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| NAME | Ella Hughes |
| POSITION | Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer |
| REPORT PERIOD | 1 st January – 30 June, 2017 |
| HOURS WORKED | 404 |
| HOURS REQUIRED | 260 |

Constitutional Goals

The three constitutional goals I had to meet were:

1. **Goal 2: Student Support:** To advocate for adequate financial support, income and welfare for students in order to remove barriers to education.
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.
3. **Goal 9: Sustainability:** To recognize 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.

Sexual Violence

Beth and I began the year by planning out a map of our Sexual Violence campaign. We wanted the vibe and tone of the campaign to be community focused, space occupying and performative. We felt this was the best way to take the campaign to a new level where students feel and interact with the campaign in their every-day lives. We wanted this campaign to be part of student memories for 2018.

Thursdays in Black Op-shop

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 3: Grow Engagement with our Students

The op-shop was an idea that took hold because we felt that buying black clothes on campus gave students the opportunity to effectively 'buy-in' to the campaign and took Thursdays in Black outside of the box.



Lots of students expressed interest in being further involved in Thursdays in Black and many, many more supported the campaign strongly. Students also really enjoyed the creative approach to our campaign.

March on Midland

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 1: Establish a Powerful Student Voice; Strategic Goal 2: Build Collective Strength with Student Groups; Strategic Goal 3: Grow Engagement with our Students; Strategic Goal 5: A Student Friendly Wellington



There was a lot of student anger after the news broke publically about the horrific behavior at Russell McVeagh. Plenty of female law student leaders (Isabella, Melissa, Helen) reached out wanting to take some form of

action. Beth and I had discussed what action VUWSA could take and it was important to us that it fit the tone of what we wanted our sexual violence campaign to be – so naturally the idea of a huge march appealed.

My role in organizing was largely related to community. I reached out to volunteers, ensured there was a presence of student counselling and health professionals, and tried to organize the before and after march events to create a safe and inclusive environment.

The before event was pretty easy – VUWFLS took on a lot of the community rallying. The post event plans came with their complications – the 6 day run up meant I couldn't pull off everything I hoped for (eg puppies), and the sausages seemed to take ages to

cook. With more experience now I think I could run it a bit smoother, but I'm still pretty proud of what I managed there.

The actual march has got to be one of the all-time highlights of my life. The community anger at harm against one of our own was so strongly communicated. I feel like law school was bought together in that moment. Knowing someone affected by these events personally – I know that day made a difference and I'm so proud and humbled by that (as twatty as that sounds).

Favourite chant: 'Fuck Russell McVeagh'

Favourite sign: 'Not ur Summer Menu'

Favourite planning moment: Calling [redacted lol] café up to see if we could borrow their power sockets and the wee server who answered the phone telling me how much he supported what we were doing and that he would personally bring in his bands speakers if we needed.

Favourite moment: Here are a few!

1. Standing on the platform ready to welcome everyone and seeing a huge sea of students chanting and waving in black. I literally felt like I was a big ork in Lord of the Rings watching my beautiful angry ork army swarm on Russell McVeagh.
2. Hearing the crowd go absolutely wild anytime I roasted Russell McVeagh. The whole crowd really shared all the feelings you put out there and doubled them and threw them right back to you.
3. Watching me mate Beth kill it in her speech and in her interviews. She's an inspiring lady and couldn't think of someone more appropriate to represent us all on this issue.
4. Yvette Tinsley telling us she was proud of us all for taking a stand.
5. Seeing people's faces in the crowd and knowing that getting up and telling them they're valued had an impact.
6. Getting to share the moment with so many amazing and inspiring women – Beth, Paddy, Melissa, Helen, Rhianna, Isabella, Hiba, Eliza, Indiana (to name a few).
7. Seeing so many of our law school lads come out and get angry and demand change with us. Really felt like the times are changing and people want to move towards a society where we all feel safe and accepted.



Favourite moments since: Having a wee second year law student come up to me at our VUWSA AGM and tell me how grateful she was that we marched, and how proud she was to have been part of it.

Not Above the Law

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 2: Build Collective Strength with Student Groups; Strategic Goal 3: Grow Engagement with our Students

After the March, we were in a strong position to make demands to change the workplace culture in law firms. Our core organizing group (VUWSA/VUWLSS/VUWFLS) split into smaller factions to address specific parts of our list of demands.

Melissa, Helen (both VUWFLS) and I took on the community group. We organized a catch up in the Law School Common Room to discuss the progress various teams had made (such as Beth and Harrison meeting with Law Society) and where we were going from there. I over-ordered pizza.

Strong Relationship with the Sexual Violence Prevention Group (University Committee)

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 1: Establish a Powerful Student Voice

The Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer doesn't traditionally sit on this group, but I'm pretty nosy and opinionated on this topic so don't think I let that stop me. They haven't questioned my presence yet.

This group focuses on how to address and combat sexual violence in University. Erica, Beth and Paddy also sit on this group (having actually been invited).

On this group I have had a strong contributing voice on various proposals and discussions relating to sexual violence culture, victim-centric responses and the University approach.



Through the group VUWSA has commandeered a project (yet to be announced, but rhymes with Flex in the Bub – clue in the photo) which I'm taking lead on in organizing. It has really progressed – we have received a lot of support for this and are hoping it changes the tertiary scene in relation to sex and violence culture change approaches. I really want to talk about this (because so many of my hours so far have contributed to it) – but I still can't so please hold out.



Black is the New Black Salient Pieces

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 3: Grow Engagement with our Students

I organized some pretty sick fashion photography with a Thursdays in Black theme for some of the Salient editions. The point was to bring the campaign to all spaces and make it accessible to everyone. Also hoped to address the frequently asked question of how wearing black has any bearing or impact on an anti-violence campaign. Had some wonderful models (cheers Marlon, Jade, Beth, Tagifano, and Ace), can recommend.

Unfortunately, due to Salient lack of space this piece petered out, but still so grateful for the original collab!

Don't Guess the Yes Campaign

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 1: Establish a Powerful Student Voice; Strategic Goal 5: A Student Friendly Wellington

I was part of a team (Marlon and Beth) that worked with the Wellington City Council, the Wellington District Police, the Sexual Abuse Prevention Network and Massey Students Association to do a consent focused poster campaign.

I starred in a few videos (one of which the multi-talented Beth directed) to demonstrate consent and safety during O-Week and in town.

Lived Experiences Salient Piece

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 1: Establish a Powerful Student Voice; Strategic Goal 3: Grow Engagement with our Students

The female exec and I (along with Kii from Salient FM) wrote out our personal experiences with sexual harassment and assault. This was to demonstrate the magnitude of the problem and how it affects so many Victoria students. This was a really hard but really empowering experience.

Living Wage Training

Addresses Goal 2: Student Support; Goal 6: Public Issues; Strategic Goal 1: Establish a Powerful Student Voice; Strategic Goal 2: Build Collective Strength with Student Groups; Strategic Goal 3: Grow Engagement with our Students; Strategic Goal 5: A Student Friendly Wellington



Beth and I were sent to be trained in Community Organising by Lyndy (Living Wage Aotearoa) and Sister Mary-Beth.

The sessions were super inspirational and I came away so motivated to create change. So privileged to have been part of this!

Fave parts were definitely having an open discussion about anger and its place in creating movements – it needs to be cold and calculated anger, not passionate anger. This is hard in a way to reconcile with all the sexual violence work we have done/are doing which feels impossible to not feel extremely emotional about. But it has definitely been useful and taught me so much about mobilization and inclusive campaigns. I hope I did this training justice in my work.

Sustainability

I think it's fair to say I came into this role with a heavy wellbeing focus – it's definitely the space I'm more knowledgeable and comfortable working in. However, I've done my best to step myself up in the greenie space so here ya go!

Waste Management at Events

Addresses Goal 9: Sustainability

My role could really just come down to bins. I tried to implement an effective waste strategy at Oweek. Unfortunately, drunk first years aren't really prioritizing getting their plastics and compostables into the correct waste streams. So my waste strategy was really wearing washing up gloves and passive-aggressively sorting the waste from the night before in front of VUWSA as they all turned up in their togas.

Regardless of how gross it was, I'm kinda grateful for the experience – it turned me into a bit of a waste warrior. When you literally sort several kgs of rubbish, you realise how many people do it wrong or straight-up don't care. It definitely lit a fire under my arse about waste on campus.

Shout out to Connor and Matt (our CEO) for dealing with my lack of driver's license and constantly driving me back and forth from the dump to collect event bins and trailers. Also, if you haven't already dabbled – try a dump dog (a hotdog from the dump), they aren't half bad.

Vegan Cooking Classes

Unfortunately, these haven't materialized as Krishna has re-prioritised but I did spend a lot of hours helping out with the planning and logistical sides of these classes. Fingers crossed that maybe next year our WSO can make them happen when Krishna has the time.

Sustainability Week

I can't really take any credit for this (shout out Katharine and Liam and every other member of that crazy hard-working group) other than acting as an advisor on different aspects and convening the group. A take away for me is that in handover I should emphasise that the next WSO takes a greater role in this – I'm already trying to push myself to do more to support those clubs/individuals for the rest of the year.

Convening the First Ever Sustainability Committee

Addresses Goal 9: Sustainability; Strategic Goal 1: Establish a Powerful Student Voice; Strategic Goal 2: Build Collective Strength with Student Groups; Strategic Goal 3: Grow Engagement with our Students

This is definitely what I'm most proud of in the Sustainability side of my portfolio for first trimester. Again, Liam Daly needs a big shout out because he was a big part of the push to make this happen.

The Sustainability Committee is now an official VUWSA committee and its gonna be a consistent part of the WSO role to maintain strong relations with sustainable focused clubs and students to grow a community of people pushing for positive sustainable change on campus.

The focus of the Committee is on collaboration and consulting with a wide range of students on VUWSA's policies and actions, as well as the Universities. It has meant

that students have a stronger platform to lobby, but also work alongside the University (such as on the reusable cup project that is in discussion, or the waste management overhaul discussion).

Through this Committee I also have a really strong relationship with Andrew, Victoria University of Wellington Sustainability Manager. He's amazing.

I'm grateful to have met so many passionate and intelligent students through this Committee, it's definitely a highlight of my role and I'm really excited that it will only go from strength to strength.

Things I've started in Tri One but I guess are actually Tri Two projects:

- Zero Carbon Bill Student Consultation and Submission Drive
- Organic Food Cooperative
- Garden Planning alongside SWAT
- The project that sounds like Flex in the Bub

General Executive Tasks and Initiatives

I also helped all round on stuff like Oweek, ArtsWeek and SFSW. Loved them all – love VUWSA. Happy to be here. Love all the weird and wonderful students I've got to meet through this.

Campaign Promises – what I couldn't deliver on and why

You promise so much shit not really knowing what you're getting into. Sorry – A timebank actually would have been heaps of work – still pushing the uni to make the map – clothing bins in the context of uni might actually generate more waste and be inefficient time uses. You kinda just have to go with the flow in this role and jump on your moments to be effective.

IN SUMMARY

I LOVE THIS JOB