



Phone 04 463 6719
Fax 04 463 6990
Email kelburn@vuwsa.org.nz

NAME	Rory Lenihan-Ikin
POSITION	President
REPORT PERIOD	1 st January – 30 June, 2015
HOURS WORKED	1484
HOURS REQUIRED	1040



The Exec team at Oweek (minus Tamatha)



Welcome Festival

Constitutional Goals

Goal 1 – Education Quality: to ensure that the University provides the best teaching and learning, research opportunities, assessment and training to students.

During the VUWSA Elections and subsequently coming into the President's role I emphasized the fact that I planned to have an external focus in order to tackle the two big-ticket campaigns that we had on this year - Fairer Fares and the General Election. Despite this, the main reason students come to University is to get an education, and it remains at the core of VUWSA's role to help ensure that the education quality at Victoria remains high and responds to student's needs.

a. Supporting and improving an excellent academic student representation system

VUWSA's academic student representation system is New Zealand-leading, and 2017 has seen it continue to strengthen. This includes consistently having class reps in 95-100% of classes, including at Masters level. When combined with the Faculty Delegates who sit on

Faculty Boards, this system sees students well represented in the academic sphere by their peers. It also allows our Education Team to make strong contributions to key issues in the University. In 2017 this has included consultation and focus groups on the new Faculty of Health, the Victoria Values project which aims to imbed a civic component to Victoria degrees, the University-wide tutor review, and more.

Despite its overall strength, there are some particular areas where our class representative system is weak- in the Faculty of Engineering and the New Zealand School of Music. This has been a trend for a number of years, however in 2017 we have begun to make inroads through work between VUWSA's Student Representation Coordinator and the Faculties, which has seen the numbers of representatives begin.

After a period of a few years when class representative systems have generally not been a priority for many student associations around the country, this trend has begun to change recently. With our full time Student Representation Coordinator role having been in place for a number of years, we are now being looked to as a model to aspire too.

b. Pushing for improved study facilities in the Rutherford House Library

When the new library opened in Rutherford house at the beginning of the year, we quickly became aware through verbal feedback from students that there was a lack of desks and seating, in what seemed a small library for the size of the faculty it served. Quite soon a petition emerged calling for more desks in the library, which clocked up a few hundred signatures. We acted on this and had a feedback form up on our website about the new library within a day of the petition going live. This had strong take-up, with over 150 people submitting comments, with the biggest theme being a concern about the lack of desks.

We actioned progress through a meeting with the VBS Dean and University Librarian, and invited the Commerce Society and student that initiated the petition.

After a number of meetings and follow-up with different parties, the eventual result has been the installation of 70 new seats in the library/annex area, and a number of new desks. We will do a follow up survey later in the year to evaluate whether this satisfied demand, or whether we need to pursue more changes.

To me this is a great example of how VUWSA can use its position to respond swiftly to key issues as they come up by gathering student feedback, and presenting an effective case to the University for change.

c. Representing students on Academic Board, Academic Committee, and the Library and Information Services Committee.

Alongside our Academic Vice President, the PGSA President, Ngāi Tauira and PSC Representatives, I sit on Academic Board and Academic Committee to provide the student perspective on any new courses and course changes being proposed at the University.

I have ensured that I am prepared for these meetings by reading the extensive meeting papers, and convening pre meetings with the other student reps before each committee.

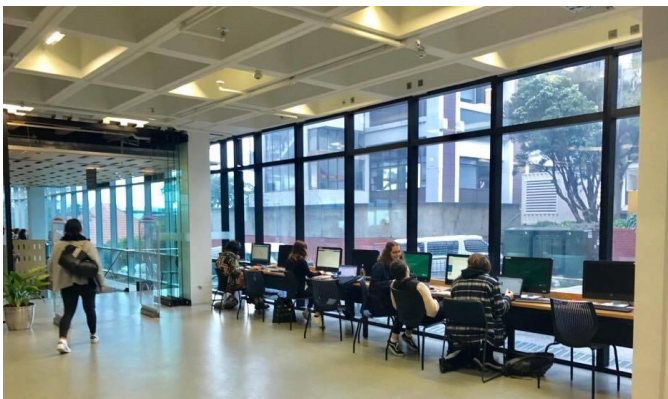
One particular issue arising has been the proliferation of 180 masters programmes across the University. There are benefits for students in this trend, however the speed of change has been cause for us to scrutinise proposals to ensure each one is going to meet the needs of students. An example was the Masters of Building Science of which we questioned a number of elements and worked with the proposer to flesh out sections of the proposal and strengthen the rationale.

d. Extended library hours

Following our continued suggestions in 2016 that the University extend library hours, I worked with Janet Fletcher the University Librarian this year on a proposal to do just that. Particular issues we discussed were security, how the library would be staffed later at night, and the safety of students getting home. The proposal was introduced and all University libraries now have consistent hours including a later midnight close on weekdays.

e. Rankin Brown earthquake recovery

A big issue that I worked on a lot at the start of the year was the effects of the November earthquake on the Kelburn Library. The broken lifts posed a significant issue for student access to the books upstairs, and to study space. There were also student computers on level one that were taken over by library staff who couldn't access their offices, and I made it a bottom line that this was offset by an equal or greater number of new student computers installed to replace them. This was successful and by early in trimester one the library had installed new desks and computers on level one and two of the Hub.



New computers in Rankin Brown

e. Student Course Evaluations

One of my goals since the beginning of the year has been to get student course evaluation data published on the VUW website in the Course Finder, so that students can check the course feedback from other students before enrolling in a class. Isabella and I have been working on this, by working to get key people on board such as the Provost and the Assistant Vice Chancellor Digital Futures. Progress is being made, and I hope that we will have it achieved by the end of the year.

Goal 2 – Student Support: To advocate for adequate financial support, income and welfare for students in order to remove barriers to education.

a. Fairer Fares

My number one goal from the start of my term as President was to achieve VUWSA's long standing campaign of getting student fares on public transport in Wellington. The campaign has been running in various forms for many years, and has seen some progress but also repeated setbacks over that time. Not only has been cause of frustration for VUWSA, but has also led to cynicism among the student body about the possibility of ultimate success, which has in turn affected VUWSA's reputation as an organisation that can campaign effectively and

achieve wins for students. For these reasons I saw it as essential that a renewed emphasis be put on the campaign, with new campaign strategies that could enable success.

Having been highly involved in VUWSA's Student Friendly Wellington campaign last year, at the start of 2017 I had a comprehensive knowledge of the issues and of the key stakeholders. I took the political momentum we had built from that campaign and endeavoured to put together a team of student campaigners not only in VUWSA but also two of our key partner student groups Ngai Taurira and the Pasifika Students Council.

Our Campaigns Officer Raven Maeder and a number of the other VUWSA Exec members have worked extremely hard on this campaign, with the support of our equally hard working staff. We ran a highly successful campaign during the Council's annual plan submission process, that saw extensive media coverage and reached over 150,000 people on Facebook, culminating in 1700 high quality submissions in support of Fairer Fares.

This resulted in the Regional Council putting student fares in their public transport plans for the first time ever. We will continue campaigning hard to ensure that when the final decision is made in September, it is a win for students. If this happens, it will be the most significant campaign win VUWSA has achieved in some time.



b. Rental Warrant of Fitness Campaign

Another success of our Student Friendly Wellington Campaign during the 2016 local body elections, we went into 2017 with a commitment from the City Council to introduce a rental warrant of fitness in Wellington in this term. Because of the “triennium” factor, we knew that we could likely not see results immediately, and that this year would be about working with Council on what the WOF could look like.

I have been to multiple meetings with Renters United, including one with the Deputy Mayor Paul Eagle where we laid out a proposal to the Council about how a WOF could potentially shape up.

WCC have been driving their housing work through the Housing Taskforce chaired by Paul Eagle. This taskforce includes Rental WOF innovator Philippa Howden-Chapman, and it appears the most effective way to see the WOF introduced.

While this campaign has been less of a priority than Fairer Fares and the General Election, I have ensured that the pressure has remained on the Council, so that next year's Exec can finish off the campaign without having lost momentum.

c. Kake Tonu Way

The pathway between Body Wilson Field and the city has been an unsafe place for students and community members for a number of years. Several sexual assaults have occurred here since I have been at VUWSA, including two at the beginning of 2017. Earlier this year Nathaniel Manning and I got together with Te Aro Primary School, WCC, the University, and the local Police Constable to talk about how to improve the physical environment in the walkway in order to make it safer. As a result, new lighting and cameras have been installed, as well as some earthworks to improve visibility. The walkway has also been given an official name – Kake Tonu Way which means “ever upwards”, and a mural has been commissioned to give some life to the space. This needs to be the beginning of ongoing attention to the space, which I think needs to include a complete physical overhaul and widening of the walkway.



Kake Tonu Way planning meeting.



With Labour Party leaders at the TIB stall.

d. Thursday's in Black

2017 has been another big year so far for the Thursday's in Black campaign. I have supported it through my role as a board member of NZUSA, by helping to ensure it gets the support it needs for the organisation. We had a TIB Hui for VUWSA Exec members at the start of the year, supported at stall at clubs week, and regularly participate in the campaign by wearing black and promoting it through VUWSA's social media.

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

a. Building on the relationship with our Treaty Partner Ngai Tauira

As well as campaigning together with NT in 2017, we have both worked hard to build a strong relationship between our two organisations. This has included everything from social events to help each Executive get to know each other better, to far-reaching discussion and planning about what the VUWSA/NT relationship could look like in 10 years.

NT have the significant challenge of having no paid staff members to help with their business, so a focus for me has been to find ways where VUWSA can help them with time consuming admin work, so that the Tumuaki can spend the limited time they have with students. One of

these has been integrating NT membership signups onto our online membership form, so that they have easy online member data collection.

b. Building on the relationship with the Pasifika Students Council

PSC have been incredibly good partners in campaigning for us this year. They have been really effective in mobilising with us on Fairer Fares, and we have built a strong relationship off the back of it.

We each regularly attend and support one another's events. Sina ah Sam, the PSC President made an impassioned speech in support of our proposed Executive remuneration policy at the IGM, and Ali Leota the vice President has been in the core campaign teams for both of our big campaigns.

I have been to numerous events and spoken about VUWSA's work and services, including their AGM.

The PSC reps also make an excellent contribution on our committees including the Equity and Diversity Committee, as well as the Academic Board on which I sit alongside their Academic Officer Anaseini Nuku.



With PSC and NT Executives.

Goal 4 – Services: To provide quality, cost effective services for the benefit of members, and, where appropriate, students.

a. Welfare Services on Campus

Since setting up the VUWSA Vege Market in my first year on the VUWSA Exec in 2015, I have thought that welfare services are an important way to provide tangible and immediate help to students. I have ensured that the market has remained and improved by maintaining a key relationship with the stallholder, and gradually imbedding the service into VUWSA's offering by handing the management of it over to our CEO Matt Tucker.

The big welfare service project for 2017 has been to set up free and/or cheap access to menstrual products. This has been driven by our Welfare Vice-President Anya Maule, and I have supported her closely along the way. We wanted to develop really good systems and product suppliers rather than rushing into launching a scheme that would be not sustainable, and we are really excited about the service that will launch during trimester two.

b. Flating support

Accommodation register: When the rental market was particularly tight at the beginning of the year, and many students were struggling to get flats, we were getting members of the public calling in to say that they had a room they would be willing to let a student stay in for a short or medium term while they looked for a flat. This prompted us to set up an accommodation register on our website, where people could register spare rooms, and students could register their need.

We then handed the management of it to the VUW Accommodation service as they offered their services to match students with the right home/room.

Flating guide: the flating guide that the welfare team developed last year is an excellent resource that we would like to distribute more widely than simply on our website where it currently lives. The Wellington City Council offered us funding to pay for the printing of the guide, so we have been working with them in the hope of printing a few thousand copies to distribute in halls of residence before the flat hunting season begins.



Flating guide

On breakfast talking about the struggle of finding a flat in Wellington

Goal 5 – Activities: To support supporting, social and cultural activities for any by members and students, particularly through Clubs.

This year at the Executive Retreat, we had much discussion about the importance of VUWSA engaging with clubs in order to improve our engagement and visibility within the student body. As a result of this I proposed the idea to the Exec that we each commit to attending at least one club event per week, and that we include this in our work reporting requirements.

They were on board with the idea, and it has been a real success, resulting in some strong club relationships.

A personal project for me has been supporting the Wellington Student Volunteer Army to get up and running as a club this year, after VUWSA founded it on the back on the earthquake in 2016. The club establishment has been slow going, but now has a great President who is starting to build a good team around him, and should be ready to have events in trimester 2. The SVA has huge potential to give students a way to volunteer in the community, and improve the public perception of students.

Goal 6 – Public Issues: To be the critic and conscience of the University and society, by promoting discussion and action on issues concerning students.

a. “We Have Power” General Election Campaign

At the beginning of the year at the NZUSA congress, myself and the rest of the VUWSA contingent voiced our strong belief that as student associations we must put together a

serious and coordinated nationwide campaign to help students engage in politics and vote in the general election.

This call was successful and we got agreement between NZUSA member associations to do so, and commit reasonable NZUSA resources to it. This started with a nationwide survey of students in March, and has consisted of the gradual development of a campaign strategy and plan over the first half of the year.

As possibly the most politically engaged student association, I felt that VUWSA has a leadership role to play around the table at the NZUSA National Executive, to encourage and support the other associations to strive for a strong national student voice, and an election is one of the most important opportunities for this. I am really pleased with how things have progressed. The VUWSA Exec have really backed the campaign and worked hard on it, and we have a good looking nationwide campaign going into the election, with the ambitious goal of getting 100% of students to vote.



Late night in the NZUSA office putting finishing touches on the We have Power campaign website.

b. Media presence

I feel that it's a key part of the President's role to be in the media as much as possible. Some media opportunities will be much more effective than others, however advocacy is a long term game, and having a constant voice in the media is both good for keeping student issues on the agenda, and maintaining VUWSA's visibility as an organisation.

c. Counselling forum

After controversial changes took place at Student Counselling, VUWSA hosted a forum that I chaired where the University presented on the issue, and students had a chance to ask questions and give their views. This helped to build mutual understanding between students and the service, and has led to much further discussion in various forums about the importance of the mental health service. I have also used it to push for increased funding for Counselling through ACSSL.

d. Living Wage

VUWSA has continued its strong support of the Living Wage in 2017. We host regular campaign meetings (which I attend when I can) and have Exec members in leadership positions within the movement. I was involved in organising and MCed the Living Wage Day event on campus in May. It attracted a huge number of students and staff, and felt like another big step forward for the campaign at Vic. I have raised the Living Wage at my regular meetings with the Vice Chancellor, and made it clear that there is strong student support for VUW to become an accredited Living Wage employer.



MCing Living Wage Day event sporting a suitable haircut.

Goal 8 - Accountability: To ensure accountability to, and representation of, members.

As part of the review of our Constitution this year led by Tom the Treasurer Secretary, one of the proposed changes we have made is to require Executives' to pass a budget for the subsequent year at a general meeting. This will improve VUWSA's accountability and transparency by giving members ultimate control over how the association spends their money.

Goal 9 – Sustainability: To recognise the needs of current and future generations by promoting sustainable lifestyles and actions to members while ensuring the sustainable operation of the Association and University members.

a. VUW Foundation:

As the Student Representative on the Victoria University Foundation, I have been a strong voice for the Foundation to invest its \$60 million dollar fund as ethically as possible, including divestment from Fossil Fuels. The Foundation committed to exclude fossil fuel investments from its directly invested portfolio in 2014, but so far not its managed funds.

I've done this through discussions around the board table, but also by conceiving the idea of hosting a student forum at which our students can come along, hear from the Foundation, and give their views on how it should be investing. The Foundation members have supported this idea, and we have an event scheduled for early August.



Strategic Goals

I have included much of the evidence of my focus on these goals in the constitutional section above.

a. **Build Collective Strength with Student Groups**

This is key for VUWSA's community, and our ability to represent all students. My focus on relationships has mainly materialised through collective work on campaigns. For the first time since I have been on the Exec, we have actively campaigned on issues alongside other Vic groups such as our Treaty partners Ngai Tauria, and the Pasifika Students Council. This has been a big part of the success of these campaigns, which proves the importance of this goal.

b. **Grown our Engagement with Students**

The Exec identified this as the main priority for us for 2017. I have pursued it wherever possible:

- Visited all the VUW halls of residence for dinner at the start of the year
- Making the Exec more visible by having their photos on the wall at reception, having them more visible on the website, and encouraging attendance at club events.
- Building my personal visibility as President among the student body

c. **A Student Friendly Wellington**

See Fairer Fares and Rental WOF Campaign above.



Dinner at Katherine Jermyn and Vic House during my hall visits with Marlon

General Tasks and Initiatives

1. Preparing for meetings (reading reports, liaising with people, etc.)
2. Meeting and liaising with Executive Members and supporting them with their projects
3. Reviewing and editing management reports
4. Meeting and liaising with VUWSA Staff
5. Meeting and liaising with Victoria staff
6. Meeting and liaising with external people (e.g. Councilors, MPs, media etc.)
7. Representing VUWSA and students at events (e.g. Graduation Ceremonies, Distinguished Alumni Awards, etc.)
8. Helping out and supporting with events
9. Responding to emails, tweets, face book messages and snapchat from students.

Representation

VUWSA:

1. VUWSA Executive (Chair)
2. VUWSA Audit and Finance Committee
4. VUWSA Performance Review Committee (Chair)
6. VUWSA Management Committee
7. VUWSA Trust
8. VUWSA Student Media Committee
9. VUWSA Halls Committee
10. Student Academic Committee
11. Student Equity and Diversity Committee
12. Weekly meetings with Matt Tucker, CEO of the Association
13. Weekly meetings with Vice-Presidents
14. Fortnightly meetings with Executive officers

Victoria University

15. Academic Board
16. Academic Committee
17. Advisory Committee on the Student Services Levy (Co-chair)
18. Joint Student Union Board (JSUB)
19. Student Equity and Diversity Committee

20. VUW Sponsorship Panel
21. VUW Library and Information Sub-Committee
22. VUW Student Wellbeing Committee
23. VUW Foundation Board
24. Regular meetings with the Vice Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford
25. Regular meetings with the Director Student Academic Services Pam Thorburn
26. Regular meetings with the Director Student and Campus Living Rainsforth Dix
27. Regular meetings with Pasifika Students' Council leadership
28. Regular meetings with the Ngai Taura Co-Tumuaki Kealyn Marshall and Maia Te Koha
29. Regular meetings with the Postgraduate Students' Association Presidents' Gemma Swan/Jordan Anderson
30. Regular meetings with the Provost Wendy Larner
31. Regular meetings with the Vice Provost Academic and Equity Chris Eichbaum
32. Regular Meetings with the AVP Pasifika Winnie Laban
33. Frequent Meetings with Greater Wellington Regional Councillors
34. Meetings with Wellington City Council Mayor Justin Lester
35. Regular attendance at Living Wage at Vic meetings

External

36. NZUSA National Executive
37. Meetings with various Councillors and the Mayor
38. Representation at ANZAC Day services
39. Meetings with various MPs
40. Regular comment to media outlets

Strengths

- a. Relationship building. I feel that I've been able to effectively build relationships, both within the VUWSA team, with other student groups, and with our many other stakeholders. Internally this has helped to create a team culture where people are working hard for each other toward our strategic plan, and externally it has meant opening doors to many great opportunities.
- b. Focus. I have been focused all year on a few particular things, for example Fairer Fares, the General Election, and introducing Exec Officer remuneration. So far, things are on track to achieve these goals, and I will feel really proud at the end of my time at VUWSA to have stuck with them and achieved them. There is so much going on in the President role, and it is easy to skate along on a flat surface if you don't employ a ruthless focus.

Weaknesses

- a. Executive meetings. As Chair of the Executive, I feel that meetings could be fun with more efficiency and more focus, which would also make them more enjoyable. I could do this by making more of an effort to ensure papers are ready well in advance, spending more time preparing to meetings, and making time for strategic items in meetings.
- b. Efficiency. Often I take a longer than necessary to do things such as replying to emails and writing documents, and could create more time for myself if I was more efficient with this.
- c. Life balance. I am always more effective in my role when I put boundaries around my work hours and take time to exercise, eat well and socialise. Need to do this more!

Overall rating

VUWSA is in good shape. There is an amazing team of people that make up our Executive and staff, who are committed to their work, and have a sound grasp on VUWSA's values at the things that are important. Our CEO Matt Tucker is doing an excellent job despite only being 8 months in the organisation. His work has enabled me to do what a President should do - be externally facing and visible as much as possible.

Six months in our strategic plan has settled nicely. It feels like the right balance between ambition and reality. It makes sense to people, and the team have united around it.

Our goal of "engagement above all else" for 2017 is starting to pay off. We have had so much positive and meaningful interaction with students this year, and it feels like increasingly more students see VUWSA as *their* association.

We have to keep pushing for the next couple of months and get our key campaign goals ticked off, and then test our progress with a stakeholder satisfaction survey later in the year.

On a personal note, it's been the hardest, most enjoyable, and most rewarding six months of my life. I care deeply about this association love being a part of the community of students and staff at the University. I want to make the absolute most of these last few months and give it everything in order to leave VUWSA in better shape than I found it.



VUWSA and MAWSA Executives at the Pride Parade