



# IMPACT REPORT

2019 - 2020



4 Worcester Street

Oxford SU

## Who Are We?

We're called the Students' Union because that's what we are; a union of students. It's the issues that matter to students that drive us. Here, students can feel assured that their views count, their voice is strong, and together we'll use them to make student life even better.

## Our Manifesto

Our Manifesto Oxford SU believes that the University of Oxford must lead the way in creating an environment where current and future students are governed by fairness; where everyone has an equal opportunity to flourish in their pursuit of education. We believe that education is the foundation for the future. The better the education, the better the future for all of us. Being a student at the University of Oxford brings unique privileges, opportunities and challenges.

Oxford SU is committed to empowering its students; we will ensure that their voice is listened to at every level of the University and is a catalyst for positive change. We embrace the entire student experience, from the grandly institutional to the intensely personal. We are entirely devoted to the wants and needs of all students, current and future. Over the next five years, we will focus our work on the three themes of education, wellbeing and communities; each theme has a number of objectives. Alongside these objectives sits a 'vision' document, which highlights our campaigning priorities and policy positions. We believe in making the University of Oxford a better place, to the benefit of our students and society at large.



**Amber**

**Anisha**

**Roisin**

**Ray**

**Kaya**

**Neil**

# **Sabbatical Officer** **2019 - 2020**

**Oxford SU President**

**Anisha Faruk**

**VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities**

**Roisin McCallion**

**VP Access & Academic Affairs**

**Ray Williams**

**VP Charities & Community**

**Kaya Axelsson**

**VP Graduates**

**Neil Misra**

**VP Women**

**Amber Sparks**



# Oxford SU Freshers'

Over **8,000** students attended  
and Tote bags given out!

Freshers Fair is all about helping students settle, find their interest and have some fun. With well over **600** clubs and societies represented, we helped to play a key role in their growth of membership

**54** WELFARE  
ORDERS



Hosted **Rep Communities** for common room  
Presidents, Access, Academic, Welfare,  
Women\*'s, LGBTQ+, and BAME reps



# VOLUNTEER



**194** Students Signed up for the Volunteering Portal

**42** Volunteer Opportunity Providers Registered with the Volunteering Portal

**65** Volunteering Opportunities advertised on the Volunteering Portal



**Supported students to launch 11 new student projects,**

Which have generated insights on the postgraduate access issue, told stories of our disabled and minority ethnic students, spread the word about climate change through laughter, improved visibility of fine art and much more!

**We were awarded Fairtrade University and College Award for our work in expanding the University's offering of Fairtrade products and awareness of ethical consumption**



# STUDENT COUNCIL

Your student voice.  
Be heard.

"...I learned that taking on a leadership position like this is more challenging than you might expect, but I also learned to recognise when I deserve to be listened to and respected, and to be confident in my own knowledge and instincts."

Charlotte Sefton, 3rd Year History and English, St Catz  
Chair of Council Trinity Term 2019



# Vote!

Oxford SU Leadership Election

**3,020** Individual Voters

Votes Cast **17,779**

**7** NUS Delegates Represented Oxford students on a national level

Run **233** Common Room elections



# 5462



## Submissions for the Teaching and Assessment Student Consultation

Oxford SU created and ran the Teaching and Assessment Student Consultation, gathering the views of 5462 students across UG-PGT-PGR and the 4 divisions, working stakeholders like the Student Registry and the Centre for Teaching and Learning on Oxford's education logistics response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 1.85+ million words of plain text responses (as well as a comprehensive quantitative data)

The focus of the TASC was to identify the problems that students might face in light of changing circumstances and to ensure that the University was aware of the effects its various potential policies would have on students.

SU staff and Sabbatical Officers read almost 2 million words written by students over the course of around a week and a half! This provided enormously useful insights on matters big and small. It has informed and continues to inform the work of the SU during difficult and unexpected times.

## 400 Participants for the International Peer Mentorship Program

Established the International Peer Mentorship Program, which garnered over 400 enthusiastic participants (far more than had been initially anticipated).

## Refugee Scholarship

The establishment of the Refugee Scholarship, on which we collaborated with the Student Fees and Funding Office. The scholarship scheme will empower refugee students to come study at Oxford without being charged tuition fees, and will cover the entirety of their living expenses.



# Remote Teaching Feedback

**382** Responses to the Remote Teaching Feedback Mechanism (created with CTL to monitor how students are finding remote teaching).

**Supported student's voter registration for the December 2019 general election**

—  
It Happens Here  
Oxford SU  
—

**Launched a new campaign, It Happens Here, the SU Campaign for victims and survivors of sexual assault and violence.**

## Supported UCU (University & College Union)

Oxford joint unions group established, supported two rounds of UCU strikes, open letter to the VC on structural anti-Blackness at Oxford Uni, in committees helped argue for the University to adopt the Oxford Living Wage and increasing funding of Clarendon Scholarships



## Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Influenced Oxford University's definition of inclusion (in equality, diversity and inclusion),







# Welfare Reps

Engaged with senior college welfare teams about how to effectively utilise welfare reps and peer supporters without overusing them/putting them in positions they are not qualified for

## Men's Mental Health Talks

We saw more JCR and MCR's running events and groups relating to Men's mental health as a result



## Oxford SU

Mind Your Head

Mind Your Head is our flagship mental health campaign, we held an engagement week in which we talked to over hundreds of students, hosted a multitude of events and built a campaign to change the University's policy towards mental health support.



**Oxford SU Wellbeing has engaged **601** students through the following activities...**



**18**

## **Wellbeing dog walks**

Where students can walk friendly wellbeing and College dogs in University parks on Friday afternoons during term time. In total this year **121** students joined these walks during term time.



## **11 Wellbeing events at Colleges and Departments**

This included visits from wellbeing dogs, massage, meditation, craft and a cookery class in collaboration with KAMA Oxford (a local charity which enables refugees to teach their skills to the community. Engaging **311** Students!



**MAKE, DO  
& SEND**

## **Launched Make, Do and Send!**

Our intercollegiate craft project. Students from different Colleges have been making knitted and crochet squares for a patchwork blanket, which will be donated by students at Oxford to the charity Knit for Peace.

# Student Advice

**685** Open advice cases

**232** New enquiries from students

## Offered **training** to Common Room Reps

So they can deliver information talks on Living Out and Budgeting and Student Finance. We have trained 12 Common Room reps this academic year.



## Academic

We have advised 27 students through the process of academic appeals, mitigating circumstances and academic discipline cases (at both College and University level).

## Housing

57 students have consulted us with housing issues. We offer tenancy checking appointments and can also signpost to specialist housing advice if necessary.



## Funding

We have supported 36 students in bids for hardship funding, 10 with questions about fees, 28 with enquiries around post graduate funding and have supported 12 students with benefits applications.



# CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

**750**

## **Students and staff Attendees at the Oxford SU Climate Assembly**

To bring together stakeholders and various campaigns working on climate in Oxford and launch the climate action plan. Hosted events connecting students to sustainably-minded businesses

## **Negotiated a successful divestment and engagement resolution**

creating new climate conscious investment criteria for the University of Oxford and increasing transparency by creating a new member of the investments committee.

## **Hosted 10 free bikes service days for students!**

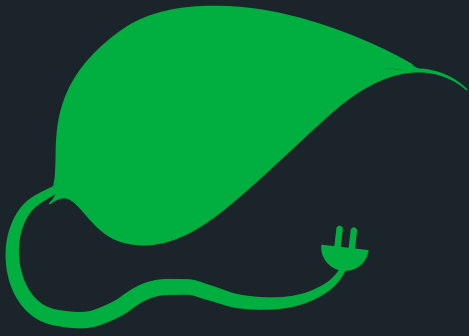
servicing hundreds of student bikes for free, paid for by the sustainable transport grant.



## **Hosted a 3 month consultation with student climate leaders**

Professors and ethics and environment reps developing a climate action plan which served the basis of the university's new sustainability strategy and serving as an ongoing resource for colleges committees on sustainability.

# Sustainability



Successfully lobbied the university to create a new committee on sustainability that committed to bio-diversity net gain and net zero carbon emissions by much earlier than 2050

Compiled a list of over **100 local charities** to include on our new volunteering portal and supported with outreach to those opportunities

## #PlanetPledge 2019

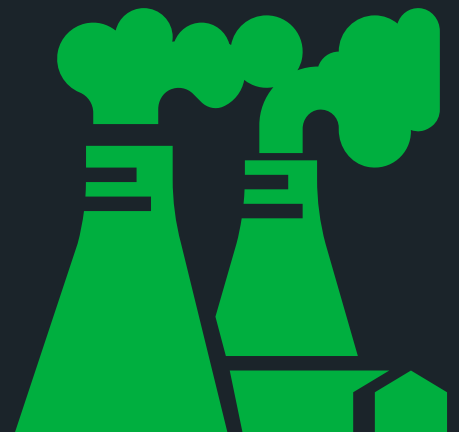
working together for change



Hosted planet pledge with thousands of students pledging more sustainable habits and helped to promote the student switch off campaign.

## Careers Service

Successfully worked with the careers service to survey all of their **employees** on climate credentials and create a prioritisation and engagement hierarchy for those with stronger plans



# STUDENT AWARDS

The Student Awards is a celebration of all students who have contributed to the Oxford student community. From raising money for charity, to promoting diversity, and making Colleges feel like home, Oxford students do incredible things that have incredible impact. We wanted to celebrate all our students do and say thank you for making a difference to our student community!

**Over 160 students were nominated**



## Helped 11 award winners

to understand their positioning and communicate their story in life and social impact through a workshop with Emmy award winning journalist and coach, Bofta Yimam.

"Things have been going brilliantly these last few months in terms of school engagement, and I really feel the visualisation skills I picked up from Bofta's masterclass has a lot to do with this. We've nearly doubled our reach with state schools, achieving over 100 sign ups from prospective Scottish Oxbridge applicants this year."









# CONTACT

Been inspired? Get involved

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