

OTAGO REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

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Tertiary events this year have suffered from a distinct lack of engagement and an imaginative approach is needed to improve this in future.

The first planned event of the year was Interhall Model Security Council. We once again attempted to have this event incorporated into the interhall cultural competition. However, we were once again unsuccessful with the University seemingly convinced that Model UN is simply another form of debating. Incorporation of this event could work wonders for tertiary engagement and an early pitch so another attempt at this is recommended. However, this should be supported by strong arguments differentiating UN Youth from debating.

The event itself was unable to attract enough registrations with only four teams registering. The decision was reluctantly made to cancel the event and focus on the Tertiary Case Competition. The unsuccessful marketing strategy involved posters, emails to halls, Facebook and messages in lectures (including an endorsement by Professor Robert Patman). The event was postponed at one point to allow more time for registrations, but this only resulted in one further sign-up. It would appear that more 'conventional' marketing strategies were unsuccessful. It is unclear whether it was the marketing campaign or the general attractiveness of an interhall model Security Council to first-year students that was the issue.

The second major planned event for the year was the Otago Tertiary Case Competition. This took the place of a tertiary Model-UN style event such as Model ASEAN or WHO. We were hopeful that a case competition could appeal to a different subset of students such as commerce students. Unlike last year, I decided to appoint a committee due to personal time commitments. Despite extending applications twice, only one legitimate application was received in the role of communications officer. At this point in the year we concluded it would not be practical to attempt to run the competition without a committee and the decision was made to abandon our second event as well.

I would like to thank Amy Dowdle for running two successful speaker series events and Sylvia Duncan for running two well-attended tertiary volunteers events in the tertiary introduction and tertiary training events.

Overall, this has been a fairly disappointing year for tertiary events despite the enthusiasm shown by the other members of the councils and our tertiary volunteers. The lack of engagement among tertiary students is concerning and requires concrete steps to make UN Youth more appealing to tertiary students.