

**EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT**

NAME	Reed Fleming
POSITION	Clubs Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 January – 1 June 2012
TOTAL WEEKS WORKED	22
HOURS WORKED	194
BONUS APPLICATION	\$0.00

**Reporting on Priority Goals:**

**(i) Goal 5. Activities**

**“To provide or assist sporting, social and cultural activities, for and by members; primarily through clubs.”**

Throughout the first half of the year I have dedicated myself to supporting clubs through events such as Clubs Week, funding through Clubs Council, advice on an almost daily basis and advocacy during the Clubs Review. Clubs Week was a fantastic launch pad for building a relationship with clubs, and an opportunity to let them know about the Clubs Review and invite them to contact me at any point for guidance and support. Many clubs have taken up this offer and have I am contacted almost daily seeking advice on a huge variety of issues for clubs from dealing with University and complaints to grant requests and registering as a society. I have worked closely with Melissa Barnard (Clubs and Events Manager) to share workload of responding to these queries and to ensure the best advice is given promptly. The Clubs Review was a process where I was involved as an advocate for clubs and fed into the review to give insight from both the perspective of VUWSA and clubs.

**(ii) Convene Clubs Council (Goals 2 and 4 are combined due to the restructuring and merging of the Sports Council and Cultural Council)**

The Sports and Cultural Councils were merged at the start of the year to reflect the merge of the funding pool. Not only would it streamline the work flow, it would also ensure fairness in the allocation of funds between Cultural and Sports Clubs. I have ensured grant applications and registrations are distributed to members of the

Council and have chaired the meeting on occasions where the elected Chair has been unavailable. The merging of these clubs, and guidance from myself and Melissa Barnard has improved efficiency of this Council delivering faster outcomes to grant applications for clubs. I have also worked to ensure consistency in considering applications, building an understanding through the Council that applications are considered objectively using uniform criteria.

**(iii) Liason with and assistance to Clubs and Clubs Council.** *(Goals 3 and 5 are combined due to the restructuring and merging of the Sports Council and Cultural Council)*

As stated in priority goal (i) there has been ongoing communication with a number of clubs and numerous queries answered. A great deal of these questions pertained to grant applications from the Clubs Council.

### **Reporting on Other Goals:**

#### **Goal 6. Public Issues**

**To promote discussion and action as appropriate, on issues concerning students as citizens.**

Involvement in the 2012 Budget campaign addressing changes to student allowance availability was to promote discussion and take action on this student issue. I have also conducted consultation with residents at Te Puni Village regarding recent rule changes which some residents were concerned about. I believe it is crucially important for VUWSA to engage with students on issues relevant to them, to be their voice and to seek better a better deal for them, within the university, locally or nationally.

#### **Goal 8. Accountability**

**To ensure that the structures and procedures of the Association result in effective and efficient communication, management and accountability.**

Working alongside William Guzzo (Treasurer), I have assisted in reformation of the Executive Work Reporting process and have led the streamlining of the new process. I have taken responsibility for ensuring work reports are submitting, considered by the Executive Reporting Committee, that this committee reports back to the Executive and that passed Work Reports are made available to members on the Association's website.

### **General Tasks and Initiatives**

#### **1. Work Reporting Overhaul**

See details under "Goal 8, Accountability". This has been an ongoing and time consuming process for me.

#### **2. Operational Support**

A huge amount of time has been dedicated to operations such as Orientation, Flu Shot and other events organised by VUWSA. I have not hesitated to put my hand up for VUWSA work during these busy times of the year and will continue. I believe it is important as executive members to hear from members what they appreciate and what we aren't doing so well.

## **Representation**

### **1. Executive Reporting Committee**

I was co-opted onto this committee by the executive mid-way through the first half of the year. Since this time I have been able to reform the process in which reporting takes place.

### **2. Clubs Council**

I chaired the first meeting of both the Sports and Cultural Council, proposing to them a recommendation that the Councils were merged to reflect the change in funding and possible future changes due to the Clubs Review. This recommendation was adopted by both Councils and the unified Clubs Council was formed.

In the event of an absence of both of the elected chair people of this council I have taken the chair to ensure continuity of this council and guide them procedurally and substantively to aid them in their decision making on grant applications, club registrations and individual sponsorship applications.

I will, after VUW takes responsibility for clubs on 1<sup>st</sup> July, have a close working relationship with Recreation Services to help the transition, build a relationship between VUWSA and Recreation Services and to ensure good outcomes for clubs. I will remain on the Clubs Council.

### **3. VUWSA Initial General Meeting**

I attended this important event on the Association's calendar and had responsibility for quorum and voting at the meeting.

### **4. VUWSA Executive Meetings**

With the exception of the first meeting of the executive I have attended all Executive Meetings. These meetings are crucial in having a robust dialogue about the direction of the association on an issue by issue, and broader, basis. It is difficult to quantify input into these meetings and explain the importance of participation in them. However I am happy with the input I have made.

## **Strengths**

1. Speaking up. I have not been afraid of challenging the position of the association in Executive Meetings or in private meetings and discussions with others. It is important in this very transitional year that we build a future for the Association which is financially sustainable while retaining independence and a being strong voice for students and student issues. Sometimes challenging decisions which will lead us away from this point is necessary. I am proud of my record so far and will continue to constructively speak up.
2. Saying yes. To ensure VUWSA operates smoothly it requires a vast amount of practical work to be done by Executive members. Whether it be helping at a stall, doing paper work or attending a rally, it is important to say yes and lend a hand. Without keen and active members on the Executive the Association loses its ability to engage with students and improve their experience at University.

## **Weaknesses**

1. Chaos Avoidance. I have struggled to balance study, VUWSA and personal commitments and run myself into the ground rather than let some commitments slide. In the interests of my personal sanity I need to focus more on prioritisation.
2. Letting the little things be little. It can be too easy to be bogged down with bureaucracy and paper work. I have tried to tackle this through streamlining the ERC, and had some success. I will continue to make an effort to turning my attention to the big issues while cutting bureaucracy and time consuming activities that yield no positive outcomes for our members.

## **Overall Rating**

A work report like this simply cannot effectively qualify or quantify the extremely diverse range of work that a VUWSA Executive member contributes. However, it can give an overview of some of core activities that we have taken part in. I have worked tirelessly to contribute to VUWSA governance and operation, as reflected in this report; however this report cannot reflect the daily contribution which Executive members make. The countless emails and queries, conversations with students, advice about how to deal with problems with the university and letting classmates know what services VUWSA can offer them is just a snippet of the role that Executive members fulfil daily. I am very happy with my overall input to the Association and think that other members would consider my contribution valuable, while recognising that there are areas where my performance can, and will, be improved.