2019

UNIQ VICTORIA ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report of UniQ Victoria for the Academic Year of 2019
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Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga,
Kia mākinakina ki uta,
Kia mātaratara ki tai,
Kia hī ake ana te atakura,
He tio, he huka, he hauhū,
Tīhei māuri ora.
Tūturu whakamaua kia tīna!
Tīna!
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!

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UniQ Victoria

UniQ Victoria is the Queer Students' Association of Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

We are a student-led group, controlled by queer and queer-allied students, working in the interests of all queer students, and representing their views.

UniQ is a student community group dedicated to providing queer students with social support and services that have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing, and ensure that our University is a safe and inclusive environment.

We are also advocates for the interests of queer students pursuing policy and legislative change, raising visibillty for our community, running campigns, and supporting students in connecting with the services they need.

Some of the things that we do include regular social spaces, an annual Pride Week, peer support, information and resources, student advocacy, submission writing, and so much more.

2019 Executive

Role	Name
President	Miia van Beusekom
Secretary	Brighid Hurtubise
Treasurer	Victoria Scott
Communications Officer	Brock Stobbs
Social Media Officer	Will Eland
General Executive, Acting Secretary	Rosie Goodyear
General Executive	Caitlyn Mahoney
General Executive	Rosina Buchanan

Restorative Practices

UniQ aims to provide a space which is safe for all LGBTQIA+ students, and will strive wherever possible and appropriate to model restorative practices in their approach to resolving conflict and addressing harm in order to create an environment in which issues may be meaningfully addressed.

UniQ will use regular ice breakers in order to build community amongst regular attendees of safe spaces. Questions ordinarily used in restorative circles may be inappropriate to UniQ due to the increased likelihood of trauma amongst groups which experience discrimination.

Where minor conflict arises or harm is caused, UniQ will attempt to resolve this ‘in-house,’ by briefly explaining the reason the action is inappropriate. This approach may be used in instances such as people using inappropriate language (i.e, slurs), or acting in a manner which may [cause distress] (i.e, playing ‘devil’s advocate’). If these actions persist, facilitators may ask the person to leave the space to have a further discussion about the harm that may be caused by their actions.

Where serious conflict arises or harm is caused, UniQ will look to arrange a restorative meeting, facilitated by the VUWSA Student Advocate. This approach may be taken if an attendee of UniQ is made to feel unsafe by another person, or when repeated breaches of safe space guidelines occur and previous attempts to address this behaviour have not succeeded.

Event Schedule 2019

Date	Event
27/02	Rainbow Brunch
28/02	O Week Movie Night
01/03	O Week Welcome Festival
Every 2nd Week	Lunch Space
Every 2nd Week	Discussion Space
Every 2nd Week	Gender Club
Every 2nd Week	Board Games
05/06, 14/08, 09/10	Crafternoon
Monthly	Movie Nights
19/03	IGM
17/05	Pink Shirt Day
15/07 - 21/07	Pride Week (8 events)
22/07	Women's Week Panel
24/07	Women's Week Show
24/09	AGM

President's Report

Miia van Beusekom

UniQ began the year with O-Week, with a screening of Pride (2014) and attending the Welcome Festival at Kelburn Park. Both events were well attended, although did not receive the attention that the Rainbow Brunch hosted by the university received.

Clubs Week included the successful reintroduction of a UniQ mailing list, which gained a significant number of followers, allowing us to get a better idea of interest in the group.

We held our IGM in March, which was attended by around 25 members, allowing us to pass a number of important constitutional changes including the splitting of the Communications Officer role into Comms and Social Media, and to officially elect a new executive team for 2019.

We have focussed this year on rebuilding a solid base for UniQ to work from. A key part of this has been maintaining regular social spaces. We have run bi-weekly social spaces through trimesters 1 and 2, which have seen increased attendance from the end of 2018. These events have included more regular crafternoons. UniQ has maintained monthly movie nights during trimesters, which have also seen an increased attendance from 2018.

Members of our executive attended the launch of Gloria Fraser's resource for mental health professionals working with LGBTQIA+ people, and collaborated at various points through the production. The resource aims to improve the level of knowledge of mental health professionals about the LGBTQIA+ community and the challenges we face when accessing mental health services.

President's Report (cont.)

Miia van Beusekom

The highlight of the UniQ year was a very successful Pride Week, held between the 15th and 21st of July. We hosted 7 events, including an educational collaboration with NZAF, a Hui Takatāpui, and Quiz Night. All events were well attended, in particular the Quiz Night, which had around 100 attendees, and 15 teams. The Hui Takatāpui was of particular significance, the event was supported by VUWSA and Ngai Tauira with speakers from InsideOUT and Tiwhanawhana, This event was intended to raise the profile of Māori voices in the community, and represents a step forward in making UniQ Victoria a more inclusive space for LGBTQIA+ and Takatāpui Māori.

UniQ has worked with the university and VUWSA during the development of the university's Sexual Harassment Policy. In addition to supplying our own submission on the policy, we have contributed to the VUWSA submission. We also held a forum with UniQ for students to attend and voice their opinions on the policy to support the Rainbow Hui organised by the university.

We were invited in August to provide our thoughts on the VUW Strategic Plan which is currently in development, laying out our various concerns with the support for LGBTQIA+ students as well as the lack of education for staff about LGBTQIA+ identities.

UniQ has been invited to various events through the year hosted by other organisations. In July we received an invitation from the Ministry of Youth Development to attend a Pink Shirt Day Hui. This event was also attended by organisations such as InsideOUT. Then in August, two of our members attended an International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) event hosted by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, which was also attended by a number of other queer organisations including NZAF, Tiwhanawhana, InsideOUT, and ITANZ.

Treasurer's Report

Victoria Scott

Sponsorship

Throughout the year, we received sponsorship from NZAF, and Victoria Clubs. NZAF required promotion for their organisation in exchange for funding that went towards our Pride Week events. We had some difficulty in communication to begin with, but this has resulted in a valuable contribution to UniQ.

Our money from Clubs was received in April, and as Pride Week was our biggest event, this funding also helped with most of the events. This contribution meant that the majority of our events were at no cost to the people that came.

Financial Challenges

Our main issue that we faced was not being sponsored by VUWSA, as we have been in the past. Unknown to us at the time, they chose to not sponsor representative groups in 2019. This meant that we were ultimately unable to run the Queer Ball that we had aimed to do. We hope that this is something that can be resolved next year, and the future exec team are likely to look into other sources of sponsorship.

What we've spent money on

We ran multiple events through the year requiring funding:

1. *Pride Week* - this included quiz night prizes, advertising, and the hiring of some spaces
2. *Crafternoons* -purchasing craft supplies for our hang out spaces on a Friday afternoon
3. *Movie nights* - providing snacks for our monthly event

2019 Financials

as recorded by the Treasurer

We began the year with $502 left over from last year. We have received money from Vic Rec ($2410.00) in the form of a grant at the beginning of the year. Vic Rec require all unspent money to be returned at the end of the year. We also received money from the NZ Aids Foundation ($300) in the form of sponsorship for our Pride Week.

Throughout the year, we spent this money on a variety of different events, but underspent on our projected budget, particularly in community outreach. We have also allocated funds for the future exec, for events such as O-Week which happen before funding is supplied.

With this leftover money, we are hoping to buy more supplies, such as flags and board games, to add to what we currently have. As this has not yet been done, we have a balance of $1766.60 in our account as of this date. Much of this money will be returned to Vic Rec as an unspent grant.

We hope to have these financials more accessible for next year, as we are in the process of organising internet banking for UniQ.

On the whole UniQ is in a more financially stable position than in previous years. While we will still rely on funding from Vic Rec and VUWSA to run our events, we now have a small amount of money for contingencies.

Executive Comments

excluding President and Treasurer

Will Eland - Social Media Officer

Over the course of the year, regular posting on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram has increased our audience and interactions from our audience. On Facebook, we have gained 100 new followers and page likes, and average audience interaction with our posts have effectively doubled. The Instagram has similar numbers, whilst the Twitter has slightly lower engagement.

Pride Week was a massive undertaking on social media, averaging 3-5 posts a day for each platform with many more on the Instagram story function. During this period, engagement was on average triple normal levels. For Pride Week, two Instagram Takeovers were undertaken on the Victoria University and VUWSA Instagrams. For both of these, the Story function was used, with an average reach over the day of 2,000-3,000 views.

Brock Stobbs - Communications Officer

Despite some hiccups with the production of Queerlient, the project was ultimately a success this year and reflected a new standard of collaboration with *Salient*. We also continued with our UniQ column, helped usher in the usage of pronouns in the magazine and improve UniQ's standing with *Salient* (we haven't always had to best reputation).

A semi-regular newsletter was also reinstated with varying levels of success. Statistics show most newsletters were opened/read but engagement was less than stellar. Other avenues of comms were explored, such as with the university's Communications Team, which is something I hope continues.

Other projects I undertook as Communications Officer were drafting our submission for the university's Draft Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy and Procedures, preparing a consultation document for NZUSA for their upcoming Policy Manifesto and working to produce resources.

Executive Comments

excluding President and Treasurer

Caitlyn Mahony - General Executive

This year has been equal parts illuminating and challenging. While I didn't spearhead anything of my own, I took every opportunity to provide support for the other executives in their endeavours.

I'm really looking forward to continuing with the UniQ executive next year (and having more to write).

Rosina Buchanan - General Executive

This year has been an empowering and challenging year, filling in spots that need people of colour are underrated but yet without question necessary. To open up discussion on connections we had as well as support from Ngai Tauira and VUWSA for Hui Takatāpui during Pride Week. Conversations about Takatāpui identity, colonisation/decolonisation, and mental health. The challenges, the beauty and the awkwardness. Being in UniQ as not just an executive but a person of colour made progress of paving pathways in white dominated spaces and hoping that this can carry on in the nearby future.

On the second trimester, I had a feature in Salient on Māori Language Week (Te Wiki o te reo Māori) on the intersectionality of being indigenous, queer, and a leader of tomorrow. It was about transparency, diversity, and comparing it to the Māori atua: Maui. Reflecting on how much can happen in week, month or a year amazes me.

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