



Impact Report 2018 | 2019





Message from the elected SU leaders

context across higher education, we have sought to support and protect students' interests as best as possible.

As Sabbatical Trustees, we put together a set of team priorities for the year, building on years of student lobbying and activism. Representing students and navigating Oxford's complexity has been a steep learning curve for us all. This year, Oxford SU has championed access and mental health. Large-scale campaigns and projects such as Mind Your Head have reached students in all departments and divisions, with pop-ups across the Science Area. Sabbatical Trustees have spoken up for students on a huge range of topics, from sport to scholarships to sustainability and beyond. Our successes have been wide-reaching. Oxford signed up to the Stand Alone pledge for estranged students, and a strategy on student mental health is in development. We delivered a student and community festival, Springtide, for thousands of students and local residents.

Oxford SU Sabbatical Officers participated in the development of the University's Strategic Plan, and have fostered many areas of close cooperation, for example. Access has been an area of great student

enthusiasm and interest this year, as well as the University's top strategic priority. Together with stakeholders across Oxford we have helped shape a collective response, bringing student voices into the debate and making sure access is firmly on the agenda at all levels. Our highlights from the year are the connections we have brought about between students. We continue to believe that students are Oxford's greatest asset.

Working closely with college common rooms, the SU has harnessed the power of the collective student voice on issues students care about most. From research projects on graduate access to new events like Climate Action Week, students have driven the SU's work this year. Campaigns like the SU LGBTQ+ Campaign and Disabilities Campaign have produced pioneering pieces of work including a university-wide Trans Report that has already enacted much development and a comprehensive assessment of library accessibility. As a sabbatical team we are proud to leave Oxford SU in a strong position for our successors. We are confident that many future generations of Oxford students will continue to see the benefit of their Student Union.

We are delighted to introduce you to our Impact Report 2018/19. Working to improve and enhance the experience of Oxford students has been a privilege for us all this year, and we would like to thank the hard-working staff team for their support. In our second year in our new building and branding, much progress has been made. Our strategy is now firmly in place and has been put in to motion throughout our work. On taking office, the sabbatical team has been keen to focus on making the SU more open and student facing, with engagement being a top priority.

Recording the highest election turnout in our history is a testament to success in this. In a tumultuous political

Message from the Chief Executive

It is a great pleasure to introduce this report and I hope you'll find it a useful insight into the achievements of our student members, volunteers and staff.

As an organisation we have continued to make significant progress over the last year, with a strategy driving all of our work. The following pages give you a flavour of the excellent work that has been and continues to be undertaken here at Oxford SU, with impacts being made across key aspects of the student experience here at Oxford.

Our purpose as a Students' Union is clear and simple – we are here to improve the overall experience for current and future students at the University of Oxford. Day-in-day-out this is what drives us all. We relentlessly focus on making a real difference to our members.

We're continuing to build a strong and dynamic Students' Union that our students can be proud of. This year I am incredibly pleased to report that we have secured Investors in People status, been awarded 'Good' with 'Very Good' features in the Quality Students' Union Scheme and we have seen our staff engagement survey results go from 56% in 2017 to 86% in 2019. We have now set KPIs across our strategic themes of Education, Wellbeing and Communities, and are busy collecting baseline data. Over the coming years these KPIs will provide clear measures on our progress.

We continue to be well positioned in terms of finances, with the spending down of our reserves on track, which in turn is enabling important work around Common Rooms and Clubs and Societies to move forward. Looking to 2020 and beyond we will be developing new funding and partnership plans to enable us to continue driving forward our work.

As a membership organisation, we will only ever be as good as students say we are, so we remain firmly focussed on ensuring that students' priorities are our priorities. It is an exciting time at Oxford SU. I am looking forward for you joining us on this journey.



Ryan Bird

Chief Executive

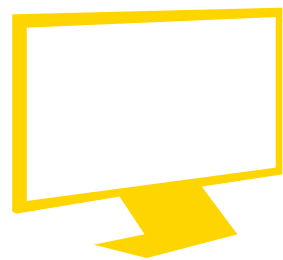
Your Union



Achieved **Investment In People**, a national award that shows Oxford SU's commitment to its staff

▶ **37%** of students vote through our voting system

- Reviewed and revised our approach to student groups resulting in the launch of **Oxford SU Projects, Schemes** and the re-launch of **Oxford SU Campaigns**.
- Professionalised the services Oxford SU provides
- Made **changes to governance** which places **emphasis on the student led nature** of our student groups.



National media coverage including **Sky News** and the **BBC**. We have advocated on issues as diverse as funding, access, sexual violence on campus



Oxford SU
Freshers'
FRESHERS'
FAIR

The fair welcomed **over 10,000 students through the door.**

This is our flagship way of helping students settle, find their interest and have some fun.

With well **over 680 clubs and socs represented**, we helped to play a key role in their growth of membership

Oxford SU has been used a whopping **1018** hours

this year and growing, this is part of our long-term plan to be a hub for all students

Created a **Family Friendly space** in the SU, this is a play area for students with children to relax and use our space without stress

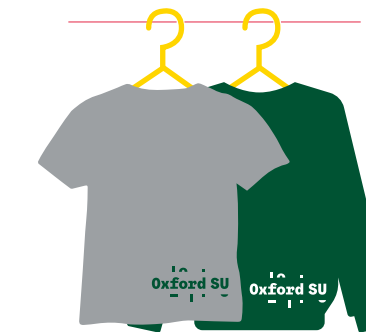


Welcomed the new RAG Committee. Last year they helped raise **£37,356**. The new committee launched straight into their strategy for the year with a highly successful **Jailbreak, LOST, Blind Date, Glitter Artists, Casino services** and a **bungie jump**

RAG
Oxford SU



Launched the **stash project**, an online shop for common rooms to buy **ethically sourced and discounted clothes** for committees



Awarded the **Quality Student Union Award**



BAME LEADERSHIP in Oxford

Our first **Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Leadership in Oxford** event – student leaders from across the university, guest speakers, networking, facilitating a more diverse student union

As part of our policy, we have achieved a

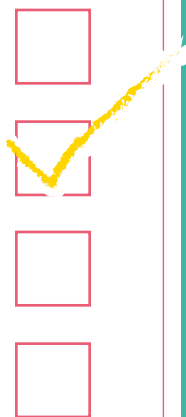
50/50

gender split in our External Trustee board membership.



Our commitment to the environment starts at our front door, for the fourth year running we have been awarded a Green Impact award for our work on ensuring a green office and culture at Oxford SU.

We ran the **BIG OXFORD SURVEY**, the first survey of its kind to better understand our members and respond to their needs. This will drive an evidence-based approach to our work in the future.



The OXFORD STUDENT



The **Oxford Student** nominated for publication of the year and won **Interview of the Year** at the **Student Publication Awards**



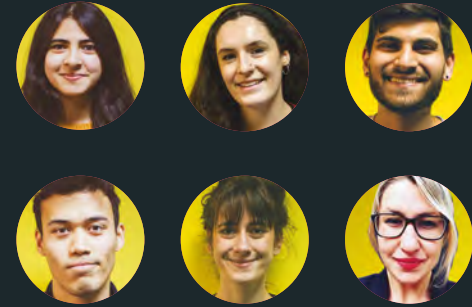
Oxide Radio broadcasted **1000** shows, for over **25,000 hours!**



Your Voice

→ In your lectures, during exams and in your free time it's a huge job making sure you're represented. Luckily, we've got just the people to do the job.

Oxford students elected these people who they have trusted to represent them, locally and nationally, on issues from course costs to mental health and wellbeing



Supported

45

Common Rooms
in
holding
elections

This year, we achieved a **record-breaking number of votes** in our **annual sabbatical trustee elections**

with a **21%** turnout.

- ▶ Total number of voters in all elections: **8560**
- ▶ Percentage of students who have cast a vote in any election: **37.5%**
- ▶ Total Number of Election run through the site: **203**
- ▶ Total Number of candidates in any election: **1028**



35 candidates

stood for Oxford SU elections this year

Representing your views on a national stage by attending

nus NATIONAL CONFERENCE

responding to the NUS reform proposal, which helped us to shape a stronger NUS that will deliver not just for our members but all students



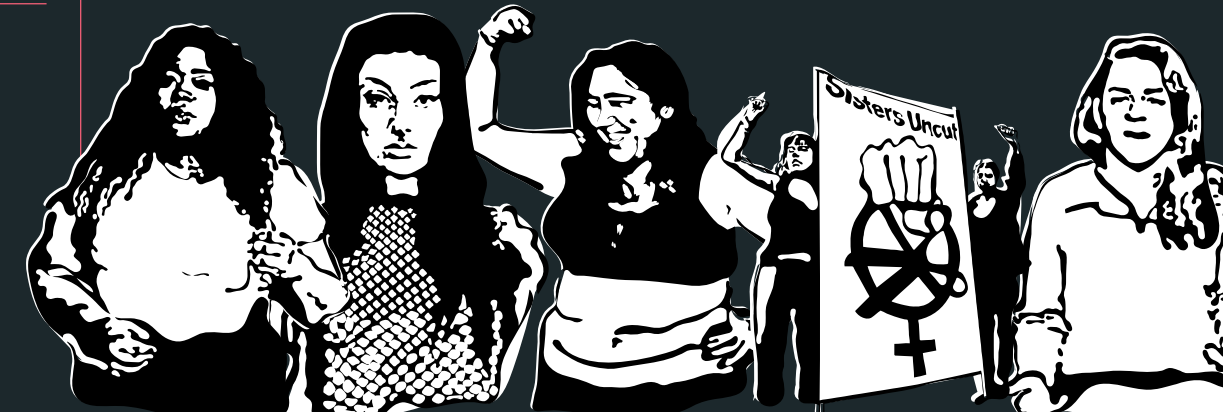
Submitted a response on **Gender Recognition Act** consultation by the Government

Working with other Student Unions such as such **Durham** and **Cambridge** to help us enhance the student experience in Oxford



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

saw us hold a panel event with a range of globally renowned speakers



For You

- Working all year round on **WELFARE TRAINING**, with **1500 students** being trained for Freshers
- Ensured the SU is leading the conversation on **BREXIT**, we hosted a **VC Q&A**, provided information and supported to students and helped coordinated campaign activity including at marches in London and events in Oxford
- Held the first **Parents & Carers social event** for Oxford Students by Oxford students

Lobbying with **commons rooms**

to ensure

we have a **fair**

COLLEGE CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Delivered a **Trans Awareness talk** to **University Divisions**

Support and guidance give to common room presidents – both *JCR* and *MCRs*

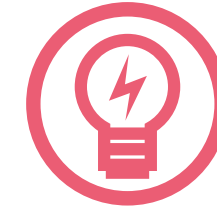
Lobbied hard and collaborated with the University to implement anonymous reporting of sexual harassment

Sabbatical Officers attended more than **100 committee meetings** through the year

Reinvigorated **STUDENT COUNCIL**

and launched **Student Projects**, a chance for any student to deliver real change in Oxford.

Developed and launched the



Oxford SU
STUDENT TRAINING

package with core committee training areas:

- **Chair**
- **Secretary**
- **& Treasurer**

15 students trained in hour long sessions with **more training to follow** in the 2019 academic year

- Attended **17 appeal meetings**, which supports to students to stay on course.
- We also attended **four Proctors Office** interviews
- and **five College disciplinary meetings** to ensure students are supported and their voice is heard

Helped students **claim compensation** after being **affected by building work** on their accommodation to the tune of



£20,000

Delivered five **Living Out** talks for students to support them in the hunt for housing



Rent Negotiation training and support to over **30 common rooms**



For example: Rent Negotiation in one college resulted in 2.1% increase, **down from 7% proposed**

Your Education

→ **Oxford SU Disabilities Campaign** launched a comprehensive report on the accessibility of the college and university libraries



Established **Access & Academic Rep** forums to better support work in colleges



→ **Access** has been at the heart of our agenda this year, some of our work include **hosting an access conference**, working with the university to **set ambitious targets** and **supported students with their own work** on it

Target Schools went from strength to strength with **more school shadowing days**, running 12 across the year.

This helps to increase access to Oxford. With **now over 300 students trained** to deliver it as well



Carried out a successful **NSS boycott** for a third year running

Over **600 course reps** supported, over **150 trained**

Restyled the



Oxford SU Teaching Awards



to be even **more inclusive** with **new awards**, **more student judges** and a stunning **new venue**

We have **responded to numerous national policy consultations** about the future provision of education, including the Teaching Excellence Framework



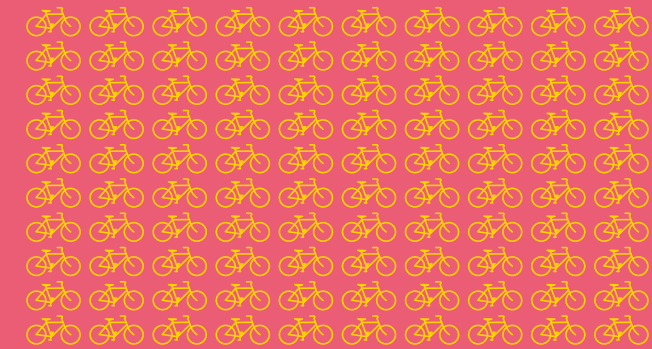
Investigated bringing **mental health first aid training** to Oxford SU and our student members



University policy improved on **paid paternal leave** which means dads now get **improved support while studying** as well

Your Community

Over 100 bikes fixed through the bike doctors scheme which ensures students stay safe on the road. This was done through **12 Bike Doctor events**, helping countless students get their bike road safe



Ran **Reclaim the Night** in Oxford with Oxfordshire Rape Crisis

Ran the

VACANT ROOMS PROJECT

with the College and University, enabling students to **change their rooms in college accommodation to ensure a better standard of wellbeing** for students

Launched **Equality and Diversity Committee** with students to help **build a network of support and training** for college reps

Veggie Pledge

1660 pledges, 700 more than in 2017! Over **15,000** animal lives have been spared and over

50 tonnes of CO₂ saved

– equivalent to flying from London to NYC 50 times!



CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

Most successful student led Climate Change Week ever, **15 events** and speakers that attracted **350 people** and inspired them to get involved.

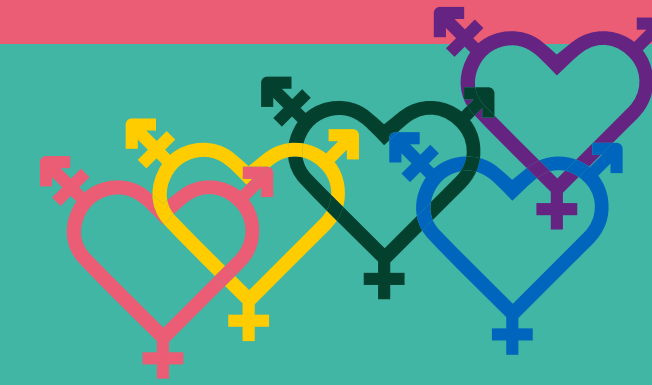


Our commitment to the environment saw us become part of a national network of **free water refill** stations



Oxford SU Student Charity Awards

Recognising outstanding student work with **10 awards** at the first ever



LGBTQ+ History Month

was our biggest ever, with a host of events and information presented

Resource Hub

launched, a one stop shop for student led information and support



Student Society directory has grown with a **20% increase in societies listed**
Created a central hub to find out more about student activity.

SPRINGTIDE

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

2019 saw over

2000

members of the community come together for a family friendly **student led festival.**



Your Wellbeing

Mind Your Head is our flagship mental health campaign, we held an engagement week in which we **talked to over 1000 students**, **hosted a multitude of events** and **built a campaign to change the University's policy** towards mental health support.

MIND YOUR HEAD

Getting people talking about mental health to increase awareness and fight stigma



Over **1000 hot drinks & 18kg of popcorn** given out to students as part of Mind Your Head week



Pop up at Social Sciences Division – engaged with **50 students** on University Mental Health

↓
Vice Chancellor committing to working with us to **improve student Mental Health**

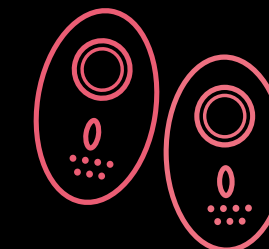
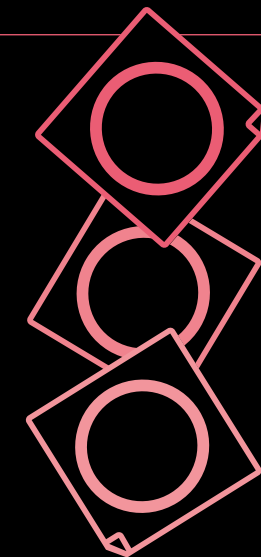
Our **Wellbeing Dog Walks** have gone from strength to strength with **over 25 hosted** this year and over a **1000 students** attending.



BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING

12 Bystander training sessions for students, with over 1000 students trained

Supplied **58 common rooms** across **32 colleges** with welfare supplies



AB+
AB-
A+
A-
B+
B-
O+
O-

Ran What's your blood type?

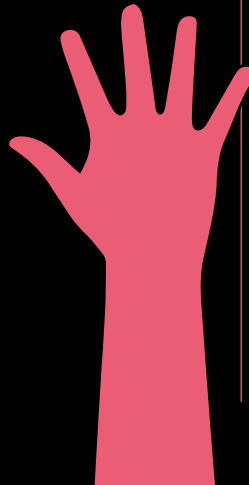
event to raise awareness about blood donations amongst the student body

Oxford SU
Student Advice

ADVICE DROP-IN
launched increasing number of students seen by the Advice Team on a week-by-week basis with **97 new cases supported** this year through that process. In total **we have helped over 250 students this year** through the advice team

Helped
286 students
apply for a **DBS certificate** so they could volunteer.

(Disclosure and Barring Service)



Worked with students to help put pounds back into your pocket, for example **saving one college JCR 5% increase** on their rent

Lobbied the University to successfully adopt the **STAND ALONE PLEDGE.**

This offers wide ranging support to estranged students



BAME
Mental Health panel event

→ Played a **key role** in establishing the **Sexual Violence and Harassment service**

SEXUAL CONSENT WORKSHOP

Ran **20** Consent training workshops with over **350 undergraduate and postgraduate students** in attendance



Contact Information

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT president@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

VP ACCESS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS vpaccaff@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

VP CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY vpcandc@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

VP GRADUATES vpgraduates@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

VP WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES vpweo@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

VP WOMEN vpwomen@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

BEING INSPIRED? THEN GET INVOLVED

enquiries@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

PRESS AND COMMUNICATION

commsmanager@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk


STUDENT ADVICE SERVICE

advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk



FOLLOW US

oxfordsu.org

 / OxfordSU

 / OxfordStudents

 / OxfordStudents

oxfordsu.org Oxford University Student Union is a charity registered in England and Wales (1140687). Oxford Student Services is a full subsidiary of the Oxford University Student Union, a company limited by guarantee number (07314850). This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately.

The logo for Oxford SU, featuring the text 'Oxford SU' in a bold, sans-serif font. Above the text are three small squares, and below it are three horizontal lines of varying lengths, resembling a stylized 'O' or a decorative element.