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NAME	Marlon Drake
POSITION	Clubs and Activities Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 <sup>st</sup> January – 30 June, 2017
HOURS WORKED	339.5
HOURS REQUIRED	260

**Constitutional Goal**

My specified constitutional goal is number 5; “Goal 5 - Activities: To support sporting, social and cultural activities for and by members and students, particularly through Clubs.” I’ve really made an effort to go outside of solely my constitutional requirement though, simply because I’ve found that on VUWSA activities are everywhere!

**Priority Goals:**

- Establish a Powerful Student Voice

**Halls Committee**

This year I’ve been working on forming the Halls Committee. At the start of the year we visited each hall and made sure first year students were aware of VUWSA and the services we provide, so that when students leave the Halls they have support systems that they know they can access. To ensure longevity with this goal and increase representation within Halls, I was tasked with helping round up students to represent these halls. We held our first meeting towards the end of the first trimester, in good timing too, when major changes were proposed that would drastically effect halls. This meeting proved beneficial in ensuring there was student consultation done with the university proposal, and also it was awesome to see students really representing their halls in a collaborative space where issues were discussed and ideas about how halls should operate were shared with us, and between the representatives. I think I did well with contacting and explaining the committee to the representatives, but I struggled to

get these contacts at first and there was a split effort with the SRC. Online communications are an admitted pain but I am continuing to work on these skills and have already learnt a lot. Always follow up!

### **Clubs Council**

The Clubs Council has been a bit of a beast to wrangle. Student engagement in the body is relatively low, which meant it was hard to get it to form in the first place. This year I decided together with Rec to make the process as painless and easy for all parties. We joint our information 'night' which we had at about 4 in the arvo, and after an online nomination process, passed a motion adopting 10 individuals. We're taking a different approach this year with services VUWSA provides, and I look forward to restructuring the angle we take with good consultation. We split the Council off into working groups to each work on improving different areas of VUWSA's club engagement. One working group on trainings, one working group on constitutional review, and one group (that I myself was a direct part of) working on a "Clubs Manual". This clubs manual is the first of its kind to my knowledge and provides a student friendly point of reference whenever clubs should need something, with contact details, links to websites, and I also managed to receive a couple deals with local business that Victoria clubs can benefit from. The manual is currently being designed to look pretty, then it will be sent to print. A weakness I had here was delegation of tasks to the rest of my working group, but I still managed to keep them involved in the process once I realized I couldn't do it alone. This falls in line with goal 5 of the constitution.

### **Sponsorship Panel**

Clubs Council involvement on the sponsorship panel has also been a success, with an experienced member of the council coming along with the know-how and other members learning how it works for their first time. I've attended almost every sponsorship meeting, acting as chair. The sponsorship panel is a very important body, because ultimately a lot of the clubs rely it for funding. The university takes the student representatives on it quite seriously, and I think I've done a good job so far. This falls in line with goal 5 as well. I've learnt heaps on the sponsorship panel and I think I've done quite a good job. Decision making with that amount of money requires a lot of responsibility, and we've always looked for ways to make sure everyone is happy (within the boundaries of the criteria).

### **Sports Strategy Workshop**

I was invited to the Sports Strategy Workshop to represent a student voice for a presentation of VUW's sports strategy over the next few years. I'll be sticking around for the process, with affirmation from Karl as my role as advocate for clubs in consultation.

- Grow Our Engagement with Students

Being part of the engagement team means there's a bit of crossover, especially considering how broad the title 'activities' is. I've found it really is what I choose to make of it. Fortunately, there's no shortage of stuff to get amongst.

### **Living Wage**

Early in the year I signed up for Living Wage. We've had a few meetings about the campaign this year, involving postcards, and the presentation of these postcards signed by students to show the university there is a student want for change, not just VUWSA and the staff. We planned for the 'Living Wage Day' which was a fantastic event. The atmosphere was charged and we saw huge engagement from students, staff, and even local politicians who came to



support the Living Wage. As an event it was representative of what Goal 6 of our constitutional goals should look like; students taking the university to account over a social issue.

### **Hall Visits**

As mentioned before, I also organized hall visits to first year halls of residence which were attended by myself, the President, and other members of the executive. It was good fun getting that valuable one on one time with first year students who often go under the radar when it comes to VUWSA's engagement with them. I was quite proud of myself as it was probably the first thing I really jumped onto doing and was able to get visits organized to most of the halls despite those start of year communications difficulties.

### **Club Engagement**

Finally, the services we are providing clubs have been improved including an events calendar, resources, and the manual, all of which are set to launch soon in Trimester 2, once a few edits are made due to changes in staff that require changes in contact details. Another service is myself, and trying to make the CAO role one that engages actively with clubs. I've been to numerous club events and brought exec members along, this due to the executive in general being keen to attend club events. My favourite event was the VUW Athletics Club's University

Relays, where we provided water, sunscreen, and of course the marquee. This falls in line with goal 5 for obvious reasons.



- A Student Friendly Wellington

### **Fairer Fares**

I've come on board the Fairer Fares campaign, primarily as just a volunteer, making sure there's someone to hold the mic, or get out and get signatures, and support Raven and the others who manage the higher level stuff. It's important there's collaboration in the Engagement team and this has been as awesome way to do that and this was a way for me to see how VUWSA operates from a campaign perspective. It was fantastic handing in the submissions and also was interesting going along to see Rory's oral submission. My part on the Fairer Fares campaign was a true learning experience, particularly in understanding the quirks of local body politics. I don't think linking this to goal five is a stretch. It's hard to be involved in your university community if you struggle to get into town.



### **Halls Changes Proposal**

I also got involved in VUWSAs submission around the proposed hall changes. Some of the changes being proposed are at risk of diminishing the student experience, so despite short notice, we made moves to do as much student consultation as we could in the time given. I worked with Rory and Erica and produced a survey as well as organizing and attending and helping out at the Halls Committee meeting. The oral submission was delegated to me, with support from Erica and Jordan (from PGSA). I found strengths in my ability to act quickly and with initiative surrounding that issue, and I also had a big learning experience from the oral submission to the decision panel, which was terrifying, but also empowering. It felt good to represent the students and be in the room with key decision makers!



### **Other Goals:**

- A Strong Association

### **The Clubs and Activities Role**

Coming into the role was a bit of a shock, this year I really have been trying to work on how I can make the transition into the Clubs and Activities role clearer, and smoother. I've talked with Tom about a handover template, and also with Hannah about continuous services that the next year's CAO won't have to restart, rather pick up of. The Clubs Manual is in this way a great resource also for the role, as that is the center of the services we provide clubs as an organization.

### **General Tasks and Initiatives**

#### **O-Week**

O-Week was O-verwhelming. It was also probably one of the most intense, fun, stressful, at times scary, weeks I've had the pleasure to be a part of. During the day I was helping out at the

stall when I could as well as attending other events. I attended the PSC Orientation Event, and sung some Nesian Mystik on Karaoke. It was dope, and I killed it. Also attended an NT orientation event, which was a good way to start the morning with warm up games. Both of these events were fantastic and an awesome way to engage with the rep groups. The night gigs I attended were awesome, especially Tinie Tempah, when I got to volunteer back stage. Never felt so baller. Most time was spent in the safe room which was a personal growth experience in all honesty. The first years were all awesome, and really relied on us to look after them. I was involved in some intense situations, but I learnt lots about myself and about how to handle high-pressure environments. Those skills will come in handy. The Newtown Festival was also an awesome day, got to hang out with the staff and get to know them a bit more, as well as have some lit tunes.

### **Clubs Week**

Clubs Week was awesome too, I got to run around, meeting clubs, spreading the word about the Clubs Council, providing a VUWSA presence, and learning about different clubs as well. There was a lack of knowledge about Clubs Council, which surprised me, and was a reason for the manual creation.

### **Wellington Students Volunteer Army**

I've been helping out the awesome Sam Collins with the formation of the WSVA. It's been super informative to see the struggles and needs of a club in it's infancy, but it's shown me where to prioritize my energy. Looking forward to WSVA's blossoming in Trimester 2!

### **Stress Free Study Week**

Stress free Study week was also crazy, and with only one exam I used my spare time to really throw myself into it. I learnt that I had some strengths in working under pressure, as many of my volunteers did not show up, but those that did I worked well with. Special shout out to Jack Wu, who was a superstar volunteer.

### **General Election**

I've been part of the General Election working group and I've been prepping for Trimester 2, where I will be the volunteer coordinator for the campaign on campus.

### **NZUSA Conference**

I attended the NZUSA conference at the start of the year where I got to meet student association members from around the country. Awesome and inspiring bunch of people. We decided there how we would angle our national campaign with large debate and discussion!

### **Thursdays in Black Hui**

The Thursdays and Black x VUWSA hui was really informative. It's interesting because I've supported the organization and what it stands for in the past but at that hui I realized that I had a limited understanding of the background and theory behind it. Izzy came in and provided awesome explanations for privilege, the power imbalance, the history of TIB, and also how to handle disclosures. I haven't had much to do with TIB in my role but I still try wear black every Thursday to show personal support.

### **The Tertiary Debate**

The tertiary debate was cool! Just did my bit to help out.

### **Make a Meal in May**

I helped organize the Make a Meal in May event, where we invited rep groups, and the Clubs Council, to come along and show support for our relationship with Kaibosh and donate a bit of \$\$.

### **Summary**

It has been a crazy semester already, and all I can say to summarize is that I look forward to an even more hectic second trimester. General Election here we come!

I think what I really need to work on is time management. Being a full time uni student is a lot of work (surprise surprise) and I also work outside of VUWSA. I'm managing though, but I have danced around the edges of burnout!

Still proud of how I have done and proud to be a part of VUWSA. The people are all amazing, I've made solid friendships (forged in the flames of student politics).

Kia ora!