



EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT

NAME	Harry Chapman
POSITION	Campaigns Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 January – 30 June 2013
TOTAL WEEKS WORKED	26 weeks
HOURS WORKED	211.45

Reporting on Priority Goals:

1. Goal 1

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

I haven't worked on this goal a huge amount in the last six months, as I've focussed much more on issues in the wider community which affect students, rather than VUW-related academic issues (see Goal 6). VUW education-related issues are dealt with very ably by the Education Team, so I feel as though VUWSA hasn't suffered, however I will endeavour to help the rest of the VUWSA team more on these issues in the remainder of the year.

2. Goal 6

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

This goal has been my main focus in the first six months of the year. The main public issue I've helped VUWSA campaign on has been the campaign for Fairer Fares (ie, a tertiary student discount on public transport in Wellington). I feel that VUWSA has taken a more active role campaigning this year than in recent times, and I'm proud to have been part of the team that made that happen. I look forward to working with the rest of the Executive on running the Get Out The Vote campaign in the coming months.

Reporting on Other Goals:

1. Goal 5

Activities: To support sporting, social and cultural activities for and by members and students, particularly through Clubs.

In the first six months of the year I've worked hard along with the rest of the Executive to provide a range of activities for students, including Orientation, Stress Free Study Week, and Re-Orientation. Events like these are hard work, but I feel they're valued by members, and it's an important way of increasing the engagement of VUWSA with the various campuses.

General Tasks and Initiatives

1. New Students Orientation and Clubs Week

Although I was away tramping for the beginning of New Students Orientation Week, I helped out a significant amount during that week and the subsequent Clubs Week signing up members, distributing membership cards, and giving away packs at the Kelburn, Te Aro, and Pipitea campuses.

2. Initial General Meeting

I helped to promote, and attended, VUWSA's very successful Initial General Meeting.



3. Budget Day March Preparation

I helped out with VUWSA's response to the 2013 Budget by contributing to the drafting of our press release, and attending the NZUSA post-budget breakfast. I also did some research on the state of the Tertiary education sector more generally, and prepared some draft infographics (which I hope to use properly in the future).

4. Helped to promote VUWSA at VUW Open Evening

Together with other Executive members I helped to run the VUWSA stall at the VUW Open Evening, which was a very successful way of engaging with future students and letting people know about all the good work VUWSA does.



5. Fairer Fares campaign

Although the heavy-lifting for this campaign was done by Rick Zwaan (Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer) and Rory McCourt (President), I helped out wherever I could, and was proud to be part of such a high profile campaign. I attended a Wellington Regional Council consultation meeting, and a training session on how to work with local government. However the highlight of this campaign for me was the Fairer Fares Forum, which was extremely well attended and will serve as a model for future campaign events.



The crowd at the Fairer Fares Forum

6. Stress-free study week

I helped out at Stress-Free Study Week on breakfasts and lunches at the various campuses as much as I could.

Representation

1. Executive training and retreat

In early January the executive received professional board training which set out our responsibilities as an executive, and had a meet-and-greet with VUW student support service managers. Afterwards we went away on retreat to Paraparaumu where we got to know each other better and had a budget workshop. I attended all days.

2. VUWSA Executive meetings

I attended all but one or two of the bi-weekly Executive meetings throughout the first half of the year.

3. NZUSA Conference

In February I attended the NZUSA conference which brought together student associations from around the country. I attended both days, including workshops on a variety of topics relevant to my role, such as how to effectively lobby for change and media training. It was a great opportunity to meet our counterparts throughout the country, and also get up to speed with what NZUSA has been doing and has planned for the year.

4. Engagement Team meetings

I met roughly once a week with the Engagement Team to make sure we knew what we were all doing.

5. Carbon Neutral Campus Committee

Together with Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer Rick Zwaan and two other representatives, I have been involved in the Carbon Neutral Campus Committee. Due to the fact that Gecko (formerly the main environmental group on campus) is no longer operational, the Committee was set up this year to keep pressure on VUW to move towards carbon neutrality. Unfortunately, due to a multitude of other commitments, we haven't met as often as we should.

Strengths

1. Contributed to the high-profile Fairer Fares campaign
2. Worked hard at VUWSA events, helped out wherever needed, and tried to be conscientious in my responsibilities as an Executive member

Weaknesses

1. I've sometimes struggled to keep up hours at times in light of university and work commitments
2. At times, a lack of communication with other members of the executive
3. Insufficient attention paid to issues in the tertiary education sector
4. Haven't been in the office enough to properly keep tabs on fast-paced developments

Overall Rating

I feel like I've made a positive contribution to VUWSA this year. However, I also feel like I could have been more proactive in creating work and helping others out – and I haven't always kept my hours up. At times, when I've been trying to balance honours

and other work commitments, VUWSA hasn't always come first. I'll endeavour to contribute as much time to VUWSA in the second half of the year as I possibly can.

Looking ahead, I anticipate that the second half of the year will present some serious challenges, but also some significant opportunities. The current lack of a Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer—due to Rick's promotion to Acting Vice-President (Welfare)—will likely increase my workload at a time when I'll be trying to finish off my honours year. Good communication, especially within the Engagement Team, will be key in trying to keep on top of everything.

I'm going to do my best to run a successful Get Out the Vote campaign with the rest of the executive. In addition, I'll try and help keep the pressure on the Greater Wellington Regional Council to institute Fairer Fares for Wellington's tertiary students.