

**EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT**

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NAME	Sara Bishop
POSITION	Women's Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 January – 1 June 2012
TOTAL WEEKS WORKED	22
HOURS WORKED	218
BONUS APPLICATION	N/A

**Reporting on Priority Goals:**

Women's Officer Priority Goals: 2, 3 and 6.

**1. [2]**

**Education: University**

**To ensure the university provides equity and quality in assessment, teaching, conditions and course access supported by sufficient resources.**

Unfortunately, I believe this is probably my least achieved priority goal. I have had very little to do with VUWSA's involvement in the university's delivery of education. This is partly because I entered VUWSA with very little understanding of how I could get involved in this. Also, in examining the work of Fiona Beals and Josh Wright, I feel that VUWSA's education team is already doing an excellent job this year in holding the university accountable for its provisions and affording students of all circumstances accessible means through which to become engaged in that process.

**2. [3]**

**Education: Equity**

**To promote equity for disadvantaged members in access to and within the university.**

This is a goal that I have been really enthusiastic about since the NZUSA conference in January where this was discussed in great depth. In order to achieve this goal I have been involved in

helping NZUSA's National Women's Rights Officer identify and write on women's issues within the tertiary sector, especially about accessibility in light of student finance changes this year and previously. I also helped with VUWSA's budget day campaign as I felt this was a really important campaign to bring to light the issues of access and equity that were being created by changes to the loans and allowance schemes. These activities also support priority goal number one. I have also worked on the Campus Safety Audit this year, which is a NZUSA initiative to ensure that campuses are safe and therefore physically accessible to all students.

**3. [6]**

**Public Issues**

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

As citizens, female students' -like all women's- greatest public issues concern economic resources and violence. To promote discussion and action of these issues I coordinated a fundraiser event for the Wellington Rape Crisis Centre with the aid of the Women's Group. I have also helped WRC with advertising their own fundraisers on campus. I have also organized a workshop event to be held in Trimester two for women about to graduate where they can learn tips for job interviews, negotiating salaries, workplace rights and so forth.

**Reporting on Other Goals:**

**1. [5]**

**To provide or assist sporting, social and cultural activities, for and by members; primarily through clubs. Briefly outline how you worked towards achieving this goal**

I have also been supportive of nearly all of VUWSA's significant activities so far this year, having worked on O-Week and Clubs Week events, the advertising of events and important meetings as well as assisting with the Welfare Team's initiatives such as surveys and Flu shots and soon-to-be Stress Free Study Week.

**General Tasks and Initiatives**

1. Constitutionally, the women's officer's role includes liaison with women's groups on campus and at a national level.

This is something I have been really conscious of this year as I am aware of the likely changes to VUWSA's executive structure and wanted to ensure that VUWSA had some really valuable contacts to lean on when the role of Women's Officer is no longer. These include the National Council of Women of New Zealand, the National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women, The Roundtable on Violence Against Women, Kirsten Windelov at PSA, Family Planning and the Wellington Women's Health Collective.

I have also made sure to plan this year's Women's Week with as much involvement from on-campus speakers and event holders such as the Rec Centre, Student Health and several lecturers.

Unfortunately, I have not been so successful with groups on campus. Women's Group has been extremely inactive for the last two years and so it has been a goal of mine to make it more active and involved in campus life this year. However, there has been very little interest from students aside from a dedicated few who I'm hoping will have some success from a joint campaign they are running next trimester with the NCWNZ.

## **Representation**

### **1. NZUSA Conference, incl. Women's caucus (TWFG)**

This was a really valuable learning opportunity in regards to campaigning and the student issues that are prevalent this year at a national level, in particular the VSM environment and financial cuts to student support.

### **2. Policy Committee**

The aim of this committee was to renew VUWSA's policies. However the meetings for this have always been indefinitely postponed aside from the ones looking at the Governance Review, of which I am not a part.

### **3. Welfare Team**

The Welfare team collates the work of the Welfare Officer, Environment Officer, Campaigns Officer, Queer Officer and myself in order to support each other with our initiatives and discuss how they are located within the wider goal of student welfare.

## **Strengths**

1. I think my most notable strength has been to do with preparing for next year when the role of women's officer is removed. This has involved my networking with organisations outside of the university and development of events that are easy to organise yet promote pertinent discussion and can be replicated by future Welfare teams.
2. Secondly, I am pleased with the contribution I have made to VUWSA as a whole through dedicating time to events and engaging where relevant with the topics in executive meetings, policy changes and decisions.

## **Weaknesses**

1. As mentioned, I think a significant weakness has been my failure to get the Women's Group up and running this year. I will certainly endeavour to make a greater effort in this regard in Trimester two.
2. Secondly, I have focused my portfolio work primarily on more general and national women's issues. For the remainder of the year, I am making it a goal to promote awareness of educational issues for women.

## **Overall Rating**

Overall I am pleased with my contribution to VUWSA. I have identified some weaknesses although they easily translate into goals for the remainder of the year. I'm also delighted with the collective actions of the VUWSA executive this year as I think we have worked brilliantly in this year's circumstances.