Hanna Friedlander

Postgraduate Representative

Forth Quarter Report 2024

Word count: 1,649

**Part One: Executive Officer Position Description Duties**

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

As per the previous three quarters, SPS has promoted the events relevant to postgrads on the facebook group.

* 1. **Be one of the Association’s representatives on the University of Otago Senate.**

I have attended all meetings run by senate. And if not all, I have made sure to send apologies to the ones I have missed.

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

**1.3.1. Society for Postgraduate Students; and;**

I chair the club ☺

**1.3.2. Academic Committee.**

There haven’t been any meetings in the last 3 quarters that I am aware of. Hopefully next year the committee can become more active to help Stella achieve her goals.

* 1. **Chair monthly meetings of the Society for Postgraduate Students, 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.**

OK, admittedly, I have severely slacked on this duty. Partially due to the fact that I have not taken enough leadership to call meetings but mainly the current exec are all extremely busy and frankly, don’t have much interest in the club and its vision like I do. I will do all I can do give advice to Josh how he can manage both his OUSA duties and SPS duties better than I did as it is really hard to navigate while also focusing on making progress on my degree. Hopefully Josh will be able to dedicate more time to SPS than I have done this year since he won’t be enrolled for a good portion of next year.

* 1. **Take direction from the Society for Postgraduate Students on all matters relevant to postgraduate members.**

As the mission of SPS states, “it isn’t a club you join but one that you are a part of”; I have striven to take into account any postgrads who raise concerns with me on postgrad related matters that I can potentially alleviate, as direction for my OUSA duties and SPS duties.

* 1. **Be the Association’s representative on the Board of Graduate Studies.**

Same as for *Q1.2*. I have sent apologies for the ones I have missed.

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

I share with the exec items that I think are of importance and I frequently ask Keegan for help on things I am unsure about as she can provide me with a lot of guidance from her experience.

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

Yes, I try to do what I can in the moment and offer my voice when I can directly provide insight. I.e. only as a phd student who grew up in Japanese cultural household, who is also from the States. When an issue is raised that I can’t immediately personally relate to, I always ask for time for me to consult with relevant parties that I think have more personal links.

* 1. **Maintain a good working relationship with the Director of Graduate Research School and endeavor to meet with them on a regular basis.**

Yes! Diane and I have started having regular meetings at my request and I think it is the best way for the postgrad rep to be kept up to date and informed of issues immediately relevant.

* 1. **Maintain links with and assist affiliated Postgraduate bodies.**

Definitely, yes. Talking to individuals on campus who care about postgrad matters is THE BEST WAY to exert influence in this role.

* 1. **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.**

Emily <3 my queen <3 who I absolutely adore <3 you are so so so amazing and have been such a pillar of support for me and everyone on the exec, I’m sure! We maybe haven’t met as regularly as we should’ve and frankly, I’m not sure how much input Emily would have on postgrad matters, BUT *administrative* matters, boy, has she been great and big-brained on things I’ve asked her advice on. I mean, it’s in the name right ☺

* 1. **Sit on the Society for Postgraduate Students as an ex-officio member and maintain and fulfil the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding held between the Association and the Society for Postgraduate Students.**

Yup. I plan to submit a report on the MOU before the end of the year as we still have thanksgiving giftbags to give out, which will be out last financial commitment of the year.

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

Yep, pretty sure I’ve done this alright.

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

Yes! This has been a pretty full-on quarter for me – I’m lucky because I don’t have exams to do hehe.

**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.**

noted. Slay.

**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;**

I helped with the AGM BBQ! I also did drop for good!

**2.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.**

Yup! I manned the booth table ☺

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

I’ve been to all of them barring one this quarter I think? Idk, ask Emily for the numbers. I have sent my apologies for the day(s) I wasn’t there.

**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?

**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;**

Yup! Daniel has been great. Seems to be really on top of things and explains the budget really well so I can understand easily ☺

**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;**

Yep, the department hosts mātauranga māori sessions that I attend ☺

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

Of course, always!

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

I feel like I haven’t attended enough… ☹

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

Yup! My involvement with the air travel steering group and in my day to day, I also do what I can to promote and follow sustainable practice.

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

Does drop for good count…?

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

Yup!

**Part 3: Attendance and Involvement in OUSA and University Committees**

As of the end of this quarter, these are all the boards I am a part of:

* Board of graduate studies/undergraduate studies
* Graduate research committee
* Graduate research student liaison committee
* Senate
* Human ethics committee
* Air travel project steering committee
* Library committee
* Animal practice steering and compliance group
* Postgrad scholarships strategy working group
* Vice chancellors staff-student advisory group
* Pae tata sciences division working group

**Part 4: Goals and your Progress**

**Imposter Hour**

Meg’s last session for this year was last month. There wasn’t much of a turnout but it was a very successful session nonetheless. There was a student who was on exchange in Palmerston North who was struggling a bit and their aunt sent them my article in the ODT about loneliness. The student left the session feeling a lot better, which made me feel like this whole year of running these sessions was worth it. Reflecting on this goal, I do think it was overall a good initiative that I hope has been helpful for some. If I have the time, I would love to keep these sessions going but frankly, it’s a lot for one person to manage. I also don’t think I am qualified to facilitate these sessions…BUT…I do think postgrads need a space to talk to each other and maybe first step of that is a common room…?

**Postgrad open day**

Yeah, so this, didn’t go well…not at all actually. I don’t think this is even the place to talk about this to be honest because I only have negative things to say. I do think it had the potential to be a valuable event but the execution was so poor that it ended up being a non-valuable, terrible event that no one ever wants to see happen again. What WAS successful was the undergrad/postgrad mixer. The undergrads who came found the experience really valuable and it was amazing to meet so many different postgrads around campus.

**Board games night**

This has been fun! We have had plenty of good turnout. Students are so funny – they don’t come to events unless there is free food. Not much to say about this one other than the fact that my wallet is crying since ANZ won’t fix the authority issue.

**Part 5: General**

I completely forgot about this section until 5min before submission so I’m going to keep this short. Also, I don’t want to get all sappy and be too depresso espresso for the rest of the day to get anything done.

To the 2024 exec team,

Wow, how cool that we have made it through a whole year together. Working alongside such passionate, dedicated, and brilliant individuals has been such a privilege and has contributed to my growth as a person immensely. Together, we accomplished so much—we’ve advocated for student issues, fought for positive political change, and I’d like to think, truly made a difference, even just for one fellow student. But more than the work we have done, what I take away from this experience are the amazing friends I have managed to make. Throughout the year, you have all been not just wonderful colleagues but also people that I admire, respect, and genuinely enjoy spending time with. I feel so lucky to have had this chance to work with you all and I would really love for us to stay in touch and if possible, get together for reunions and such later on. Wishing each and every one of you all the best in whatever you get up to next ☺

With love,

Hanna