



Auckland University Students' Association

Annual Report 2010

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Introduction

Each year the Executive Committee is required to submit an annual work report that reflects on their experiences throughout the year in their particular area. Each Executive member develops goals to guide their year and they judge themselves on how they have achieved, or not achieved, these.

Portfolio holders are entitled to a maximum bonus of \$250 (in vouchers) based on the following categories:

- Achievements in their portfolio area (50% or \$125)
 - Identifying goals and making a clear and concerted effort to achieve them, with adequate reporting to Executive on these goals.
 - Having self-awareness of goals and having the ability to adapt them to over time.
 - Timely and accurate reporting on goals/ problems and outcomes/achievements.
- Contribution to AUSA (30% or \$75)
 - Turning up to, and being an active participant in, committees, such as Welfare, Policy and Governance, Strategic Planning etc.
 - Turning up to and participating in AUSA events, i.e. Ecofest, Womensfest, Welfare Lost Property Sales...
 - Being part of the hard work, volunteering, BBQs, events etc.
 - Contributing to Craccum, etc.
 - Engaging with NZUSA conferences and AUSA training opportunities.
 - Any other contribution that is considered outstanding and outside the above criteria.
 - Being accountable with regular written or verbal reports.
- Good Governance (20% or \$50)
 - Executive meeting attendance and engagement with the proper process of the meeting.
 - Extending engagement with AUSA and its members beyond a weekly meeting into a commitment to the role, objectives, and goals of your portfolio
 - Engagement with issues outside the portfolio, which are to the benefit of AUSA and its members.
 - Seeking or having clear understanding of the organisation and its operations, knowledge of correct procedure, reporting lines etc.

Officers (the President, Administrative Vice-President, Education Vice-President, and Treasurer) are not awarded performance bonuses as they collect an honoraria throughout the year, equivalent to the adult minimum wage for 40 hours per week for the President and 20 hours per week for the Vice-Presidents and Treasurer. Portfolio executive positions are volunteer and are not paid.

This document serves as a final accountability mechanism for the Officers as it allows the members to see where the total costs of employing the Officers and how performance rewards are allocated to the portfolio members of the Executive.

Full text is provided where possible, to a limit of 2.5 pages. Reports that exceeded this length were truncated and the original versions are available on request.

President

Elliott Blade

Elliott Blade did not submit a work report despite repeated requests to do so.

Elliott Blade drew a full-time honoraria for the year.

Administrative Vice-President

Joe McCrory BA (HONS.)

Joe McCrory drew a part-time honoraria for the year.

Education Vice-President

Alex Nelder

Alex Nelder did not submit a work report despite repeated requests to do so.

Alex Nelder drew a part-time honoraria for the year.

Treasurer

Fiona Feng

The role of treasurer has been thoroughly rewarding. For the two years I have held this position, it has given me a great perspective on the workings of the students' association, the student community and the wider university community.

This year I have continued my primary roles of auditing clubs, being on the club grants committee, being Chair of the Finance Committee, and also authorising financial transactions as part of my day-to-day duties as treasurer.

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to be involved with various other activities in my capacity as an officer on the executive. I have also served as a Central Committee representative to Senate, as well as the Equity and School Liaisons Committees. Seeing the internal structure of university governance has been a truly eye-opening experience.

The other officers and I have also helped AUSA prepare its response to the Voluntary Student Membership bill. I helped co-write AUSA's submission on VSM and also presented to the submission to the Education and Science Select Committee, along with the other officers.

I have prepared the annual budget for two consecutive years, and have made some recommendations on the general process for future Treasurers.

Recommendations for 2011:

- I would like to see the financial statements included in the annual report be presented on AUSA's website available for our members to view. In addition, the annual budget should be made available on the website as soon as approved by the Executive.
- I would also recommend that quarterly financial reporting be made by the Treasurer to the Executive regarding AUSA's financial position.
- There should also be increased involvement of the Treasurer with the training of financial management for clubs. This year we hosted a treasurer's workshop for faculty students' associations which was successful. I would like to see this event continued and also a separate workshop for clubs' treasurers.

Fiona Feng drew a part-time honoraria for the year.

Clubs and Societies Officer

Sean Topham & Keri Watts BA

Introduction:

Sean and I have enjoyed our year as CSO. We have attended Executive meetings; Student Forums and Grants meetings and we have had a significant amount of contact with Mai and Li at Student Central. We managed to start work on all of our goals and over the course of 2011 they will be put into practice. We have met heaps of interesting and fun people and have also learned a lot, not only about the running of a non-profit organisation and the University of Auckland but also about issues facing all students within the tertiary sector.

Clubs and Societies Officer Duties:

Cultural Grants Committee:

This year I attended two of the three Cultural Grants Committee Meetings. I was ill for the last one. These were incredibly interesting and helped to show case the diversity of culture and art on Campus.

Sporting Grants Committee:

This year I managed to only attend one of the three meetings, as I was ill (again). The meeting I did attend was chaired by Sports Officer Oscar Ellison and was interesting.

Blues:

I spent the day of the Blues Awards helping to set up and then attended the event that night. It was a very enjoyable occasion with Robyn Malcolm from *Outrageous Fortune* attending as our Guest Speaker.

Craccum Club Noticeboards:

These have been an issue this year. During Summer School 2011 an email address needs to be set up exclusively for Club Noticeboards in Craccum so that everyone knows where to send the emails. This needs to be implemented soon so that Clubs are able to keep everyone posted on what they are doing.

Club Presidents Forum:

I think this year Sean and I were able to hold two or three Forums. I think they ran better this year and the Club presidents found them informative. I think that the best way to make sure that there are 4 a year and that the attendance increases would be to organise the dates at the very beginning of the year and send them out to everyone straight away, as well as sending a few reminder emails during the course of the year, if this works for 2011 I would suggest picking the dates at the end of the year and making sure that they go into the diary and wall planner like the Grants do.

Clubs Ball:

This was an awesome event. I spent the two weeks prior to the event sorting out and helping other organisers with the small last minute problems that kept cropping up. The day of the ball Sean and I spent the day decorating the ball and every one who attended on the night had a lot of fun. Sean and I presented the awards along with other members of the AUSA Executive. The next day I arrived bright and early to start the clean up which took a significant amount of time especially when incredibly tired. Special thanks to Elliott, Swan Lin, Gilaad, Nevin, Ayla, Morgan, Mai, Andrew, Rocky, Craig and everyone else who turned up on the Saturday or Sunday to make this event went off. Next's years ball should be bigger and better.

Clubs Manual:

Has been written and needs to be fixed up a wee bit. New Stuff also needs to be added in order for it to be totally up to date. As an ongoing project of past CSO's it will be nice to see it published for the beginning of 2011.

AUSA BBQs:

This is something that needs to be sorted out but due to the creation of the Auckland Super City Sean and I thought it best to sort out at the beginning of 2011. Clubs should be able to buy sausages off campus because they are significantly cheaper however due to the legalities of food licensing and the fact that the Quad comes under the jurisdiction of the Café can causes some problems. We started to look into the possibility of getting exemptions for clubs from the food licensing department of the Auckland City Council however all aspects of this possible solution need to be examined before implementation. Super city protocols should be in place in time for this to be sorted out for 2011.

Club Storage:

This is a significant problem for clubs at the moment and a possible solution has been discussed. However because of the nature of the problem the CSO has to work with the President, AVP, Tom and Albie and other staff. This is being looked at and needs to be sorted out asap.

AUSA Club Noticeboards:

Though the Craccum noticeboards are well used the actual physical boards are not the plan is to have each physical noticeboard divided into sections for cultural, sporting, religious, social, political and any other clubs in order for them to publish their information. Sean and I have looked into this and all that needs to be done is to email the Clubs before Orientation 2011 to remind them of the Noticeboards. One thing that was raised this year was the possibility of a noticeboard in the Quad where it be more visible. This is something that will need to be looked at.

AUSA Executive Duties:*Executive Meetings:*

I have attended almost all of the AUSA Exec meetings this year.

Student Forum:

Both Sean and I managed to attend the majority of Student Forums over the course of the year. We also attended the AGM's and SGM's that were held this year, often helping out with the all important quorum count.

Other Exec Events:

We have attended a number of other exec events and have tried to help out where possible. We managed to briefly attend the First Semester Welfare Lost Property Sale and attended a few of the Ecofest, Womans Fest, Politics Week and Cultural Mosaic events. Sean and I were also managed to do a few lecture speaks.

Conclusion

Overall 2010 was a good year for clubs, with some of our clubs hosting larger events for both national and international students. There were also some interesting changes with VSM and three exams and so it will be interesting to see how it all pans out for 2011. Sean has a lot of minor things to sort out before the beginning of Semester One in order for his year to run smoothly as CSO so good luck to Sean and the rest of the 2011 Executive.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded.

Cultural Affairs Officer

Nevin Govindasamy

I joined AUSA at the end of the first semester via the May by-election. Needing to learn the duties of the Cultural Affairs Officer and the workings of the greater AUSA Executive in one semester was a challenge. I was particularly interested in activities in the quad, making it a place which all students can enjoy feel comfortable in.

I had three main goals for the semester-

1. Work closely with cultural clubs, Faculty Associations and students on an individual basis
2. Reclaim the quad
3. Build the success of the Cultural Mosaic

While managing to achieve a close relationship with – the Veda Club, Sustainability Network, Reason and Science Society, Fiji Club, Auckland University Samoan Students Association, Union of Malaysian Students in Auckland, Popping Crew, attending club meetings and working with members to promote their clubs through Craccum, it was difficult to maintain regular contact with all of them along with studies. I would like to see further growth in this area of the Cultural Affairs position, stronger relationships with the AUSA Clubs and the association itself would further help the growth of student life and AUSA's relationship with students.

I maintained regular office hours from 2-4pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 12-3pm Thursdays where I met with student club members and dealt with the Cultural Affairs correspondence. While I did meet with the occasional general student, many still remain oblivious to AUSA despite repeated prompts in Craccum.

I was unable to achieve the relationship with the faculty associations that I would have liked, this is partially due to the fact that all of them are almost completely self-sustaining and their relationship with the AUSA has become less meaningful. The AUSA Cultural Mosaic was run early in semester two from the 28-30th of July and consisted of three themed days, religious cultures, contemporary cultures and international cultures. It was very well received by students who enjoyed a range of performances, activities and free meals provided by the AUSA clubs themselves. However, due to the timing of the event being so soon after the start of the semester many of the clubs confirmed very late, thus I had difficulties getting the amount of promotion I wanted done. And due to timing clash with the Madment Theater the proposed contemporary cultures day had to be partially rescheduled. The event was slightly over-budget but I think that the number of students who attended and the services provided greatly out-weighed the excess. The Cultural Mosaic has the potential to be a much more successful event than it already is, through even closer contact with the associated clubs and members of the entertainment industry I think this can be achieved.

I helped to decorate the venue for the AUSA Clubs Ball which was a great event. I also attended many of the events put on by the other AUSA portfolios such as the debates organized by the IAO's and NAO. Due to the constraints of trying to maintain a full course load and meeting with so many different people I was unable to achieve my goal to "reclaim the quad". I would like to continue to pursue this goal over the next year and eventually hope for growth in the area in the future.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded

Environmental Affairs Officer

Lucia McLean & Natalie Mitchell-Lowe

Lucia McLean and Natalie Mitchell-Lowe did not submit a work report despite repeated requests to do so.

Neither qualified for the performance bonus.

Grafton Representative

Rupert Nelson & Craig Riddell

Introduction

The position of a Grafton Rep on AUSA is a new one, being established in the middle of 2009. This recognizes the increased growth of Grafton Campus away from being solely comprised of medical students towards a broader range of degree structures. This also entailed more and more students spending substantial amounts of their time at University based at Grafton Campus as opposed to it being simply an adjunct of City Campus. Without substantial AUSA presence these roles tended to be filled by faculty associations (primarily AUMSA the medical students' association).

As a result of this situation, our areas of interest were very strongly aligned towards setting up a sustainable system of providing events and services for AUSA members at Grafton. Overall, I think we made great strides towards a stronger AUSA presence there.

Annual Goals:

- AUSA sign-up drive during Freshers'/O Week
- Establishment of a Grafton Students' Association on lines similar to the Tamaki Students' Association, aimed at providing AUSA services to Grafton and adding weight to advocacy on behalf of Grafton students. Establishment to include constitutional structure of the association, agreement with AUSA (including changes to AUSA constitution), and aims of the association.
- Lobbying the University to include provisions for Grafton under the Services Agreement with AUSA. Services to be provided should include a part-time WAVE/administrative officer, as per Tamaki. Lobbying is to include lobbying for financial support for 2010, also.
- Meetings with Faculty staff to advocate for the needs of Grafton students, a task currently performed by AUMSA.
- Affiliation of Grafton class reps under the WAVE system.
- Providing assistance to clubs/societies on Grafton campus, particularly those which are trying to establish themselves (e.g., SAMS). This might include aiding with sponsorship.

Relating to our role on the AUSA executive, we aim to be actively involved in the executive's activities and decision-making process. This is to include:

- Proactive engagement during AUSA executive meetings, including coming up with ideas of our own.
- Attendance of AUSA events (NB: being at another campus sometimes makes this a challenge). Attendance of NZUSA conferences.
- Building strong relationships with members of AUSA executive, Grafton student groups as well as AUSA and University staff.

Semester One:

AUSA Sign-ups

In this area we made significant inroads into AUSA sign-ups by recruiting from a population that does not spend much time at City Campus. We were also able to categorize these students as from Grafton Campus and we feel this information is useful in order to justify directing appropriate levels of funding specifically towards Grafton students.

Grafton Council Liaison

Whilst we had fewer meetings with the entire Grafton Council due to scheduling issues we managed to have three meetings and established email group protocols. This allowed us to collect the dates of events held by Grafton groups and add them to Elliot's registry of events. We also reached consensus on issues of a GSA and priorities, which included joint events that reach more students. We also provided support for the newer student associations (NASA and SAMS) in the areas of advocacy and events. An important move forwards was the inclusion of specific class reps from programmes offered at Grafton within the WAVE advocacy class rep system.

Grafton Student's Association

Our major goal of establishing a Grafton Student's Association was an ongoing one but one that we made large strides towards and continued to work towards over the year. Steps taken include:

- Consensus on Executive structure with input from the Grafton Council
- Creation of a draft constitution for the GSA/draft MOU between AUSA and GSA
- Consultation on the constitution with AUSA officers.

Lobbying for Additional Grafton Resources

This is an area in which we faced obstacles, mostly due to the issues surrounding the Services agreement with the University. With the endorsement of AUSA officers we approached Brendan Mosely with the aim of including specific Grafton provisions within the student services agreement. However, Brendan was of the opinion that there should be no specific campus earmarks at all within the agreement. Despite this we were able to demonstrate the significant atmosphere created at Grafton by various associations and opened a dialogue on how best to improve these.

Deferred Goals

Those goals which were deferred to semester two were mostly continuations of the work begun in semester one. We encountered more difficulty with achieving a budget for Grafton for 2011 due to the complex nature of the funding relationship between the University and AUSA. After creating our draft constitution we had to wait until the next general meeting of AUSA in order to incorporate it into the constitution.

Semester Two:

AUSA Elections

Our goals were to encourage viable candidates to run for the position (which resulted in there being more than one candidate for the first time) and to increase the voter turn-out at Grafton campus. We managed to achieve this but there is still work to be done.

Grafton Council Liaison

During semester two we had three meetings of the GSA and regular correspondence with constituent student association members. After having dedicated funding allocated to Grafton for 2011 we established priorities with the GSA in terms of employee roles and event planning (see transition document).

Grafton Student's Association

Despite having a draft constitution ready we were unaware of the deadline for the Winter General Meeting and so missed out our opportunity. We apologize for our failure in this area.

Lobbying for Additional Grafton Resources

In contrast, in this area we feel we achieved some concrete results. After meeting with the dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences we gained his support and an assurance of space for an AUSA employee in the student space within the new building opening in 2012. He was unable to provide us with funding directly from the faculty or a space for 2011. After doing so we approached AUMSA to secure the use of the AUMSA office as a temporary space for a WAVE employee during 2011, to which the executive acquiesced. This presents some logistical challenges with setting up a proper space within this area which will need to be resolved before the start of semester one 2011. In terms of financial resources, our proposal to the SLC was rejected by the committee due to not hewing closely enough to its remit. However, after a very productive meeting with Michael and discussing the student services agreement we managed to rearrange some spending lines in order to find a budget line for Grafton for 2011. We are very pleased with this achievement and feel it is appropriate to have specific budget lines in the services agreement schedules for satellite campuses.

Deferred Goals

We had planned on having secure funding in the second semester with which to operate a Grafton Stein, however with the circumstances encountered we felt this was a goal better deferred for the future. We also missed out on having a Grafton WAVE training due to scheduling conflicts between the various degree courses. This is an obstacle to be overcome for next year's position holder.

Conclusion:

We think that the greatest potential for achieving changes for Grafton students lies within the Grafton Students' Association and its members. At present it is an underutilized resource, with the potential to increase joint advocacy and events that benefit the wider members of the campus as opposed to smaller groups. In the future getting strong buy-in from these members in order to promote the WAVE employee and services, as well as organizing and promoting highly successful events. We think that our lobbying efforts worked best when acting in concert with the officers of AUSA towards sympathetic individuals within the University, and feel this was the strongest method of achieving financial gains.

This text has been edited for length reasons. The original version is available on demand by emailing avp@ausa.org.nz

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded

International Affairs Officer

Nicole Boyce & Michael Lai

Semester One

"To help foster a healthy political environment on campus, with respect to international affairs, by increasing student participation, awareness and activism." This goal itself is a work in progress that will continue for a few years, but from a few indicators the political culture has improved from last year, from anecdotal feedback from clubs that are happier with the increased networking and coordination and increased co-organisation of events from IAO with clubs. During this semester we have kept IAO fairly politically neutral. However there is still an overrepresentation of leftwing issues that comes out from the IAO. However this is more due to the fact that there are more clubs with some left wing orientation on campus, and that left wing groups tend to be the ones who seek help from the IAO. There has been a big effort to engage with right wing groups last semester, Alfred Street national and ACT on Campus. However Alfred Street National have wanted to focus more on the domestic issues that engage with international ones, while ACT on Campus did not want to engage with IAO (by not replying to multiple emails). The beginning of this semester has seen them engage to some degree with Unite on Campus and indirectly IAO.

Increased co-operation and coordination:

This semester there has been no real directive from students for AUSA or the IAO to take an active firm stance on international issues. Clubs have been kept in touch with and working with the IAO position regularly on a weekly basis. The IAC has been regularly meeting on a monthly basis and has been documented, and increased in number over time. There has been increased cooperation and coordination of groups on the political scene, as well as increased cooperation of political groups with groups that are not really thought of as international or political. Most clubs on the list of suggested clubs in the IAO annual plan has been attended on a regular basis, and work has been done with other groups off campus on an occasional basis.

Working with the University and setting up foundations for future IAOs and clubs:

Work with the university has been greatly improved. Lecturers have spoken at events. Cecil and EC mail and the Main web page has been regularly used and foundations of IAO work has been set in place for future generations to inherit without having future office holders to start from scratch (i.e. emails lists of important contacts have been tidied up, a systematic checklist and time management system of what has to be done has been established, and a training manual for future IAO and other political clubs has been written). Currently, finishing touches are being put on the manual to give to clubs how to go about making their events more successful. Am under the understanding that Keri Watts CSO has written an extensive thorough Clubs manual which gives advice and a checklist on what needs to be done when doing stuff. Will need to consult with her to see how improvements can be made to the IAO clubs manual.

Promotion methods have been largely expanded and regularly used. As promised in the IAO Annual plan the following have been achieved by starting a Facebook group, regularly contributing to Craccum through the IAO's column (*12 columns were written by year end*), using other existing emails lists with substantial members e.g. GPJA (Global Peace and Justice Auckland), Starting a list of contacts of other groups off campus (e.g. NGOs and social justice groups). The only thing outstanding from the Annual plan was the establishment of an email list.

Progress and increasing AUSA awareness and relevance to students and clubs:

The IAOs have put on the one event of their own accord, being bringing Mariem Hassan to University of Auckland. After a few weeks into the job, the conclusion was come to, that due to such a crammed semester and the already plethora of events and a wide range of activism that already existed that were put on by clubs and other groups off campus, that it was more important that the IAO focus on helping the groups than arbitrarily putting on more events, and making sure they were successful, of high quality and well attended, as well as helping clubs and giving advice to do with day to day activism and running of clubs as part of normalising political culture on campus.

IAO itself spent a total of \$270 for semester one under the Executive Projects budget line. \$150 for a thank you for the Unite on Campus debate speakers and volunteers and \$60 x 2 IAC meetings for Pizza. Money spent on other events held through out the semester came from clubs/groups/individual students themselves. At times when funds and time was short money came out of my own pocket. Sponsorship was secured by "All Good Bananas Ltd" for Ecofest and Oxfam Coffee Break.

Semester Two:*Increased co-operation and coordination*

This semester there has been no real directive from students for AUSA or the IAO to take an active firm stance on international issues. Clubs have been kept in touch with and working with the IAO position regularly on a weekly basis. There has been increased cooperation and coordination of groups on the political scene, as well as increased cooperation of political groups with groups that are not really thought of as international or political. Most clubs on the list of suggested clubs in the IAO annual plan has been attended on a regular basis, and work has been done with other groups off campus on an occasional basis.

Progress and increasing AUSA awareness and relevance to students and clubs

The IAO and the NAO (with the help of other groups on campus), organised Politics Week in Semester 2. Politics week ended up being a bit smaller than planned, this was largely due to the fact of the time of semester it was being held where it conflicted with assessments and a few groups had to pull out at the last minute (such as Amnesty on Campus annual debate had to be postponed due to the Canterbury earthquake and many MPs could not turn up in the end). However that being said Politics week was still largely a success. It was agreed that politics week itself would be more focused on domestic issues and the flagship event would be the Supercity mayoral debate. It was then resolved that the domestic events would be held during the daytime and the international issues would be held at night as per request from many of the clubs during semester one. The night time events suffered in that attendance was lower than normal due to the aforementioned reasons.

That being said, the following events to date, IAO position has been promoting and/or co-organising (to the degree that IAO put in half of the organising efforts, and at times more than half of the organising effort) extensively with many groups during Semester 2.

Not all of the above events belonged to the IAO domain so to speak such as the support put into helping organise Atheist/Jesus/Islam awareness week. However In exchange there has been agreement with clubs, groups and students to allow AUSA logo be attached to posters, leaflets and other promotional areas of groups, AUSA signage allowed to be stuck up at events, verbal thanks to AUSA and International Affairs Officers and through word of mouth, positive connotations will be associated to AUSA and IAO through their own networks and members.

This increases students' awareness of AUSA's relevance to politics, international issues, clubs and students. There has been an progressive increase in attendance as the semester progressed, (assessed by head count) which peaked around week 3 of semester and then generally decreased as the semester went on. However due to the varying nature of events and at times difficulty in assessing numbers (e.g. Politics week in the Quad compared to a seminar, compared to a debate), the numbers are not necessarily conclusive.

IAO along with NAO spent a total of \$700 for Politics week under the Executive Projects budget line. Since the NAO or IAO have no budget line for Politics Week (unlike Womensfest, Cultural Mosaic and Ecofest, all budgeted for \$1500 per event) by comparison to the other portfolio week events, we spent under the normal \$1500 allocated to other portfolios. \$60 x 1 IAC meetings for Pizza. Money spent on other events held throughout the semester came from clubs/groups/individual students themselves. A lot of the printing costs came out from own pocket when clubs/groups/individual students themselves could not stump up the money.

This text has been edited for length reasons. The original version is available on demand by emailing avp@ausa.org.nz.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded.

International Students Officer

Jenny Leitheiser

Semester 1:

- Completed AUSA training after by-election in April
- Attended many iSpace events in capacity as iSpace Mate and ISO
- Wrote blurb in iSpace newsletter for introduction
- Spoke to leaders of Asia and Americas team in International Office about int. students and AUSA's services
- Wrote article/instructions for newsletter detailing how to obtain a yearlong student visa with the help of the International Teams, after many emails asking about loopholes in the 'proof of funds' student visa requirement

Semester 2:

- Spoke at 2nd International Welcome about my experience in NZ
- Continued to write monthly updates in newsletter for int. students informing them of upcoming events
- Organized a Student Safe information evening with iSpace and Uni Health Services about collecting insurance on medical expenses
- Photographed and wrote exposés on the International Student Touch Rugby Team and International Student Soccer Team
- Continued to support and attend iSpace events and held regular meetings with Daphne Latzelsberger about gaps in international student services
- Judged the Semester 2 and 2010 International Student Photograph competition and attended the photographic showing

2010 goals not met:

- Decorating of Old Choral Hall International Office with iSpace
- Organizing end of semester market for int. students to buy/sell their belongings (especially helpful for exchange students who purchased things that can't be taken back to home country)
- Writing for Craccum to promote iSpace/international events to non-International students
- Joining/getting involved with Auckland University International Social Network club

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded.

Media Officer

Ed Brownlee & Evan Blumgart BE (HONS.)

This statement serves as an annual report in the hope that the achievements of the 2010 AUSA media officer portfolio are illustrated thusly. The year has seen many things happen, both significant and not so much. The O-week magazine was written and distributed far and wide to the student body. It is assumed that it was well received. Following through to the rest of the year: meetings of the AUSA executive were thoroughly attended and Craccum Administration Board meetings were chaired. Although ready at all moments, there were no calls for a Media Complaints Tribunal meeting all year and so none of these meetings were chaired. Advice to future media officers: your position is one on the executive and your portfolio is similar to others in that it is a portfolio; be well and don't fear the future.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded.

National Affairs Officer

Sam Durbin BA

Introduction:

This year I was elected onto the AUSA executive in a by-election in April and it was a busy year with many responsibilities in many areas. I often found it difficult to balance the requirements of my honours degree with the expectations and considerations of AUSA although I worked hard to make up for this where I could.

We were fortunate this year to have a significant political event to which I could centre the year around – the first ever Auckland City elections. This, along with what can only be described as an anti-student agenda from the government, meant that there was no shortage of issues to pick up on. To name but a few, we have had the Voluntary Student Membership bill, the build up to the change of the drinking age, harmful changes proposed to the student loan scheme, changes to employment law that affected those who are more transient with their work (which is to say, students), and changes to the taxation system that has left those at the bottom of the income scale far worse off in conjunction with spiralling costs of living and housing.

Students also faced many challenges from the university too which provided me with areas of action; three exams, frankly astronomical fee hikes, changes proposed to General Education, a general reduction in the availability of scholarships, and much more.

Missing the first quarter of the year made me feel somewhat behind my colleagues, that said, I think that overall 2010 was a very successful year and I am largely happy with the work that I did and immensely proud of the work of the executive as a whole.

Semester One:

As noted in my mid-year report, being elected later in the year meant that it was difficult to accomplish the same amount had I been elected earlier. The primary goals were to familiarise myself with the processes and mechanics of AUSA, have a 2010 budget event, write Craccum pieces that were relevant (and hopefully interesting) for students, and most importantly, begin planning Politics Week to be held in the second semester. I also made sure I was available to help EVP Alex Nelder when possible as our roles had many shared concerns. In semester one this was largely restricted to the effects of the budget changes which would become more pressing as the year developed.

Having been elected to several university committees for the 2010 year, I also took the opportunity to report back a lot of happenings that would have previously been not communicated. In particular this was from the Information Strategy and Policy Committee, which I was co-opted onto later in the semester after the initial representative withdrew for personal reasons. The goal here was to forge relationships with committee members as quickly as possible and to take issues to the committee. This proved to be quite a challenge and was worked out throughout semester two also.

Semester Two:

Semester two was a far more active period for me as National Affairs Officer. In my mid-year report I detailed five goals to work towards. They were to Improve the oversight, communication, and planning of Politics Week, continue to build relationships with both executive members and with political clubs on campus to ensure that this event is a success, write interesting and relevant Craccum

columns and always provide contact details, speak at SF as often as possible on issues that are relevant to students and my role, continue assisting the EVP on issues relevant to my role.

The first two I will deal with separately below as they pertain to Politics Week. The third point I believe I achieved for the most part. I wrote on changes to employment law which would extend the 90 day probation period to all workers and how this does not fix the underlying issues which confront students in particular: the fact that there were very few jobs. I also wrote articles about enrolling to vote in the local body elections, and actually voting in them. The frequency of contribution was not to the standard that I would have liked (I expected to contribute to every magazine), however when I was pressed for time, this was where I found it. As for the 'interesting' component of the goal, it's difficult to say for sure, although I certainly made an effort to make them as interesting and as easy to read as possible.

Goal four, (to speak at student forum) I believe I met as often as I could. In the build up to the local elections I made sure to speak about the importance of voting and thus the importance of being enrolled, and also about the changes to employment law. When I wasn't able to speak (for not having anything to say) I tried to help as much as possible with setup or administratively with taking minutes when the normal holders of those jobs were absent.

The fifth goal I believe I met. I made myself available to help Alex with things that he was doing and I tried to take an active role against the university in regards to things like 3 exams, in the committees to which I was elected. We collaborated on our reactions to government policy with the drinking age, as well as, to a more limited extent, the student loan scheme adjustments.

The first two goals pertain the Politics Week, which I feel requires a section of its own. In the lead up to the event I was concerned with existing plans and actions taken that had not involved me. I was able to regain control of the event and ensure that it went ahead as planned. I felt that my working relationship with those executive members and staff that assisted in putting on the event was improved, although I don't feel that I met my goal to reach out and develop better relationships with political clubs on campus. I was able to contact most of the political clubs through other executive members, particularly Michael Lai and Sean Topham, and although I was able to work on the relationships during the events at which clubs were present, I did not feel that I satisfactorily met this goal overall.

Politics Week as a whole I felt was very successful. We managed to put on significant events during the day as well as more niche events during the evenings, and overall I felt this approach worked very well. Of particular note for the week was the jewel in the crown, the super city mayoral debate which attracted, at a rough guess, around 200-250 people to the quad over the space of approximately an hour and a half to two hours. While the pub quiz was the only real failure, this was very much beyond my control and laid in a communication breakdown between the person who writes the Shadows pub quiz and the person who delivers it. The rest of the events were successful and overall the total cost came in a long way under the budget of \$750 at \$554.04.

For future Politics Weeks the most important action is to begin planning very early. This will allow for more time for poster designs and promotion and increase the likelihood of getting the politicians and figures desired. Where I felt 2010's politics week lacked was in its promotion, which was a result of running out of time and not being better organised earlier. A larger budget would also be

very beneficial as I felt we were constrained in what we could give away to students in order to keep our costs down. This was of particular note when we gave away 70 or so jug vouchers in the quad, despite there being 150-200 people. I believe that getting a sponsor on board would be a very prudent move in future, as this would significantly ease the pressure on the AUSA budget line. I feel that moving forward, the National Affairs Officer would be better off with her own discretionary budget line that can go towards events, rather than competing for the funds available in the executive projects line.

Concluding Remarks:

I have detailed my thoughts for the future within this document, particularly relating to the budget requirements of the position, however in general I think it is important that AUSA finds ways to increase participation from its members. In a Voluntary environment it is very difficult; students who want to participate often cannot due to their not being an AUSA member by default, and it can be hard to reach out to those who are due to the strict budgetary constraints.

AUSA therefore has to work smarter to reach out to students and to get them interested in what is going on. A better use of social media could be a part of this, but I feel that it also comes down to more frequent and more relevant reporting and contact where possible. We need to work together to find better ways of informing students of who we are, what we're doing, why it matters to them, and what they can do. More advertising in lecture theatres and more direct contact with students are crucial to this.

I also have concerns with the flow of information between the non-AUSA members elected onto Central Committees and AUSA. I feel that the Council of Student Delegates next year will significantly improve this and I look forward to being a part of this.

Overall, it has been a pleasure and an honour to serve students on the executive this year.

This text has been edited for length reasons. The original version is available on demand by emailing avp@ausa.org.nz.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded.

Sports Officer

Thomas Carver & Kerry Manson

Thomas Carver and Kerry Manson did not submit a work report despite repeated requests to do so.

Neither qualified for a performance bonus.

Student Forum Chair

Arena Williams & Gilaad Amir

Overview

The Student Forum Chairs are responsible for conducting weekly meetings in the Quad to discuss Students' Association business relevant to ordinary members and to affiliate student Clubs.

The meetings have been well attended, with only one ordinary meeting falling short of the 50 member quorum. An agenda was available at the beginning of each meeting and featured motions submitted by the Chair that related to general AUSA policy, such as the Government proposal to raise the drinking age to 20. These were debated by AUSA Executive members and interested students. All Club Presidents attended at least one meeting to speak for their Club's affiliation. Highlights include the affiliation of Pro-Life, which was contentious and allowed for robust debate, and the affiliation of the Drinking Club on the condition that the Club strive to eliminate Gerry Brownlee. The Tom Carver Fan Club was the only Club to be denied affiliation by a vote of the Student Forum in 2010.

Achievements

Craccum reporting has been more consistent than in past years. Publication of the agenda for the week coming has been difficult but some members have attended meetings after seeing something of interest will be discussed. In some weeks when Craccum publication was not possible, fliers were distributed with the printed agenda and relevant news articles in lecture theatres.

The Student Forum budget supported spending for the Winter AGM and a surplus still remains. This is due to Gilaad's work on sponsorship products as prizes, such as bags of Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, and to our decision at the beginning of the year to spend money only when necessary to attract quorum. Other prize donations included tickets to Saturday night parties from promoter/DJ Tim Richards, Big Mac vouchers from Queen St McDonalds and coffee packs from Karajoz Coffee.

Two meetings were held at Tamaki Campus. The first was inquorate, though Subway lunch was provided. The second was held to elect the Tamaki Students' Association Executive which was chaired by Tamaki Students' Association President Antonia Verstappen. This meeting was highly successful.

Recommendations for 2011

We have enjoyed serving as the Chairs of the Student Forum, but the job requires a hefty time commitment that seems to go unnoticed. First semester was much better than the second in terms of attendance and content during meetings, which was due in part to the effort put in by the Chairs – in terms of preparing an agenda for Craccum, devising topical and interesting policy discussions, and securing great giveaways from sponsors.

I recommend that the Student Forum Chair's position become the responsibility of the AUSA President. The meetings are incredibly important, as an interface the AUSA Executive and general membership. Taking a greater role in the meetings will allow the President to be more accountable, and their policy decisions to be more transparent. I also believe the President is in a better position to coordinate the meetings with portfolio officers and has the resources to conduct meetings to the high standard we achieved at the beginning of the year.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded

Tamaki Representative

Antonia Verstappen

Semester One:

Improve the presence of the Tamaki Students Association on Tamaki Campus:

The new hub office was set up smoothly, with a successful office launch held. The office was made visible to staff and students through the use of new posters advertising both the TSA hub office and the services we provide, as well as the use of a wooden sign placed outside the office during the day.

The main window separating the inside corridor from the office was frosted for privacy, but was branded with AUSA and TSA logos to identify the office and further make the office visible to students.

Improve the resources the TSA has available to students:

The pool table was refurbished at the start of semester one, and since being fixed has been popular with students during their spare time.

New sports gear has been purchased. This included new pool table queues, pool balls, and sports balls. These are all popular with students and are booked out a lot of the time the office is open.

Sheets to sign sports gear in and out have been created. A different system where students can check in sports gear after the office has closed at 2pm is in the process of being implemented.

The new parents space was re-painted and refurbished into a space that is being well utilised by Tamaki student parents.

A computer space with internet access was wired up in the main hub office, and is also well-used during the day. Toys and books were also put into the new parents space, and we are currently looking to try and involve the university to improve this space further by re-carpeting the area as the carpet is very old and not nice for children to be playing on.

This has been looked into to the point where quotes have been obtained and we are looking into budgeting the cost of doing it ourselves into our budget if we cannot get university assistance.

Improve the operation of the TSA Executive:

Weekly or bi-weekly meetings have been held throughout semester one. It has been difficult to find times that all executive members can make between 10am and 2pm when Anita is in the office, so this sometimes requires exec members to be briefed via email.

Anita takes minutes at each meeting, and are available for exec members via email.

Due to difficulties obtaining the proper format for minutes to be re-written and presented to the AUSA executive to be adopted, this has not yet occurred. This will, however, be a priority for semester two

Semester Two:

Improve the presence of the Tamaki Students Association on Tamaki Campus:

The SGM to effectively elect a 2011 executive achieved and exceeded quorum, and the 2011 executive was elected with only one vacancy.

One position was contested, with the unsuccessful student gaining another position on the executive

Improve the resources the TSA has available to students:

The successful refurbishment of the TSA office and advertising of services to students has seen increasing numbers of students utilising especially the TSA sports equipment throughout the second semester.

Further investments should be looked into in 2011.

Improve the operation of the TSA Executive:

Due to planning requirements for the 2010 TSA Ball, the executive met on at least a fortnightly basis, and a weekly basis for the better part of the semester.

The creation of a TSA "google doc" allowed exec members who could not attend meetings to be caught up and included. This was much more effective than the email loop.

Unfortunately the practice of getting TSA minutes adopted by AUSA was not successful, however these have all be completed by Anita and are freely available to TSA exec members and students from the TSA office.

Student Input:

The TSA student survey was very successfully distributed to students via University email loops, and received well over 100 responses from a good range of students. The questions and survey responses are available from the TSA office.

This helped inform our planning of the 2010 TSA Monte Carlo Cruise, and will be vitally important when the 2011 executive looks at expanding the range of events put on by the TSA.

The survey format and questions are general, gauging what students know about AUSA and the TSA as well as what they would like to see more of both in general and event-wise, and will be useful if the 2011 wishes to repeat the survey.

Improve the Tamaki Students' Association constitution:

The process of improving the TSA constitution will be a long one, and so far areas of improvement as well as areas which are working well have been identified.

This is an ongoing project to be completed by the 2011 TSA executive

Student Forum:

Following the unsuccessful attempt at Student Forum in semester one, this was successfully combined with the SGM in semester two, achieving quorum.

The use of the sound system and BBQ set up were successful in attracting interest, and important in achieving quorum. This is a template which should be used if future TSA executives wish to achieve the same outcomes.

Events:

The TSA ball meetings were combined with regular TSA meetings, ensuring the largest number of exec members could attend.

The TSA student survey acted as student input, and was valuable in gauging both what types of events students wanted to see, as well as dates, times, prices and themes.

The TSA Monte Carlo Cruise was successfully hosted in week nine of semester two, and was a sell out event. There were no incidences at the event, and the event was to budget. (See Appendix).

The exec was successful in ensuring that TSA signs and posters were at all events to increase student recognition of the TSA.

This text has been edited for length reasons. The original version is available on demand by emailing avp@ausa.org.nz.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded.

Welfare Officer

Kelsey Carter & Sam Bookman (Interim)

AUSA Financial Hardship Grants:

Accepted	18
Declined	6
Total Received	24
Total Received by John	51

Grand Total Received 2010: 75

Total amount awarded by us is \$ 2230.00

The amount previously awarded this year by John was \$3850.00

The Grand Total for Hardship Grants 2010 is \$ 6080

This is much higher when compared to total expenditure in previous years:

- A total of 38 grants in 2009, totalling \$3,675
- A total of 18 grants in 2008, totalling \$1,640
- A total of 14 grants in 2007, totalling \$1,105.

It is unknown whether this increase is due to the maximum grant amount being made \$200 this year (2010), or whether the demand reflects the increased awareness among the student body of the service, or the tough financial times students are in with GST increases.

A trend which is quite concerning is the number of students who are applying for Financial Assistance to help with Medical, especially dental costs. Accommodation is the next common, with many students facing eviction for being in arrears in their rent.

The Welfare Committee has run smoothly, although at times it is difficult to find people to sit on the committee to process the grants. Being able to meet individually with committee members instead of having to find a time that suits everyone has enabled us to keep well within the 48 hours processing time, and meant that urgent cases have been approved expediently.

AUSA Foodbank:

Number of food parcels given to students since 10th September 2010: **42**

This makes totals as below:

Semester One	88
Semester Two	70
Total for 2010	158

This is compared with previous years:

- 2009 total = 98
- 2008 total = 90

This makes the Foodbank the most used Welfare service. It has been easily accessible thanks to Carolina's great work at reception. The main concern now is to secure a reliable source of donations to help fill up the dilapidated food bank for next year, which I am currently working on. Donations for the food bank were also received from one of the faculties, which were apparently left overs from goodie bags that were being created. This was really appreciated and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to them.

Fundraising:*Christchurch Appeal*

We ran a successful donation appeal for students in Christchurch in wake of the quake. This took place during AUSA's Politics week, and we campaigned over 3 days raising a total of \$ 533.90. This is to go Lincoln University, and Joe is organising the details so we can transfer the money to them. The total donations received from the donation box in AUSA House since September is \$ 82.80, and has been put into the welfare account.

Other Work in the Portfolio:

It has been brought to my attention that a number of scams are operating, which are in some ways targeting students, especially groups such as International Students.

The scams reported to me involve a fake travel agency selling invalid Flight tickets, and flat renting scams involving apparently overseas landlords.

A big part of students being caught up in these scams is lack of knowledge, so next year I would like to have articles published in both the O Week Magazine and Craccum to educate students on how to avoid scams.

Student Contact:

34 students have made contact with the welfare office since the 15th September for help and advice, and assistance. These issues have included aegrotat assistance for tests and exams, financial hardship enquiries, sudylink enquiries, academic issues, medical and dental treatment issues.

Email Contact	16
Phone Contact	7
Office Contact	6
Other Contact	<u>5</u>
Total Contact	38

Financial Situation:

As of 9 November 2010, the Welfare yearly account balance stands at \$114.42. There has been only \$82.80 in income put into the account, whilst \$2230.00 was spent just on financial hardship grants alone. The OVERALL Fund Balance stands at \$8, 301.10.

Sam Bookman and Kelsey Carter were appointed as Interim Welfare Officers in September 2010 upon the resignation of the Welfare Officer elected for the year. For this reason they were not required to submit a work report but did so anyway.

Due to their appointment, they were not eligible for the performance bonus.

Women's Rights Officer

Soraiya Daud

Womenspace

- Painted the corridor and office of Womenspace so that they coordinated with the rest of Womenspace and created an inviting atmosphere.
- Extensively cleaned and organised the Womenspace office for the benefit Women's Rights Officers in the future.
- Continually maintained the Womenspace kitchen including ensuring that the dishes were cleaned and the room was pleasant for students.
- Ensured that informational pamphlets were up to date and provided adequate information on available community services.

Events

- Organised for Pelenise Alofa Pilitati (a small business owner and climate change activist from Kiribati) to speak on International Women's Day
- Organised Womensfest (inviting a variety of organisations to conduct workshops on campus and a Womens debate)
- Organised the publication of Kate magazine, AUSA's annual women centred publication.
- Organised a Reclaim the Night march to raise awareness about safety on campus.

Community

- Participated in the Campus Feminist Collective supporting them in their activities to build an active feminist culture on campus.
- Liaised with relevant community organisations informing them of events on campus and communicating their services and events to students.

Role on Executive

- Attended most Executive meetings participating in debate and carefully considering motions brought before the Executive.
- Participated in events held by other members of the Executive.

Transition

- Informed the incoming Women's Rights Officers on what was required in the role.
- Ensured a timely handover of keys to Womenspace.
- Continue to support the Women's Rights Officers when they need any guidance or advice on their roles.

At the time of writing, no performance bonus had been decided or awarded.