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POSITION	Welfare Vice President
REPORT PERIOD	1 st January – 30 th June 2018
HOURS WORKED	586
HOURS REQUIRED	520

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At the beginning of the year, our wonderful welfare team decided that we would do everything with AROHA. I am so proud of everything our team has achieved, and am grateful to them for their support and their big hearts.

1) Constitutional Goal 2 - Student support: To advocate for adequate financial support, income and welfare for students in order to remove barriers to education.

a) Stress Free Study Week (SFSW)

Stress Free Study Week is all mahi mahi mahi. This year, “events Beth” took on a much larger role in assisting with organizing it, which was a huge help. We started planning early, and it paid off. We had no hiccups – with the free brekkie, lunch and other fun stuff (SPCA pups!) going smoothly. Funding needed a boost, as this event is rather costly, so getting a name-sponsor was worthwhile. I also helped Ella with getting the compost bins sussed so we have a lower environmental toll for this event. The lovely Paddy took the lead on putting together sweet encouraging notes to hide around the campus too (some of these had coffee vouchers attached too!). It was feel good all round.



2Paddy writing sweet notes



1PUP!

b) Free Flu Shots

VUWSA partners with student health each year to do the free flu shots for our peeps. We bring the treats (hot choccys all round), volunteers, book out the spaces, and promote it. I'm the exec organizer for this. Student health does the actual jabbing. This went really well, with 630 more students vaccinated than last year (1394 up to 2024)!

c) Advisory Committee to the Student Services Levy (ACSSL)

ACSSL is the board which, on a high level, advises how the student levy is spent and how much it is in total. Me and Marlon are the two student reps on this board. We have been talking with students about what amount the levy should be next year, and what it should go towards. This is an important one, as it sets how much funding each service should get.

d) Hardship Committee

Hardship Committee receives applications each week from students in financial strife. It has a pool of funds to give out to people whose applications are successful. I'm the student rep on this committee. The committee sits weekly, and can be quite emotionally hard as we hear

stories of people who are really struggling. I just hope that the money they get paid out from the committee helps them get through.

e) Menstrual products

Thanks to the hard work done last year, we have funding to run a free menstrual product service. I'm the exec member who makes sure this is done right, and Joseph, our Association Secretary does the admin and work to make it all run well. We stock all three campuses (Kelburn, Rutherford House and Te Aro), as well as some wee satellite sites, like Student Health. I was approached early in the year by the passionate people from VUWFLS (the Feminist Law Society), who requested that the service be available at law school as well. So we worked together to make that happen and now there's a bowl of products in the law library too. The problem with this service is that it's too darn popular, and we may need to limit stock to make our funding last through the year! I will be talking to the uni about whether we can get more funding from then to keep stock topped up better.



3Rhi and a bowl of tampons

We also have a partnership with Wa Collective to give out discounted menstrual cups. So far, we've sold 193! This is great to be able to give people another option for when they're menstruating, as there's no one size fits all for periods, so to speak!

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

a) Rep groups

Rep groups are essential to make sure all voices are heard and to give a community to everyone. We have CanDo, V-ISA, UniQ, VicUFO, Pasifika Students' Council (PSC) and Ngāi Tahu. We need to make sure these groups keep doing their awesome work. For us all to link up, we have the Student Equity and Diversity Committee, which meets roundabout monthly. Here we talk about all sorts of issues facing rep groups. Paddy, our charming equity officer, is the main port-of-call for rep groups, but I am also around for a chat and do my best to support Paddy. I helped Paddy to put together the rep group training at the start of the year, which she very capably did.

At the invite of Loisi, the Pacific Students Council academic officer, I also gave a little talk at their exam prep Ko e Vaka event. I talked about how to stay well and happy during exams (or rather, my ups n downs of trying and sometimes failing to achieve this!).

3) 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.

a) March on Midland

Reports of the sexual assaults and harassment of the 2016 group of summer clerks at Russell McVeagh came out this year. What we've heard happened there is disgusting and disgraceful. There is massive injustice going on where senior lawyers cannot restrain themselves from abusing their positions and giving young, talented law students one of the worst starts imaginable to a career. VUWLSS, VUWFLS and VUWSA came together on this one to organise the March on Midland. This was thrown together in about a week, and took massive hours. For many law students it was their first ever protest. I still feel like this march may be the best thing I'll ever be part of. There aren't really words enough! I love the sign "NOT UR SUMMER MENU".

And also seeing Hiba absolutely power through the chats as we marched into Midland Park, “RUSSELL MCVEAGH ASSAULTING PEOPLE IS NOT OKAY”.

After the March, we have stayed organised and re-launched as the “Not Above the Law” campaign. We’ve had follow up with the Law Society in getting real change in the profession, interviews, attending lots of events talking about sexual violence in law, and meeting with Government to look at “where to from here?”. I’ve been on camera a bunch for this campaign too. My dad tells me I furrow my eyebrows too much when I interview – gonna get wrinkles!



5 WOO! Down with sexual violence



4 Harrison and I about to hard-talk with law society



6 Lucky to be with some very cool ladies (see Louise Nicholls, Zoe Lawton and Paddy's mum, Jackie Blue!)

b) Sexual violence

At the very beginning, Ella and I hacked out a plan for what we wanted to achieve in the sexual violence prevention space. We wanted it to be fresh and unashamed. This is really where the bulk of my time has gone! So I'm just going to bullet point this area:

Don't Guess the Yes – working with Police, City Council, SAPN and MAWSA on this awesome new campaign. Largely poster based. Also directed a video for this about how to see when someone is not into ya in the clubs – be respectful!



7Marlon with enormous creepy stick-on eye brows - BEWARE

Submission to long-term plan – made VUWSA’s submission to WCC on their 10 year plan in support of their goal to end sexual violence in Welly. Handed out the personal salient stories (see below) to the councilors at this one. Think that was quite an explosive move in the room – broke up the stuffiness of council chambers 😊

Best black out – planning this event to encourage the masses to wear black to lectures (this one to come in tri 2 we hope).

Thursdays in Black op-shop – organized (along with fabulous Ella) for an all-black op-shop in clubs week where all money raised went to Gender Minorities Aotearoa. VUWFLS loved this event, and decided to run it themselves later in the year, so I helped a little with that.



8What nice ladies I am with here :)



9Our cute pop up op-shop

Personal salient piece – the female members of the VUWSA exec + Kii wrote pieces about their personal experiences of sexual violence to be published in Salient. This was me and Els brain-child. Really tough to write, but really worth it.



10 Us as cartoons (I think my hair is too blonde here, agree?)

Consent in halls – been meeting with halls staff to say that halls are a special risk area for sexual violence and we gotta do more there for students. Off the back of that, the staff are investigating options for doing some trainings or workshops next year in halls (fingers crossed, will keep asking).



11 Mean selfie from reclaim the night (which happened in July to be fair)

Reclaim the night – planning for the bar crawl event for Re O-week where lasses, lads and everyone in-between can have a safe and fun night out, wearing black and raising money for sexual violence prevention.

Sexual violence prevention working group – me, Ella, Paddy and Erica sit on this university working group to talk about how to prevent sexual violence at VUW. Through this VUWSA are taking the lead on running an event in

tri 2 (to be announced soon!), which we've been planning. We're also having lots of conversations trying to push the uni towards taking more action.

Careers guidelines – after the Russell McVeagh incidents, I asked to meet with the careers office to talk about VUW's relationships with employers. We want to make sure that students are going into safe workplaces. We're talking about drafting some "expectations" for employers who advertise jobs on Vic Careers.

c) Housing

Have been doing some work with the campaigns team and Marlon about the state of housing in Welly. I'm mainly a support person in this campaign, and was more involved in the beginning to talk about what our key policies are for housing. I also went to a potluck at Marlon's house where we chatted to MPs about their housing policies.

d) Submission with UniQ

Erin Page, from UniQ, and I worked together to do a submission to Parliament on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill. This Bill didn't address the ridiculous portion of the Act which means that transgender people have to go to Family Court to prove they are the "opposite sex" in order to change their sex on their birth certificate. We did this with UniQ because VUWSA is a proudly pro-rainbow organisation and love to support our rep groups, like UniQ! It was so so good to work on this with Erin – he is wonderful and did an awesome job before the select committee!



12 Me and Erin outside Parliament having just given select committee a piece of our minds

4) Constitutional Goal 8 – Accountability: To ensure accountability to, and representation of, members.

a) VUWSA Executive retreat

We had our annual retreat at the start of the year, to get to know each other and plan the year. What a lovely team we have!

b) Work Reports

Completed my fortnightly work reports to explain what I've been up to.

c) VUWSA meetings

We have exec meetings every fortnight. We've had to discuss a number of welfare issues this year – like the student health casual patient issue and plenty about sexual violence. I try to bring these things to the exec so we can all talk and decide together.

I'm also on the VUWSA audit and finance committee (where we discuss expenditure/budget etc.), and the revenue and venture committee (which is about looking for new ways to make VUWSA more financially sustainable). I also sit on the halls committee, where we hear from the fantastic student reps about issues going on in halls!

d) Welfare team meetings

Myself, Paddy and Ella have fortnightly brekkie catch-ups. These are a personal highlight for me!! Love hearing about what the team is doing, seeing how we can collab, and making sure we are all well and looking after each other.

e) NZUSA matters

We had NZUSA conference early on in the year, where the new execs across the country could meet each other and talk about the year to come. Lots of really nice folk and good connections made!



13 A bunch of people from student execs hanging out on some steps

NZUSA also has formed a mental health working group – I'm the policy person on this group. I'm also a member of the NZUSA National Welfare Committee, which has met once this year.

5) General Tasks and Initiatives

a) Orientation

I helped out with Orientation events, making sure our guests are staying safe and being looked after if they are overwhelmed or had a bit too much. Held a few vomit bags, tied back a fair few ponytails.

b) Other fun stuff!

Ella and I now have a wee radio show with Salient FM – which we think is hilarious and love doing. It's called VUWSA Off the Record and everyone should listen (except my mum, who I've told not to).



14 The notorious Sasha and Connor on their romantic facilitated on-air date

I attended the Living Wage training, along with other union, community and faith group folk, where we learned LOTS from Sister Mary Beth about community organising. Biggest takeaway is the need to turn unproductive anger about things that are going wrong in the world into productive, calculated anger (sounds scary, but quite useful!).



15 Lyndy (boss organiser from Living Wage movement), us and SISTER MARY BETH, role model and inspiration

Ran a little bit in Victoria's Relay for Life team. We did an Instagram takeover for Vic that day, and danced a bunch with these mean ladies who had a great dance routine.

Attended the Education Conversation conference down in Christchurch. This was hosted by the Ministry of Education as they want to reform the whole education system it seems! Grand ambitions here. Good chats had. Conversation ongoing.

6) Reflections

a. Strengths

I got drive. This is just one of the best jobs ever that doesn't really feel like a job. I love the planning and vision side, and working with awesome people! And I hope I'm alright at it.

b. Weaknesses

I've been getting a bit emotional with all the work on sexual violence. Sometimes, cause it's so personal to me, I find it hard to separate myself from what needs to be done. As an e.g. we heard that there were some boys who were taking advantage of lasses in their halls. This kind of situation happened to me, where there was a guy who had a reputation for sleeping with drunk and upset chicks. I had a little cry, got really angry, and found it hard to find perspective about what we could do about it. That's why the Living Wage training "useful anger" idea is so good for me. I need to remember it and practice it!

c. Parting words

Love the Welfare team (in particular) and I love my job.