



EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT

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NAME	Nathaniel Manning
POSITION	Engagement VP
REPORT PERIOD	1 st January – 30 June, 2015
HOURS WORKED	576.75
HOURS REQUIRED	508.5

Priority Goals

Constitutional Goal 5

Activities: To support sporting, social and cultural activities for and by students; primarily through Clubs and Representative Groups.

This goal has been the primary goal I've worked on for the first half of this year. As the leader of the Engagement Team, I've worked closely with the Events Manager, as well as others, to create a vibrant line-up of events that add to the student experience around campus and Wellington. Some of the events and groups I've supported are:

Orientation

- o I worked closely with the Events Team to pull off one of our biggest and best OWeeks in recent years. As well as helping with the organising and planning for OWeek (including a long sweaty walk home from Moore Wilsons carrying 15 kg of cheese!), I was the volunteer coordinator over the OWeek period. We had over 30 amazing volunteers handing out tacos, cheese toasties, and

membership forms. As a thank you for our volunteer post-OWeek, Mali (VUWSA staff) and I self-catered a thank you event at Bodega.

- o With Indigo, Tim and Mali (VUWSA staff), we've helped build a database of our best volunteers, who we've been able to call on at other times during the year. This helps with a continuing goal among the Events and Management Teams to increase volunteer engagement at VUWSA

Wellington Pride Parade and Out in the Park

- o Last year I organised a position for VUWSA and UniQ in the first Wellington Pride Parade. This year, we organised a lot earlier, and subsequently the turnout of students who joined us was nearly triple that of the previous year. This has now become a staple event on the UniQ and VUWSA calendar
- o For the first time ever, we also had a combined stall with UniQ at Out in the Park. This event has proved to be a valuable way for both VUWSA and UniQ to engage with the community off campus, and the reception of our presence has been hugely positive. UniQ were able to get a lot of membership sign ups, and we had the opportunity to engage with current students, alumni, and many prospective students as well. Along with the Newtown Festival, we had the opportunity to ask festival-goers what they believed a student friendly city looked like, building into our local body campaign.

- William Spurling Afternoon tea with UniQ

- VUWSA also hosted a visiting academic from the UK with UniQ, putting on an afternoon tea seminar. This is quite different from the type of events VUWSA has traditionally put on, and subsequently turn out was low. However, feedback from everyone that went was hugely positive. Public lecture/seminars aren't something we've had an opportunity to do again yet. .

- University Challenge Pub Quiz and team trainings

- o On April 19th I organised and wrote a pub quiz to promote our trials for the University Challenge. The event was hosted by Jules from Mai FM, and feedback

from the event was positive, with a good mix of questions. With a reasonably sized turnout, the event saw around 25 people end up trialling for the team over the next week.

- o After trials, we selected a team, announced our team members early May (we were the first University in the country to do so), and organised weekly meetings. With a small break over the exam period, the team has been meeting weekly and training for the University Challenge in late August. University is a great way to promote and show off the successes at Victoria to a national television audience, and is one of the many opportunities VUWSA provides students to get involved on campus. We have a strong team, with two first years, one undergrad, and two post-grad students; and I have full confidence that they will do well in the competition.



Tertiary Sports

- o Although this has been a Recreation-led series of events, I've had monthly meeting with Recreation and Clubs Management to go over the plans and logistics for the Tertiary Sports teams being sent to compete.
- **Executive Engagement Plan**
- In May, I created an executive engagement plan, to get the executive out of the "glass bubble" that is our office, and out into the student community by attending club and faculty events. This is to improve the engagement our executive have with the student

body. While uptake of the plan has been slow so far, mainly due to a lack of events over the exam and holiday break, I'll continue to update it over the next trimester.

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- Jonathan and I had the pleasure of attending a Science Society "open mic night", in which post-graduate students gave presentations on their research in a way the audience would understand. The Science Society approached us after the event and thanked us for attending, showing that support and presence from VUWSA is appreciated, when we do put ourselves out there.

Constitutional Goal 6

Public Issues: To be the critic and conscience of the University and society, by promoting discussion and action on issues concerning students.

One of the main ways I've worked towards this goal is through supporting the local body campaign. I was originally on the Local Body Campaign Working Group, until it was disbanded. While on the working group, we organised student consultation on how to make Wellington a Student Friendly City. Part of this consultation was carried out over OWeek at the Newtown Festival, and again at Out in the Park.

I will continue to work towards this goal in the second half of the year leading up to the election, taking a lead on the enrolment and voter engagement side of the campaign, while others continue working on the Student Friendly Wellington branded campaign.

Also as part of student engagement around the Local Body Elections, I wrote a blog post for the VUWSA website, criticising the decision by the Government to not implement an online voting trial in time for this election, and the importance for candidates to cater to the student vote.

On budget day I helped take a lead organising VUWSA's response, and finished off writing the release for publication. While our Budget Day press releases don't often get much traction due to the amount of media already around Budget Day, Maori Television published our press release online, which was small win on the day.

Constitutional Goal 8

Accountability: To ensure accountability to, and representation of, members.

I haven't done much towards this goal outside of the day-to-day representation and sitting on a number of committees, which I've listed further below.

There are two exceptions to this; the first is by creating the Engagement Strategic Plan, which prioritised VUWSA's democratic principles in our engagement with students, ensuring the student voice is present in all we do. This document was written to supplement our annual plan, which is an event-based document, which outlines some of the more high level and strategic reasons behind what we do in Engagement.

The second way I've worked toward this goal is by contributing to our executive workshops for our Strategic Plan.

Other Goals

Goal 2 – Student Support

One way in which I've worked towards this goal is by contributing to the ACCSL review of Recreation Services, where VUWSA provided suggestions on how student money could be spent most efficiently, to the benefit of students. While the Welfare VP and President are usually the VUWSA representatives on ACSSL, the Clubs and Activities Officer and I were also involved because of the Clubs and Engagement elements of Recreation Services.

Another way in which I've helped work towards this goal is by helping out at Stress Free Study Week. As well as serving breakfasts and lunches at both Te Aro and Pipitea campuses, I've also organised and was the main liaison for the SPCA's puppy visits at all three campuses. These visits had between 40 - 160 students, varying campus to campus.

General Tasks and Initiatives

Some of the general tasks I've been involved in are as follows:

Salient columns

- o I've written two Salient columns over the first half of the trimester, one for the Orientation issue, and another for the Music issue.

Media Policy

- o Despite not being on the Policy Committee, I helped draft VUWSA's Media Policy.

Social Media

- o Over OWeek I ran the VUWSA snapchat. This year was the first time that VUWSA used Snapchat as a platform, and it has continued to increase in followers throughout the year.
- o While our Communications and Marketing Manager was away on leave for six weeks, I was the main social media manager. I continue to help create content for our online accounts.

Representation

VUWSA Executive Meetings

- o As a member of the executive, I've attended the majority of fortnightly Executive Meetings over the first half of the year.
- Weekly VP Meetings
 - o Every week Jonathan and the VPs have a meeting to track how the organisation is doing, and any issues that may have come up.
- Strategic Plan Workshops
 - o This year is an important year as VUWSA drafts our new Strategic Plan, which will set the strategic direction of the Association to 2021. As part of our drafting process, the executive have had fortnightly workshops to work on the Strategic Plan, and have made sure it speaks to all our student groups on campus.
- VUWSA Executive Reporting Committee
 - o I have attended the majority of these fortnightly committees. The Executive Reporting Committee exists to go over the executive's fortnightly work reports, and ensure the executive are meeting their goals and work expectations.
- Regular Engagement Team Meetings
 - o As the leader of the Engagement Team, I've held semi-regular Engagement Team Meetings with the engagement team. Some of these have been executive

only, while others have also included staff. In the second half of the year I will be holding these more regularly.

- Vic Info Ihonui Oversight Working Group
 - o I sit as a student representative on the Vic Info Ihonui (VII) Oversight Working Group. VII is usually a student's first point of contact for the majority of Victoria services, and encompasses the Library, ITS, 0800 Victoria, and the main Hunter front desks, and VII desks around campus.
- Clubs Sponsorship Panel
 - o I sit along with the Clubs and Activities Officer, President, and management from Recreation and Campus Services on the Club Sponsorship Panel. The Panel reads through applications from clubs, sports teams and individuals seeking funding from the SSL for various events or projects.
- VUWSA and Student Academic Services monthly meetings
 - o The President and VPs have monthly meetings with SAS, which is a valuable opportunity for us to update them on what VUWSA has been doing, what opportunities there are in the future, and to learn about some of the decision making that happens at the University.
- VUWSA Local Body Campaign Working Group
 - o As mentioned earlier, I was part of the working group for the Local Body Campaign, until its dissolution.
- Blues Awards Planning group
 - o I've been part of the working group responsible for organising the Blues Awards, and thanks to Tori's work, the Gold Awards as well.
- Monthly meetings with Recreation Management
 - o Every month I have a meeting with Recreation Services Management to talk about Tertiary Sports, and any other upcoming events.

Strengths

- **Events**

I think the event line up VUWSA has put on this year has not just been awesome, but also widely diverse, a real focus that Mali and I have taken this year. A lot of the work I've been doing in the latter half of the first trimester has been organising the events line up for Trimester 2, which

includes, for the first time, an Arts Week. The work that we've put into these events will have paid off by the time the second trimester has finished at the end of this year.

- **Volunteer relationships**

As volunteer coordinator over OWeek, I built great working relationships with a core group of volunteers. This is important as the work VUWSA carries out is often reliant on great volunteers. I've continued to build on our volunteering base, by advising the General Manager on volunteers to be added into our VUWSA database, and attending a workshop run by Volunteering New Zealand on working with student volunteers.

Weaknesses

- **Team building**

One challenge I've faced this year is moving the EVP role away from being another Event Manager as it has been in previous years, but instead into a leadership position. My time at the start of the year was consumed by Orientation, which meant that a lot of the leadership and team building that I should have been putting in, ended up getting delayed. Team leadership will be my main priority heading into the new trimester.

Time Management

Another challenge that I've faced is with my time management, often arriving to meetings right on the start time, and completing documents right before deadlines. This is mostly inexcusable, and needs to be a focus for me for the latter half of this year.

Overall Rating

Overall I think I've left a positive influence on the Association. The events we've put on have been of a high calibre, and the diversity of event will continue to grow. The entire engagement team has been doing amazing work with the Local Body Elections, and introduction of the Gold and Supreme Clubs Awards – both will be great wins for the organisations.

While I have identified that my leadership abilities have needed some growth, this is an area which I'm keen to focus on and develop over the next half of the year. I've enjoyed this year so far, despite the challenges that have presented, and look forward to the next half!