Impact Report
2017/2018
Message from the President

If we thought last year was transformational, we had no idea what was on the horizon. Last August, just as the new sabbatical team were settling into our home at 2 Worcester Street, the entire organisation uprooted and moved ourselves a couple of doors down the road to number 4 Worcester Street. A new name, a new brand, a new building, soon a new strategy, and within six months a complete staff restructure – and “new beginnings” seems to be an accurate characterization of the year gone by.

A focus on meaningful introspection, whilst both important and necessary at times, is never without its challenges, and I can’t pretend that this year has been all plain sailing. Internal change coupled with a turbulent political climate for higher education has been both a challenge, and a learning experience for the team. What I’m incredibly proud of, however, is the way that our organisation has responded to this environment. The largest teaching strike in recent history was met with phenomenal support from the student body, our decision to boycott the NSS for the second year proved successful once again, and we’ve made sure our members’ voices were heard loud and clear in the avalanche of government consultations that have come our way.

And, we’ve never stopped putting students at the heart of everything we do. From our community partnerships providing students with a range of new opportunities, to a wellbeing programme that has done more than ever before for the most marginalized within our membership, to lobbying for academic improvements based on thorough research and a unique understanding of the student body, this report is proof that internal development has in no way halted our achievements.

I honestly believe that I will leave this Student Union in a much better place to the one I inherited a year ago, and I’m excited for the incoming team who now have an incredible opportunity to push forwards with the full support of a revitalized organisation.

Kate Cole
President 2017/18

Message from the Chief Executive

I am immensely proud of our staff team, our trustees and our student volunteers who have all helped us to make tremendous progress over the past year.

We have launched our new four-year strategy which will work to transform the student experience at Oxford, this document will help us to place Oxford SU as a key aspect of students’ time at Oxford.

To reflect this, we have updated and modernised our brand, including changing our name to Oxford SU. This has enabled us to deliver engaging and impactful projects over the past year. Alongside that, we have realigned our staff roles to ensure we can deliver on our new plans and moved to a new office which not only gives us new space for student groups but a chance to expand the range of activities we offer to students.

This report provides a snapshot of the year across our strategic themes of education, wellbeing and communities. Over the coming years, we will be striving to further increase our impact in these areas of the student experience.

As a membership organisation, we will only ever be as good as the students say we are, so we remain firmly focussed on ensuring that students’ priorities are our priorities. We are well positioned both in terms of finances and plans to deliver against our new Strategic Plan.

As an organisation, we are looking forward to working with students, staff and stakeholders to build a strong and dynamic students’ union that we can all be proud of.

Ryan Bird
Chief Executive

Ryan Bird
Chief Executive
### OUR PURPOSE

Oxford SU’s purpose is to improve the overall experience for current and future students at the University of Oxford.

### OUR BEHAVIOIRS

- **WE ARE INCLUSIVE**
- **WEListen**
- **WE TAKE ACTION**
- **WE CHALLENGE**
- **WE ADAPT**

### OUR GOALS

**YOUR EDUCATION**

- We want to support and encourage all students to get the most out of the academic experience at the University of Oxford.

**YOUR WELLBEING**

- We want to work together with students and the University to make a welcoming, safe and inclusive place to live and study with an equally high experience for all students.

**YOUR COMMUNITIES**

- We want to enable communities to connect, develop and grow – to improve the Oxford experience as a whole.

### OUR PRIORITIES

**Student Representation at all levels**

- High quality education that fits students’ needs and aims
- Equality and diversity at the heart of an Oxford education

**Enhance student wellbeing on a day-to-day basis**

- Champion an Oxford where every individual can thrive through long-term structural reform
- Deliver a proactive advice service that focuses on research, preventative action and information provision

**Campaign on issues that affect students personally, locally and more widely**

- Provide opportunities for students to integrate into the Oxford community as active citizens
- Identify groups across Oxford with shared interests and support them when that will benefit the wider student community
- Bring student communities together for collaboration, mutual support and growth

### OUR WAYS OF WORKING

- **STUDENT DRIVEN**
- **RESEARCH & EVIDENCE**
- **SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES**
- **PEOPLE & CULTURE**
- **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**
- **PARTNERSHIPS**
Your Education

Established a **working group for students** that are keen to improve graduate access.

Have **lobbied for Graduate Access and Funding** to be included as **strategic priorities** in the University’s new strategy.

Continued last year’s **successful boycott of NSS** (31% fill-in rate for 2016/7)

We’ve celebrated **412 students** from **30 colleges** through access recognitions.

Launched a survey to **collect evidence from grad students** about the impact of Continuation Charges.

More than **100 graduate students** gave feedback on the proposed changes to the Suspension Policy and their responses helped us ensure that students’ concerns are being addressed.

**Nearly 100 responses** to a survey on common room provision for suspended students, which will be built into a lobbying pack to help better support these students.

8 **Eight divisional representatives appointed**, meaning students had a voice across the university.

Target Schools have hosted **over 300 Year 12 students** on shadowing days.

One of these was in conjunction with the Oxford African and Caribbean Society (ACS), which was specifically for around 30 BME students.

Over the summer, they are running their annual roadshow, this year to North East England.

140 **course reps** were trained, with a further **600 supported with information and resources**
Sabbatical Trustees sat on 68 university committees, helping shape policy on everything from Gender Equality to the Museums of the University.

Submitted responses to consultations by the following bodies:
- the Post-18 Education Review
- the Office for the Independent Adjudicator
- the Office for Students
- the Quality Assurance Agency
- Joint Committee on Human Rights.

The fifth annual Teaching Awards saw over 500 staff nominated, 25 winners and 200 people attending an award dinner to celebrate the most inspiring staff across the university.

Introduction of a Merit award for Postgrad taught courses.
Your Community

#VeggiePledge2017 saw

929 people sign up
This helped save almost 19 tonnes of carbon during the #VeggiePledge month.

82 student clubs, publications and societies registered on the Online Directory

Held MP’s surgeries – a chance for students to meet their local MP’s and discuss issues

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We ran 75 meetings to support common room reps

Ran 6 x Bike Doctor events, a chance for students to get a bike safety check.

Ensured 77 student tickets were reserved for the Ashmolean’s Live Friday events, and strengthened the partnership with the GLAM division.

Launched Marks out of Tenancy
a website that helps students become better informed about housing providers.

Our work was not just in Oxford, on the national stage 15 students participated in five conferences to influence NUS and set the direction for national lobbying.

Hosted the second Freshers’ community, and developing new sessions for improving accessibility and inclusion in Freshers’ week (e.g. for parents / carers)

137 people signed up and attended the inaugural Oxbridge

FEMINISM IN THEORY AND IN ACTION
conference

(many thanks to support from Cambridge SU and student campaigns)

Launched a campaign with UCU and other SUs to encourage grads-who-teach to sign up for free UCU membership.

UCU

14 days

of standing proudly in solidarity actions on pickets, with striking University staff members and students, and supporting the largest strike action in modern history.

We now have policy to support future UCU actions and work collaboratively with them in future.

Collaborations with many student societies and common room reps, including:

- Co-hosted 2 events on building opposition to immigration detention, with a number of student societies, including Oxford Amnesty International, STAR, Oxford Migrant Solidarity and Oxford for Dunkirk.
- Hosted an event with Common Ground, on education being a tool for social change (including speakers from the NUS, LSE and Oxford)
- Hosted a programme of events for University Mental Health day with the Oxford Mental Health Network
- Worked with SANE, the mental health charity, to make Oxford SU a regular host of their anti-stigma workshops

Helped the University Church run the first Community Activism Fair, connecting local organisations with city residents and students.
Your Wellbeing

41 people signed up for our MCR Conference about Equality & diversity (The Oxford ApplyED Conference), with critical work from Lincoln College.

Hosted our new sofa sessions

The first event was renowned Mental Health Campaigner, Jonny Benjamin MBE.

Provided welfare supplies to students

We have run nine outreach events across the collegiate university covering topics such as Living Out, money advice and meditation.

Shaped the University’s new transgender policy

Launched a wellbeing hub of resources for students and JCR committee positions.

Partnered with Yoga Quota to deliver two free yoga sessions for Oxford Students.

Ran a programme of events to recognise the first national ESTRANGED STUDENTS SOLIDARITY WEEK and helped front a national campaign from the NUS and the charity Stand Alone.

We have run five Consent Workshop training sessions which saw 100 students attend.

Our Student Advice Service have held 69 student appointments since January 2018 and have helped Bystander intervention training launched.

Trinity Term saw us launch a new Triage Advice service to help and support students more effectively.

Launched our #ThisIsOxford mental health anti-stigma campaign, aiming to raise awareness of those in our community who are studying with a range of mental health conditions.

11 Wellbeing dog walks for students, a chance to meet other students and get fresh air.

Hosted a programme of events for University Mental Health Day, World Mental Health Day, and Mental Health Awareness Week.

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

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Co-hosted one event with the Conference of College’s BME Welfare Sub-group on race / wellbeing at the University.

Implementation of new Student Mental Health policy in Welfare forum.

Supported City Council Mental Health panel especially raising issues on suspension and BAME communities.

Working with student campaigns in hosting welfare events and ensuring relevant training provision.

Oxford SU continues to recognise that long-term structural change is part of an ongoing process, and we are building on the work of the Welfare Survey 2016 to continue with this.

Hosted 2 Welfare Communities, to bring together 25 welfare officers across the collegiate university.

We have run 5x Consent Workshop training sessions which saw 100 students attend.

Hosted 2x sexual health testing days attended by almost 150 people.

Supported Nightline, in their ‘5th week Freddos’ project.

Hosted a programme of events with St Antony’s College and OSDC for Mental Health Awareness Week.

The launch event for this week considered race, cultural competency, and hosted high-profile speakers (including Jacqui Dyer of Black Thrive).

Launched consent training for JCR and MCR Women’s Officers.

Bystander Intervention for MCR and JCR committees.

SU representatives spoke at 5x Year Abroad information sessions, and co-hosted one event for Modern Languages Faculty for year abroad students.

Launched consent training for JCR and MCR Women’s Officers.

Oxbridge Girls Can saw us team up with Sports Fed to run more than 20 events to celebrate active women who are doing their thing.

Developing a strategic priority to focus on student welfare rather than just wellbeing.
Council

Student Council is our main policy setting body. This year so far 2891 votes have been cast on a huge range of issues. In ensuring that council is open to all, we held 10 Meetings in 7 different colleges across the year.

Media

OXFORD STUDENT delivered 24 issues and reached 100,000 people with their print editions. www.oxfordstudent.com

OXIDE broadcast over 50 diverse shows. www.oxideradio.live
Last year (2016/17)...

Raise and Give (RAG) raised:

£34,629.64!

will all be receiving £8657.41 each

Thank you for helping us achieve this total; here's to another year of excellent fundraising!
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