

EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT

NAME	Andreas Triandafilidis
POSITION	Activities Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 January – 1 June 2012
TOTAL WEEKS WORKED	22 (the first week the office wasn't open)
HOURS WORKED	198.5 + 18 holiday pay
BONUS APPLICATION	\$0

Reporting on Priority Goals:

1. Goal 5:

Activities: To provide or assist sporting, social and cultural activities, for and by members; primarily through clubs.

I began work at the beginning of the year towards VUWSA goals 4, 5, and 6 by preparing to do a stocktake of current activity, event, and club support and looking, in particular, at helping to create a better clubs handbook and set of resources. However, the uncertainty the clubs review brought, meant reorganising resources became harder and needed was put off until arrangements and agreements had been settled. Nonetheless, if the shape of things to come can be better determined soon, I hope to continue with forming an action plan and improving VUWSA's general support for clubs and activities.

2. Goal 6: Public Issues: To promote discussion and action as appropriate, on issues concerning students as citizens

The freeze on non-essential spending has made planning major events hard. I have helped clubs with their bookings and an international travel group with their enquires on getting a presence on campus, have been aware of an interparty debate organised by Adele, participated in budget protest, and done things here and there. However, to be honest, not too much has happened in this area.

Reporting on Other Goals:

None.

General Tasks and Initiatives

1. General Support

I have put a lot of time and energy into the general and basic tasks of the association (from everyday stuff to big events such as O-Week and Flu Shots) and into supporting other Executive members and staff in their roles.

Representation

1. Governance Review Working Party

I have played a key role in the Governance Review working party taking the minutes, formatting the documents, offering a bunch of ideas, and word-smithing.

2. NZUSA Conference

I attended all days of the NZUSA February Conference, which I took a lot out of, wrote a bunch of personal notes for, and for which I prepared a detailed report for the Exec.

3. NZ Finance Conference

I attended an April Conference on the Funding of Student Finance, which I also took a lot out of. I also spoke at the Conference as a panellist on my experiences as student relying on government financing.

4. VUWSA Policy Committee

I have attended the Policy Committee meetings, taken minutes, and actively participated in them.

5. VUWSA Exec Meetings

I have also attended and actively participated all Exec Meetings (bar one 10min one).

Strengths

1. Picking up slack. I have made myself available to help other Exec members and VUWSA staff members in their own projects and responsibilities (from helping with printing and quiz nights, to taking minutes in others' absence and covering the front desk). Executive members and staff have on numerous occasions needed an extra hand and I've gained some interesting experience while helping VUWSA and VUWSA activities run smoothly.
2. Adaptability. I have supported other Executive members and been delegated a range of tasks. I have had little difficulty in learning on the job and taking initiative (having in the past already had a lot of practise at adaptability and initiative skills non-profit work often requires).
3. Being a critical voice. I haven't been afraid to offer my own opinion on major issues and decisions VUWSA has had to make, and have done so in many Executive meetings and email discussions. Though we must always be respectful of each other, I think it is our duty as a range of elected student representatives to offer our varied opinions. It is only

through thoroughly discussing and debating the best courses of actions that we will work out the best ways to fulfil our roles as a voice and support for students.

Weaknesses

1. Chasing up work. Though I have deliberately been around the office and made it clear as much as possible that I am available to help others in their roles and duties, I could still do a lot more. My role, especially with our temporary freeze on non-essential spending, is rather limited and therefore gives me a fair amount of free time in which I can help the rather overworked Vice Presidents and majorly overworked President. The recent introduction of an online task sharing tool should help with this.
2. Syncing in with others. While the welfare representatives have regular meetings, there is little on coordination with engagement reps and staff at VUWSA. Through this is partially an Executive Composition thing, I could spend more time and put more effort in keeping in touch and syncing with other engagement representatives on VUWSA, staff, and even engagement reps at other student associations.

Overall Rating

I believe I have put an honest effort into and been a significant contribution to VUWSA over the last 5 months. I have strived to do my best in tasks assigned to me, to fulfil the functions of my role, and to make myself available to other VUWSA Exec members and staff that have needed my help in ensuring VUWSA does its job well. I look forward to working for and representing students in the second half of the year and making sure VUWSA "kicks".