



## EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT

NAME	Ramon Quitales
POSITION	Clubs & Activities Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 January – 30 June 2013
TOTAL WEEKS WORKED	26
HOURS WORKED	248 Hours and 15 Minutes

### Reporting on Priority Goals:

#### 1. Constitutional Goal 5

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

For the first six months of the year, I endeavoured to support sporting, social and cultural activities on campus in a number of ways. I have been involved in activities such as being active at Clubs Week, chairing the Clubs Council, helping to update the VUWSA Clubs Directory and providing general advice and consultative work for individual clubs.

Clubs Week this year presented a great opportunity for me to meet the different clubs at Victoria and invite them to contact me with issues or problems that they had. I am glad to report that a number of clubs have indeed taken up this opportunity and that I have provided assistance to them where appropriate.

Chairing the Clubs Council this year has also been another highlight. With this year being only the second year of the Clubs Council's existence, some interesting issues have been brought up relating to how clubs are funded. I look forward to continue working on the Council and seeing it develop further.

These six months, I have also worked with Raewyn Clarke (VUW Clubs Manager) to ensure that the ongoing transition of the management of clubs from VUWSA to the university remains relatively smooth.

I have also sought to boost the level of activities on campus by lending my support to a number of VUWSA events on campus such as the Autumn Market, 'After School Specials' and the upcoming Faculty Games.

## Reporting on Other Goals:

### 1. Constitutional Goal 3

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

VUWSA Equity Officer, Matthew Ellison, and I worked to set up a representative group at Victoria to represent the interests of the numerous international students on campus. Currently, there is no independent body on campus to speak on issues facing disadvantaged international students.

While the group is not in existence yet, Matthew and I have started laying the foundations for it and a launch is scheduled to happen later in Trimester 2. I have hopes that the group will be fully ready and in swing for next year.

### 2. 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.**

In addition to my role working with clubs at Victoria, I have also contributed to VUWSA's Fairer Fares campaign by approaching students and talking to them about the issue of tertiary fares and getting them to sign our campaign post cards. I also helped set up and attended the Fairer Fares Forum where speakers spoke on the topic of fairer fares for tertiary students.

## General Tasks and Initiatives

### 1. General Operational Support

A lot of my time at VUWSA has been used to provide support to the organization in operations such as Orientation, General Meetings, Engagement events, Speaker events, Stress Free Study Week and the like. While I realized that my portfolio work was important, I believe that an executive member should strive to provide help where possible and not just stick exclusively to work arising from his/her portfolio.

### 2. International Representative Group

For details, please refer to "Constitutional Goal 3".

### 3. Engagement Review

Being on the Engagement team headed by Engagement Vice President, Mica Moore, I was asked to contribute to a review on how VUWSA engaged with its students as a whole. Unfortunately, due to a number of difficult external factors beyond my control, work on this review halted just before its completion and remains unfinished.

## **Representation**

### **1. Clubs Council**

For the past six months, I have chaired the Clubs Council in its second year of existence. As chair, I have worked closely with VUW Clubs Manager, Raewyn Clarke, to assist the Council on decisions regarding the funding of clubs through grant applications and recommendations to the Sponsorship Panel.

### **2. Sponsorship Panel**

Being the body sitting above the Clubs Council, the Sponsorship Panel is ultimately responsible for the level of grant funding given to clubs and individuals. Being a member on this Panel, I assisted the Panel in reaching fair and just decisions relating to funding.

### **3. VUWSA Initial General Meeting**

I helped with the promotion and set up of this event before attending. I voted at this meeting and assisted in helping VUWSA reach quorum.

### **4. VUWSA Executive Meetings**

I have attended most VUWSA Executive Meetings. While input in these types of meetings can be difficult to quantify, I believe that I have spoken up on important issues facing the executive and remain satisfied with my contribution.

### **5. NZUSA Conference**

During the beginning of my term as a VUWSA executive member, I had the pleasure of attending a three-day conference hosted by NZUSA. This conference provided a whole lot of valuable information and training and also allowed me to network with other Student Association executive members across the country.

### **6. VUW Ideas to Action Workshop**

In Trimester 1, the university organized a day for staff where speakers were invited to speak on a number of different ideas that could be implemented to assist students in their time at university and beyond.

Along with VUWSA President, Rory McCourt, and VUWSA Welfare Vice President, Simon Tapp, I helped to prepare and deliver a warmly received session on how to keep students at Victoria engaged with the university community.

### **7. Engagement Team Meetings**

Being part of the Engagement Team, I have attended weekly team meetings with VUWSA Engagement Vice President, Mica Moore, and VUWSA Campaigns Officer, Harry Chapman, to both receive and provide support in regards to our portfolios. These meetings have been a great way to collaborate

with members of the Executive and ensures that no Executive member falls behind.

## **8. Engagement Review Committee**

For details, please refer to “General Tasks and Initiatives”.

### **Strengths**

1. Being flexible enough to provide help to VUWSA where needed. In order for an organization like VUWSA to operate effectively, it is crucial that Executive Members lend a hand where necessary. This may include handing out leaflets, putting up posters or clearing out archives. Whatever the activity, the bottom-line remains the same – VUWSA needs to have flexible Executive Members to be a robust and effective organization.
2. Providing a fresh perspective. Being the only non-New Zealander and non-white person on the executive, I have at times been able to provide a unique perspective in discussions. This perspective has been especially useful in helping to make decisions and solve problems faced by the Executive.

### **Weaknesses**

1. Finding tasks to complete (especially tasks directly relating to my portfolio). With VUWSA no longer managing clubs, it has been difficult trying to work out the full scope of my portfolio in practice rather than just in theory. This is, however, something I look forward to working on for the next six months.
2. Finding a balance between my VUWSA responsibilities, studies and other commitments. Being a fairly active individual, I have found some difficulty in trying to keep everything balanced out while still having free time. However, with a lessened course load in Trimester 2 and a reduction in other commitments in the next 6 months, I anticipate being able to strike a better balance.

### **Overall Rating**

Over this reporting period, I have given substantial time and energy to this organization. VUWSA is currently facing very difficult times with cuts in revenue and poor public perception being only a few of the challenges facing it. However, I am happy to report that I have spent the past six months working alongside a dedicated and hardworking Executive in striving to shape VUWSA into a strong, independent and effective voice for students at Victoria University. I greatly look forward to seeing what more I can bring to this organization in the six months coming up and what VUWSA will accomplish by the end of the year.