



# Quarterly Report

University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association

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<b>Quarter</b>	3 (July to September)
<b>Role</b>	President
<b>Submitted</b>	Saturday 28th September,, 2024
<b>Accepted</b>	xxxday xxth September, 2024

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The purpose of this Quarterly Report is to allow the Officer to meet their responsibilities outlined in Section 31 (Reporting by Executive Officers) of the Constitution. Given that this report is accepted by the Executive as a true and accurate record of the Officer's contributions to UOPISA this quarter, the Officer will be eligible to receive remuneration at rates stipulated by the annual budget and according to the *Policy for Executive Remuneration*.

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## **PART ONE: CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Section 27: Responsibilities of Executive Officers**

#### **President**

1.1. *The President must not hold office for longer than two (2) years in total.*

This is my first year as UOPISA President

1.2. *The President is the primary elected representative of members of UOPISA. The President will lead UOPISA in fulfilling its core functions and achieving its goals outlined in clause 4.1.*

a) *Promote the equitable opportunity, wide representation, friendly gathering and participating of Pacific students within the University;*

This was done this quarter by representing UOPISA in the meetings that I attended and in events that I was able to go to.

b) *Ensure that the University is providing a supportive environment and experience for all Pacific students enrolled, in order to improve and maintain excellence in academic, spiritual, sports, cultural and social endeavours by i) advocating for and promoting the interests of UOPISA, and; ii) supporting and representing Pacific students in achieving*



their academic aspirations and educational goals, and;

This was achieved this quarter by continually supporting and representing our Pacific students and member associations. Every quarter, I am able to look out for our Pacific students by advocating for them whenever and wherever I can.

*c) Promote the expression of Pacific cultures and language within the University;*

I have achieved this by supporting our member associations at as many events that I could attend. I was also part of a meeting with Keilah Fox and some of the cultural associations to help plan their language weeks.

*d) To establish and maintain our relationship with OUSA, Te Rōpū Māori and the University, where appropriate.*

This quarter I was able to host a kava session for OUSA and Te Rōpū Māori. This was to strengthen our relationship as a group and teach and show the Tongan and Fijian cultures and how we have kava. This was also during Tongan Language Week. This session was a huge success and I would love to host another kava session with everyone before the year ends.

I am very grateful for my relationship with both OUSA and TRM. We are able to work well together and the OUSA executive is always looking out for the needs of Pacific students, even in spaces that I am not in. I have also applied for a grant for Pacific Week. In this proposal I had what Pacific Week is for, the budget, and how this will help UOPISA and our thirteen member associations. This was approved by the OUSA Executive during one of our weekly meetings and was sent in time for Pacific Week (thank you!).

### **Internal work**

- a) Monthly meetings with the University of Otago Pacific Leadership Group (PLG)
  - i) The PLG meetings consists of the Pacific deans of various teaching disciplines, the Acting Director of Pacific development Office, and myself. This is where we can have round the table discussions on current events, policies, and update each other on the wellbeing of Pacific students and staff and how we can continue to improve their University experience together.
- b) Otago Pacific Presidents meetings (Standing Committee)
  - i) These meetings are for around-the-table discussions with all Pacific Presidents. During these meetings, we have been able to update each other with future events and plans that we all have. We were also able to pass the new UOPISA Grant Policy for our member associations and also UOPISA's second quarterly report.
- c) Monthly meetings with Professor Helen Nicholson.
  - i) These meetings are where I can ask for advice and I can update Helen with what UOPISA has been doing. We did not meet in August as it was a busy month for me.
- d) Monthly meetings with Vice Chancellor, Honourable Grant Robertson



- i) These meetings are with OUSA President and Te Rōpū Māori Tumuaki. This is where we can update Grant with what we are all doing and have great conversations.
- e) Senate.
  - i) Senate is the principal academic authority of the University and shall, subject to the powers reserved to the council by act of parliament, take such measures and act in such a manner as shall appear to it best calculated to promote the academic work to the University both in teaching and research and for the regulation and superintendence of the education of the students of the University.
  - ii) During senate, I have been allowed to ask questions and share my opinion on various issues that I know can have an impact on Pacific students. I will continue to voice my opinion in senate where I find it appropriate, whether if it is positive or negative.
- f) Meeting with Jo Orange – University’s Manager Student Pastoral Care.
  - i) I meet with Jo every six weeks. This is where we discuss how Student Pastoral Care can help Pacific students and all students in the University.
  - ii) Something that we have discussed is the wellbeing of Pacific students who are on placement around the country. I hope that in the future, UOPISA will be able to hear every quarter or monthly updates on Pacific students across the country.
- g) Pastoral Care Hui
  - i) I attended a meeting with Pastoral Care and OUSA executives. This is where we discussed if the University’s pastoral care meets the needs of our diverse student body.
- h) OUSA Executive and Library Meeting
  - i) Was part of the meeting with OUSA and those that work at the library. We met at Hocken Library where they were able to update us with the changes they have made around campus. They took our ideas and suggestions and made some of them a reality which is amazing to see. They were also kind enough to give us a tour around the Hocken Library which is one of my highlights of the whole year.
- i) Blues & Gold Awards Panel
  - i) This is confidential.
- j) OUSA Photoshoot.
  - i) Was part of the photo shoot for OUSA
- k) Graduation
  - i) I was honoured to be part of the graduation ceremony for a second time. I was part of the graduation procession and the 4pm ceremony.
- l) Graduation Dinner.
  - i) I was honoured to be invited by the Vice-Chancellor, Honourable Grant Robertson, to the graduation dinner. I was able to have great conversations with my fellow OUSA Executives and with staff members who attended.
- m) Pacific Welcome for the Vice-Chancellor, Honourable Grant Robertson.
  - i) In July, there was a Pacific Welcome for the new Vice-Chancellor. I was able to work with Professor Edmond Fehoko and was part of the kava ceremony that we had for Grant along with other Pacific students. I also prepared a speech on behalf of all Pacific students.



- n) Attended OUSA health and safety session
- o) Attended the Uni Operations Feedback with OUSA.
  - i) Unfortunately, I had to leave early to attend a meeting which was on at a similar times.
- p) OUSA Blues and Gold Awards
- q) Meeting with the Administrative Vice-President, Emily Williams, and Te Rōpū Māori Tumuaki, Distance Takamori.

## General Responsibilities

*1.1. Executive Officers should support each other in their roles and duties where appropriate and necessary, without compromising the responsibilities of their own role.*

This quarter, we were all able to support each other with our roles. This quarter was a very busy time for us all as we all had our own side quests. However, we work very well together and understand that everyone is busy. As a team, we continue to support each other in UOPISA and abroad.

- I was able to meet with the President of the Science Students' Pacific Islands Association (SSPIA) and the SSPIA Executive to discuss their Annual General Meeting (AGM). SSPIA is the Vice-Presidents mentee association.
- I have sent a few emails in regards to Pacific Awards Night for my Secretary.
- I did post a couple posters for my Public Relations Officer to promote Pacific Week.
- Went shopping with the Treasurer and the Events Coordinator in preparation for Pacific Awards Night.
- Ran errands with the Treasurer for Pacific Week.
- Helped my team with the script for Pacific Awards Night.

*1.2. Executive Officers should attend, where possible and appropriate, the Annual General Meetings of the member associations. When representation is not possible, an apology should be sent to the member association on behalf of the Executive.*

I have attended the Pacific Islands Health Professionals Students Association (PIHPSA) AGM which was chaired by the Treasurer, Millie Mo'unga.

*1.3. Executive Officers should endeavour to attend other events of the member associations, where possible and appropriate. This will ensure the Executive Officers maintain relationships with the Pacific community.*

I have attended fewer events this quarter compared to the first quarter.

Biomedical Otago Pacific Students Association (BOPSA):

- BOPSA Fundraiser

Otago Tongan Students' Association (OTSA):



- Attended OTSA fundraiser
- Movie Night with ONSA (Pacific Week)
- Koniseti for 'Amatakiloa

Science Students Pacific Islands Association (SSPIA):

- SSPIA bake sale

Pacific Islands Health Professionals Students Association (PIHPSA)

- PIHPSA AGM

Otago Niuean Students Association (ONSA):

- Movie Night with OTSA (Pacific Week)

Humanities Otago Pacific Students' Association (HOPSA)

- Pasifika Panel with PILSA (Pacific Week)

Pacific Islands Law Students' Association (PILSA):

- Pasifika Panel with HOPSA (Pacific Week)

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## **PART TWO: PERSONAL GOALS AND PROGRESS**

*Use this section as an opportunity to discuss the personal goals you set for this quarter. How are you tracking and what are the next steps? It's important to discuss how your personal and leadership attributes have developed since stepping into your role, and to keep measuring their growth throughout the year.*

To establish an office space for UOPISA.

- I had a meeting about the UOPISA office space earlier in the quarter and I feel at peace knowing that they are looking for a space for us. This can be a small office space for now and then future UOPISA Executives can build further from there. As mentioned in the last quarter, I know that spaces are limited and there are areas that are currently under renovation. I am grateful for Tagilima Feleti who is the manager of the Pacific Islands Centre as he has also asked the University the progress on finding and office space for us. I am also grateful for Keegan Wells, the OUSA President as she was able to connect me to the right people.

To get more funding to help support our Pacific students and also our thirteen member associations.

- My Executive and I are currently applying for an equity fund to get more funding for our member associations. As an executive, we understand the struggles that our thirteen member associations face when trying to fundraise and apply for funding throughout the year. We



hope that by applying for the equity fund, we will be able to help our member associations with their events and plans. We also hope that this funding will continue each year and our member associations can apply for this funding using the new Grant Policy that we have. They will still have to abide by the criteria and we hope that this will build our associations stronger for our Pacific students.

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### **PART THREE: GENERAL COMMENTS**

*Use this section to discuss the extra service you do in your role or to provide more detail on your executive responsibilities. For example, have you contributed to a working group or sat on an advisory committee? Have you met with your member associations or met with external parties? Have you attended member association events on behalf of UOPISA or attended professional development courses to improve your leadership skills? It is important to keep track of your workload and the many ways you are contributing to UOPISA and the Pacific community.*

- Mentoring OMISA.
    - I have emailed OMISA and have also had quick conversations with some of their exec members to see how things are going with OMISA.
  
  - Mentoring HOPSA.
    - I have had a chat with HOPSA this quarter and helped them apply for our new grant for the member associations.
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