



Impact

Report

2014



BRIGHTON
STUDENTS' UNION

Welcome to Brighton Students' Union Annual Report 2013/14.

This was a great year for the Students' Union – achievements included helping over 750 students with academic issues, organising and hosting over 500 events, increasing our number of societies to 105 which engaged nearly 5,000 active members and the redevelopment of social spaces across the campuses.

This report is an opportunity to tell you a bit more about the Union and these impacts on students' lives. As your Student Leadership Team, it's been an honour to represent the 22,000 student voices at the University of Brighton, building on the successes of last year and taking the Union forward in 2014/15.

Let's use the achievements in this report as inspiration for an even better 2015!

Fliss, Candice, Maggie, Sophie and Kate.
Student Leadership Team 2014/15

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How Your Students' Union Works Brighton Students Union

1

Every student at the University of Brighton is automatically a member of Brighton Students' Union. That means we have a membership of 22,000 students.

Five officers are elected each year by students to lead the Students' Union, represent student opinion and lobby the University for change.

Together the officers comprise the Student Leadership Team. The President oversees the work of the team as a whole and the four officers each have a specific area of responsibility.

The team is part of a Board of Trustees, which also includes student and external members.

The Leadership Team is in office for 12 months and each officer can run for a second term in elections held in February/ March of each academic year.

The students who lead your Students' Union are supported by a permanent staff team, accountable to the Chief Executive, who is responsible for the day to day running of the organisation.

The Students' Union is an independent organisation, separate from the University.



Fliss Newton, Maggie Garabedian, Candice Armah, Sophie Cohen & Kate Reynolds
Student Leadership Team 2014/15

How Your Students' Union Works Services for Students

2

Brighton Students' Union is a charity dedicated to ensuring that your time at University is the amazing, life changing experience it should be.

We achieve this by:



STUDENT SUPPORT

Providing representation and support for the students at the University of Brighton.



STUDENT ADVICE

Providing first class independent support and guidance where it's needed, specialising in academic advice.



DISCUSSIONS AND DEBATE

Creating opportunities to discuss and debate the issues that matter to students and then taking action on your feedback.



STUDENT WELLBEING

Undertaking a range of activities to promote the health and happiness of students.



REPRESENTATION

Campaigning for and representing the views of students across all the sites, to the University and other important bodies.



SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL

Helping students get more from their time at University through social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

How Your Students' Union Works A Student Led Organization

3

Brighton Students' Union is a democratic organisation that is completely led by students.

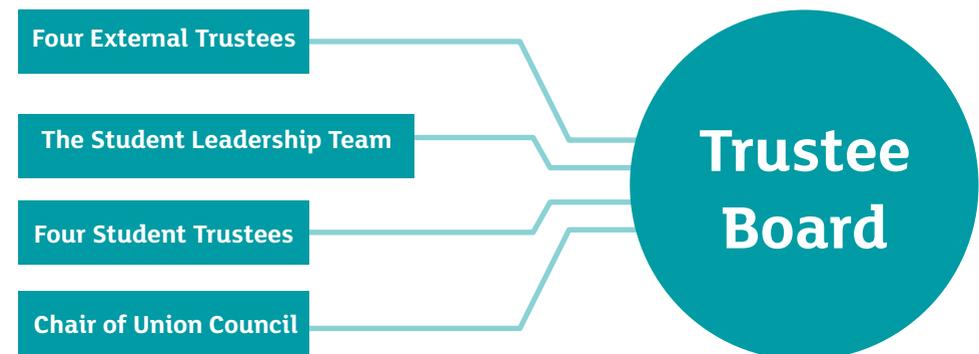
Union Council sets the policy direction of the Students' Union, driving what we do for our student membership. The Council is made up of students and the Student Leadership Team who are elected by students each year during our Elections.

Union Council membership comprises representatives from:

FIVE CAMPUSES	PARTNERSHIP COLLEGES
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES	STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
ACADEMIC COURSES	EQUALITIES GROUPS

Our Trustee Board works to ensure that the Students' Union functions as a robust, healthy and legally compliant organisation.

This leaves Union Council free to concentrate on campaigning and representing students with confidence and integrity.



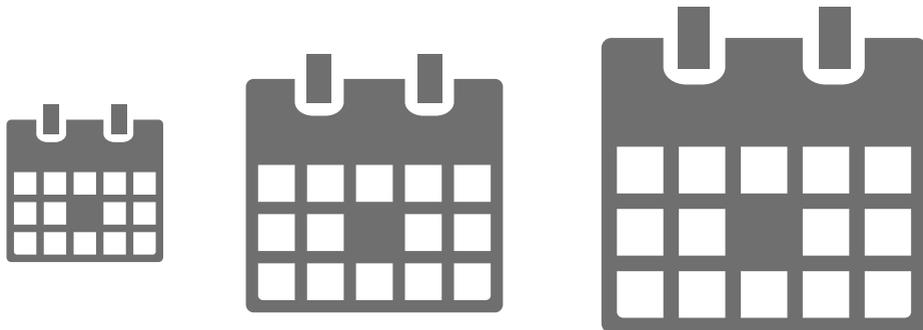
How Your Students' Union Works Our Aims, Objectives & Activities

4

Students are at the very heart of Brighton Students' Union. We empower our members to achieve and each year thousands of students get involved with the organisation in a range of different ways.

Our three-year strategy sees us working towards the following aims to make life better for University of Brighton students:

- 1** To engage and empower the student body in working with others towards a positive experience for all across the locations of the University of Brighton.
- 2** To inform and support the student experience through their academic, wellbeing, lifestyle, social, leisure and employability needs and aspirations throughout their time at the University, providing a firm foundation for future achievement.
- 3** By empowering, serving and connecting students, the Union will achieve:
 - Growing demand for student involvement with the Union
 - Top third performance as a Students' Union
 - Clear and accessible paths for student participation
 - Union premises meeting the students' needs
 - Places for ideas, enterprise and action



New Initiatives 2013/14 Empowering Students

5



During our annual Engagement Week programme 1,368 students provided valuable feedback helping the Students' Union to develop its programme fully around the needs of its members.

**Feedback
from over
1 3 5 0
Students**

Across the Students' Union, members participated in taking over 1500 leadership roles - elected officers, club and society leaders, course representatives and a range of cooperative, project and activity roles.

**OVER
1 5 0 0
STUDENT
LEADERS**



105

The Students' Union societies programme continues to expand to 105 societies active in the academic year, engaging nearly 5,000 active members across a variety of topics and pursuits.

The all-new campus based student cooperatives had a most productive year - shaping and launching the successful Starting Gate student venue, and laying out strategies for Falmer and Moulsecomb campuses.

the
STARTING GATE
★ cafe ★ bar ★

BRAND NEW



Along with 100 guests, we celebrated and showcased the contributions and achievements of 30 outstanding Students' Union volunteers at the Volunteer Awards.

**Celebrating
Voluntary
Work**

New Initiatives 2013/14 Serving Students

6

The Students' Union Support Service (SUSS) expanded its operations across all campuses and partner colleges increasing its work by 47%, **helping over 750 students** with appeals, academic misconduct cases, and complaints achieving successful outcomes in over 50% of all cases.

**HELPING
OVER
750
STUDENTS**



New funding was secured for the continuation and expansion of the valuable student-led Contraception and Sexual Health (CaSH) team - including reaching out to the **Hastings** and **Eastbourne** campuses.

Brighton Students' Union employed students in all areas of its operation in 2013/14, investing over £500,000 in student staff, delivering 36,000 hours of paid employment serving the needs of fellow student members.

Over 500 events were organised, promoted and supported in partnership with students throughout the year; everything from the weekly club nights, Christmas and Summer parties, club and society socials, and a wide range of performances and productions.

**OVER
500
EVENTS**



The **Hastings** campus developed strongly in its Freshtival programme, weekly events, and the support of societies and sports activities.



New Initiatives 2013/14 Connecting Students

7

BSU has a membership of **22,000 students** across all campuses and areas of study at the University. We provide a growing range of opportunities to connect our diverse students with each other through new experiences.

123

For the first time, 3 campus-specific Essential Guides were produced and distributed helping new students become better acquainted with their campus and its activity before arriving at University.

Working with consultants, a comprehensive strategic research and brand development programme was devised resulting in a clearer understanding of student members, attitudes, behaviours and profiles. This report is informing a rebranding of the organisation from 2014/15.



**BSU
Understanding
Student
Experiences**

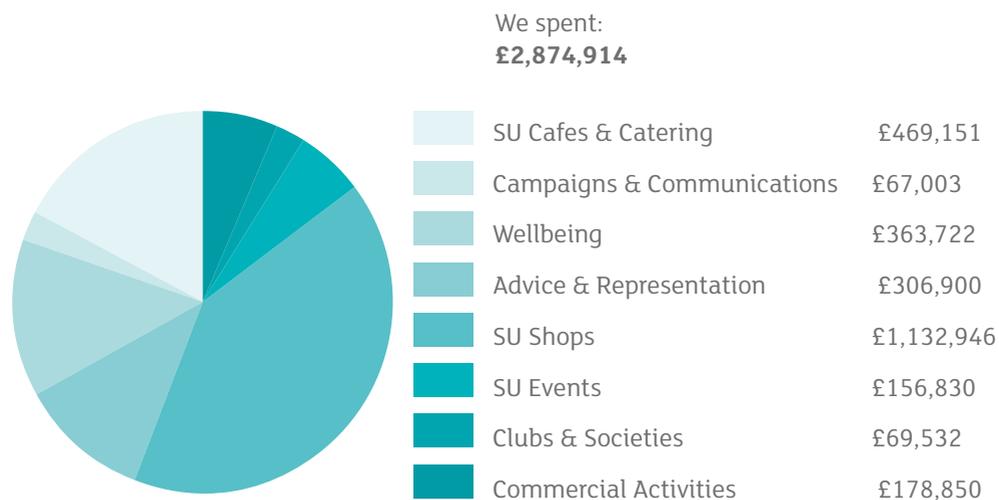
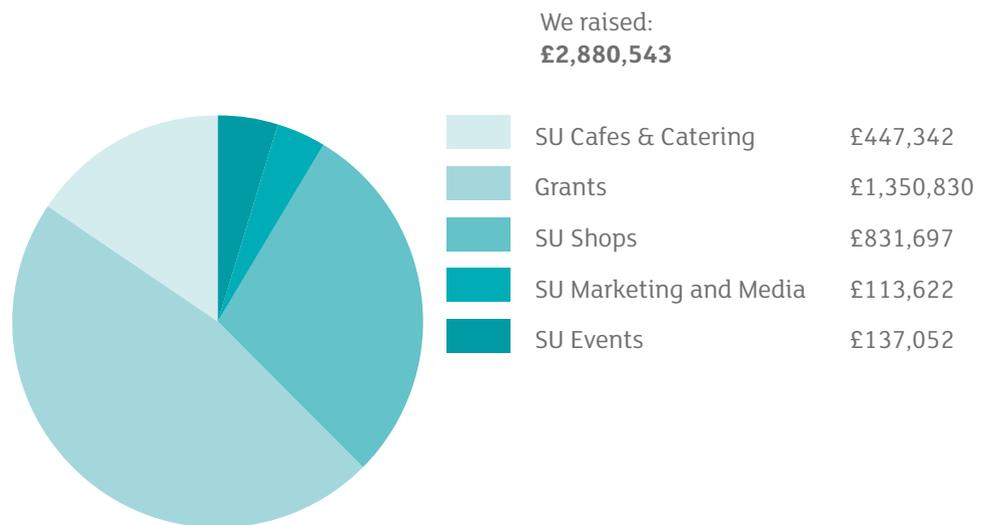
351 responses to the 'What's Going On?' survey helped to explore students' experiences and understanding of prejudice, discrimination, bullying and harassment at University- this useful data informed projects with student liberation forums. .

£250K

The completion of the £250k estates investment programme has rejuvenated the SU spaces on the Falmer, Eastbourne and Moulsecoomb campuses resulting in greater use, footfall and improved trading activity.

Over £200,000 of external grant funding was won helping BSU to build its ground-breaking Bright 'n' Green sustainability programme focusing on student-led initiatives in green skills, transport, housing and SU activities.





“This year, Brighton Students’ Union has successfully proven that we can reach all corners of our membership. Our commitment to engaging all of our students is best observed in the sheer numbers that ran in our student leadership elections. We continue to support student communities, whether they be societies, sports teams or co-ops, and aim to match all of our activity to meet their needs on their terms.”

Candice Armah
President & Chair of the Board of Trustees



BRIGHTON
STUDENTS' UNION

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