 hours (refer to 2024 breakdowns). I will continue to work slightly more than 10 hours per week at the start of Q2 to make up for these weeks lost.

Part Two: General Duties of All Executive Members

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.

I collected my OUSA office key on the 5th of January 2024, marking my first official day of work as the Residential Rep.

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 marquee and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation; and;

I volunteered for several weeks at the Summer in Dunners BBQ, ran on Wednesday afternoons. I also assisted at OUSA Tent City BBQ during O-week. On Clubs Day, I went around some of the stalls with Emma (Clubs & Socs Rep) to meet different clubs.

3.2.2 Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

N/A

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

I have attended all required OUSA meetings in Q1, both those formal and informal.

3.4 All Executive officers shall:

3.4.1 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.

I have not needed to spend any of the Executive budget.

3.4.2 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 currently in discussion with the Otago Students' Disabled Society to learn more about the experiences of disabled people in residential colleges. As a disabled person myself, I am gaining a broader and more full view on the experiences of disabled people in this context. I have also had extensive discussions with the Welfare & Equity Rep about her role and about the experiences of being disabled at Otago University.

I attended the Kai Māori Food Fest with some fellow Exec members during Orientation Week and got a quick tour around the Māori Centre and met leaders in this sphere.

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

I sit on the Waste Management Committee which is due to meet in Quarter 2.

I am keeping up to date with the sustainability efforts at the new Te Rangihīroa residential college – such as being the first college in Dunedin with a state-of-the-art waste management system to decrease food wastage.

I have educated myself on Otago University's Net Carbon Zero 2030 project and consider the key principles in each of my committee meetings regarding the residential colleges.

I do not print out any meeting minutes or documents. I minimise my printing and store all my documents securely on my computer.

3.4.4 All Executive Officers shall every quarter undertake five hours of voluntary service which contributes to the local community.

I sit as Secretary on the Otago Students' Geological Society and have served 5+ hours to the club.

3.4.5 Regularly check and respond to all communications.

I check my emails at least twice a day – once in the morning and once in the evening. Furthermore, I regularly check the OUSA Executive group chat for any updates from my fellow executive.

Part Three: Attendance and involvement in OUSA and University Committees

I am a member of the following OUSA, University, and external committees:

- OUSA Executive. I have been present in-person at all scheduled and emergency meetings.
- University Combined Colleges Project Steering Committee (PSC). I have attended all meetings.
- Combined Colleges Executive Planning Team (EPT). I have attended all meetings.
- Library Services Committee. I have not received any indication that this committee has met in 2024. I have reached out to the relevant parties and am waiting to hear back.
- Waste Management Governance Group. See above. I have established a base relationship with the relevant parties and have not received any agendas. I will follow up on this ASAP.

Outside of my Residential Representative role on OUSA, I also sit as the Secretary in the Otago Students' Geological Society and manage the OSGS email, social media page, and take minutes for all meetings.

Part Four: Goals and your Progress

- 1. Establish a positive and trusting relationship between OUSA and the residential college wardens.**

This relationship has had significant tension and strain in the past few years. Upon speaking to Dwaine at Student Support, it seems that some colleges are highly receptive to OUSA, whereas others prefer to keep to themselves. I think that mending this awkward relationship with certain

colleges will lead to more knowledge around tenancy issues, and faster favourable outcomes of internal goals for colleges, as I believe OUSA has resources and outreach to support the colleges.

Action plan:

- Informally introduce myself to each of the colleges individually. I have attended a College Warden meeting, and got the impression that in the past, the Residential Representatives haven't had the closest relationship with various wardens.
- Schedule regular meetings with Ruben, the senior college warden. He is a wonderful person who has positive connections to all the colleges, and I believe he can help me develop this positive relationship.
- Attend as many College Warden meetings as appropriate. I will discuss this with Ruben.
- Speak regularly to James Lindsey. He explained to me in a meeting why it has been traditionally hard to connect with the wardens from the OUSA Res Rep perspective, so I want to get his input before actioning any of my plans within individual colleges.
- Involve myself in Student Support's flattening mag/talk processes. Make myself visible.
 - James pointed out that many of the colleges are uncomfortable with having people regularly come into the college and speak to students, as it can feel like an invasion of their private space. I completely understand and respect this, so I will navigate this with James and individual wardens.

2. Establish the OUSA Life Members newsletter.

This idea was first adopted by 2023 Residential Representative Lilly Baird near the end of her term. The idea is to essentially promote:

- Affection
- Pride
- Connection
- Gratitude
- Opportunities to support and give

This newsletter will hopefully be produced 2-4 times this year. Some examples of things I will be including in the newsletter:

- Current relevant news
- Photos of OUSA now
- Q&A with past and present OUSA members
- Remembering OUSA Life Members that have passed away: their legacy
- Nostalgia
- Marketing (will speak to OUSA marketing about this first)
- Opportunities to give back to OUSA

I will be working on this project with Lizzy Lukeman over at the alumni office, and the lovely Donna Jones here at OUSA.

Action plan:

- Establish a complete list of contact information for living Life Members. I have already compiled a spreadsheet of all Facebook pages of Life Members that were awarded between 2010 and 2023. This list is being expanded every day with a lot of online research!
- Produce some draft concepts and share them with marketing. I want to ensure marketing is involved every step of the way, as I know that this is their area of expertise.
- Meet regularly with Donna Jones and Lizzy Lukeman to discuss updates and new ideas.
- Involve the OUSA Exec, crowdsource opinions
- Contact Life Members online

3. Continue the positive working relationship with Edinburgh Realty and Cutlers and maintain the relationship of good faith.

The incredible Lilly Baird and Quintin Jane worked hard on this last year, and at the end of 2023, Lilly introduced me and Keegan Wells to all the relevant parties in this field. Keegan and I will continue the hard work of Lilly and Quintin.

Action plan:

- Meet with a representative from Cutlers
- Meet with a representative from Edinburgh Realty
- Create list of relevant speaking points with Keegan before each meeting with the company
- Keep Student Support in the loop regarding this relationship
- Consider involving Cutlers and Edinburgh with Student Support's flatting information? Speak to Dwaine and relevant tenancy parties about this.

I have more small goals; however, these are my three key goals that I wish to action over the next quarter. Some other ideas/goals include:

- Maintain relationship I have established with Auckland University's Students for Fair Rent campaign. This group regularly meets with Chlöe Swarbrick to campaign for the amendment of the 1986 Residential Tenancies Act, specifically 5b, excluding student accommodation from all renters' rights. More to come on this once I have spoken with representatives Matthew Lee and Kalana Piramanage from UoA and Chlöe Swarbrick. The details of this will be outlined in Q2.
- Some colleges have expressed interest in a "puppy charity day", e.g. bringing puppies to improve mental health of students and raising money for the applicable rescue charity. I will speak to James and Ruben about this when I next see them and reach out to Dog Rescue Dunedin – Cat Rescue Dunedin could also be an alternative.
- Speak with OSDS regarding the experiences of disabilities in residential colleges.

- Get a hold of the 2024 subwarden contracts – I have reason to believe they have changed since 2023, and I want to address these changes as appropriate, if necessary. I have managed to get the 2023 contract, but getting the 2024 one is proving difficult: no one is willing to show me...

Part Five: General

Nothing to add.

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