

NAME	Lauren Daroux Greig
POSITION	Education Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 st January 2017 – 30 th June 2017
TOTAL WEEKS WORKED	24 WEEKS
HOURS WORKED	220 HOURS
HOURS REQUIRED	234.5 HOURS



Executive Mid-Year Report

The first half of the year in this role has been really exciting and I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of it. One of the things I have loved about working for VUWSA is that you get to work with a bunch of great people who are all passionate about representing and advocating for things in the best interests of students. Being in a role where we can discuss things that matter to students and are able to plan events that will maximize the student experience is something I feel strongly about and appreciate doing on VUWSA.

One of my favourite memories, to date, on VUWSA would have to be retreat. It was so much fun and it was a great way to break the ice and get to know the other exec members. I particularly loved the MasterChef challenge and, while I may have let my competitive streak come out, I thought it was really fun and entertaining. I would recommend next year's exec get involved in a similar challenge while on retreat. It was also interesting to learn about how VUWSA actually operates and the different hats we wear in our VUWSA roles. It was quite daunting at the beginning of the year because I didn't know what to expect working on VUWSA. I had talked to the previous education officer and obviously knew a lot about the organisation from being a student at Victoria for four years, but there was still a lot that I didn't know. Retreat definitely opened my eyes to the complexities of the organisation and reminded me of the importance of having a representative student body on campus. Rory was great in breaking down the different roles and our responsibilities and getting a discussion going about what we wanted to achieve this year as an executive which I really appreciated.



Another highlight, to date, would have to be O-week. In my first year, I didn't really get involved in the events run by VUWSA during O-week. After volunteering for numerous events during O-week as an exec member, boy am I thinking I missed out in my first year! What an experience. I think VUWSA absolutely killed it in terms of running safe but really fun events. I loved helping out at the toga party and other concerts that were held at the Hunter Lounge. I also really enjoyed the Comedy Night with Nathaniel and Anya. O-week was overall a really fun way to hang out with the exec and get to know them while trying our best to maximize the experience for first year students at Victoria.

It has been great to work on the Education Team with Gemma and Isabella. They are both super lovely and it's great to work in a team where we are all really passionate about all things educational! Talking to Isabella on retreat about what we wanted to achieve for the year was invaluable and I think what we each wanted to get out of our roles and achieve this year really aligned with each other. One particular goal of ours is to work more closely with the Māori Students' Society in a number of ways. The first is to run Te Reo Māori classes through VUWSA and the second is to create a resource with Māori phrases and words for each faculty. We are still working towards both of these goals.

EDUCATION:

Goal 1

Education Quality: to ensure the University provides the best teaching and learning, research opportunities, assessment and training to students

This is the most important goal that I am working towards as Education Officer on VUWSA. I have been contributing to this in my work training class representatives and the fortnightly class representative newsletter.



Class Representative Fortnightly Newsletter

Another stand out for the education team has been the class rep trainings and the class rep newsletters. Getting to attend the class rep trainings and learn about how the trainings are run was really invaluable and I learned a lot from the experience. I think this will prove extremely handy when Isabella and I take over the reins with the class rep trainings next trimester. I think the class rep programme is such an essential part of the student representative structure at university and it is great to see how many class reps we have across the different faculties at university. Moreover, I have been put in charge of writing the fortnightly class rep newsletters. This provides an opportunity for VUWSA to remind the class reps about the importance of their representative roles and to keep them up-to-date with what is happening in the education team.

Looking forward, I think the newsletter would be a great way to keep the class reps updated with things that are going on in the other portfolios on VUWSA, rather than limiting it to the education team (although that is indeed its main focus). For example, I think the education team and welfare team are closely linked and it would be great to inform the class reps about what is happening in their team more frequently. It is great to see in the most recent class rep newsletter a blurb from Anya calling for volunteers to help out with stress free study week. I think that is a great way to pick up some more volunteers to help out at VUWSA events and also keep class reps engaged with other things happening at VUWSA.

Academic Committees:

Finally, I think the student academic committees have been going really well this year and it is a great opportunity to meet with faculty delegates and other student representatives in the educational sphere at university. The academic committees have been an opportunity to meet with student representatives from other student organisations such as VUWLSS. I really like that the education team has been pushing to have a specific topic at each meeting which ensures that we have a focus and are keeping up-to-date with what is happening within the university. It also helps Isabella and I keep informed about any issues students are having and we can report this information back to the exec.

EQUITY:

Goal 3 Equity and Access: To promote equity for disadvantaged students in access to and within the University

Te Reo Māori:

One of my election promises was to encourage the use of te reo Māori at university. In January I spent a lot of time reading over various university constitutional documents and policies to get an idea for what the university currently had in place in terms of using Māori. While there were some policies in place to encourage this, I thought that a practical resource to help lecturers incorporate the use of Māori in their courses was missing. As a person who only speaks English, I know it can be daunting to attempt to use a language that you aren't that fluent with so I understand why lecturers may be inclined to refrain from using the language in their courses. However, it is really important to celebrate the use of the language in our university because it is a national language of New Zealand. Moreover, I think that lecturers have an obligation to meet the university guidelines on the use of te reo Māori. By incorporating more te reo Māori in their courses, it will help normalize the use of the language at university which I think is really important. It also provides an opportunity for lecturers to learn more about the language and, in turn, teach their students the relevance of the language in their courses.

I created a report which outlined all the documents at university which had policies regarding the use of te reo Māori, such as in the University Strategic Plan. I then discussed this report with the education team and

we discussed what we could do next in terms of achieving this goal. One thing that stood out to me when conducting my research was that while the university offered an optional training session on the use of te reo Māori for teaching staff, there was nothing after that which could assist them in using the language.

I then got in contact with the Centre for Academic Development and we had some discussions about what resources were currently in place to help lecturers use te reo in their courses. CAD mentioned that there was already a booklet in place, which had Māori words and phrases. However, they mentioned that there wasn't a subject-specific or faculty-specific resource for lecturers to use which they thought would be quite a cool idea. I think having a more subject-specific resource could incentivize lecturers to incorporate te reo in their lectures (fingers crossed). Looking to the future, I think my next goal will be to discuss with Issy and Gemma (or the new SRC) about what to do next. I think I will follow up with CAD and the Māori Students' Society about the possibility of creating a more specific resource.

Select Committee Submissions

As a law student, I have been looking for ways to put my legal skills and experience to good use while on VUWSA. In June, I worked with the Tertiary Education Union (TEU) to get signatures from students opposing the proposed amendments to the Education Act 1989. I spent time volunteering in the hub with the TEU and discussing with students the proposed changes. Following on from this, I took the initiative to volunteer to research and write a select committee submission opposing the amendments to the Education Act 1989 which will result in private and public tertiary institutions getting equal funding from the government. I dedicated a lot of time to this as I had to go through all the proposed provisions and explain why VUWSA opposed them. This submission has just been submitted on behalf of VUWSA and I am keen to present our submission, along with Rory, at the select committee hearing in July.

I am about to start researching and writing VUWSA's select committee submission supporting the Historical Homosexual Offences Bill. I am also hoping to present this submission at its select committee hearing.

Stress Free Study Week:

I volunteered to take almost all of the morning shifts at Te Aro campus from 7 am – 11.30 am and helped out with puppies.



FINANCE:

Goal 4:

Services: to provide quality, cost effective services for the benefit of members, and, where appropriate, students.

Goal 7:

Finance: to maximise the member benefits by minimizing fees or user charges through internal efficiency and non-member revenue.

Executive Meetings

Being at executive meetings is incredibly important as it's the opportunity for the whole executive to make sure they are working together as a team in the interest of students like we were elected to do. In these meetings I represent my portfolio, advising on educational matters. As well as generally supporting other executive members in their roles when I am able to.

Audit and Finance Committee:

As a member of the Audit and Finance Committee, I take my role as one of the executive members with responsibility for finance very seriously; and have been involved comprehensively in financial planning and advising at all levels of VUWSA's operations. As a member of the Audit and Finance Committee I have been in a position to monitor budget tracking and spending compared to what has been expected. As our current budget expenditure is tracking well, my advice of financial mindfulness has clearly been followed.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Goal 9: Accountability: to ensure accountability to, and representation of, members

Constitutional Committee:

As a member of the constitutional committee, I have been working through the constitution and proposing various amendments to make it a lot clearer and easier for students (and future execs) to understand. This ties in to our goal this year which is to maintain and improve accountability measures. The constitution hasn't been changed in a number of years and this has been a big project. After exams on the 1st July, the committee is coming together after the consultation process with students to finalize the amendments before we take it to the AGM later in the year.

LOOKING FORWARD

One of my goals as education officer was to continue what the previous education officers have done. I am happy with the progress I have made in this role even though at times it has been challenging to balance with my other role as head tutor for property law (LAWS 301) and taking four law papers. My goal for next trimester will be to continue to do this and to take more of a role in the class rep trainings as I will have a lot more time on my hands. I also want to work with Isabella to achieve our goal of working with the Māori Students' Society.

STRENGTHS

Strong Personal Relationships

I get along with everyone on the executive really well, in both a professional and personal capacity. This has made it possible to easily interact and share information and ideas in a fluid, natural way helping my functions within VUWSA operate more efficiently and easily. People know I am always available to support them in any way I can, and I know they are there to support me also. This is a nice environment to be in.

Motivated by Students

I am on VUWSA because I care about students and want to do all I can to act in their best interests and make their time at university as enjoyable as possible. Students are viewed as privileged because they have access to higher education, and that is true. But at the same time students have enormous debts, usually higher than their net worth. Students right now are expected to move into the workforce and grow the economy to support the lesser equipped members of society. If that is the responsibility of students, then it makes no sense for us to start shackled to huge debts. Students can have it so much better than they do now because they

deserve it, and the world needs our students. That's what VUWSA is trying to accomplish, I am in a position to contribute to that effort. This is what I plan to do for the remainder of the year.

Caring about VUWSA

Since gaining election to the VUWSA Executive I have come to genuinely care about the VUWSA organisation. The executive and staff all genuinely care about students and it's a privilege to work with them. Much of my motivation for working as hard as I do is the Association has so much potential to make a genuine difference in the lives of students and I want to do everything I can to realise that potential.

WEAKNESSES

I have a huge workload this year

I love getting involved in as much as I can, but sometimes it is hard to juggle all my obligations while finding the time to exercise, eat well and take a break. I am a full-time law student (studying four law papers each in trimester 1). I am also the head tutor of Property Law (LAWS301) down at the law school. In this role, I take four tutorials a week and I am in charge of the tutors and administration of the tutorial programme. Outside of my full time studies, work at VUWSA and tutoring, I work as a researcher at Lexis Nexis for about 10 hours each week. I found it particularly challenging this trimester to ensure I met the minimum requirements for VUWSA hours during weeks where I had assessments on.

At the beginning of the year in January and February I was away in South East Asia travelling. This meant that I worked a lot less hours on VUWSA than I was constitutionally required to do for the weeks of those months. This has resulted in me being about 20 hours under my required hours. I have done my best to make up hours where I can over Stress Free Study Week.

Next trimester, I will go above and beyond to make up for the hours I have yet to make up for the first half of the year. I am taking three bachelor of arts papers next trimester which will give me a lot more time to dedicate hours to VUWSA. Moreover, there are a lot of projects that VUWSA is working on next trimester and I think it will be all hands on deck with the Election Campaign we are running.



OVERALL RATING

Generally, I believe my contribution to VUWSA in the role of Education Officer, was effective for the first half of the year. I will admit that time-management was a problem due to my other roles as Property Law Head Tutor and Researcher for Lexis Nexis. As a result of this, I could not give as much time as I want to VUWSA. This aside, I believe my contribution to the Education Team, particularly the training of Class Representatives and Fortnightly Class Representative Newsletter, membership on the Audit and Finance Committee and Constitutional Committee, and Select Committee Submissions has contributed to the success of VUWSA this year.