

2011-2012



the UNIVERSITY OF YORK STUDENTS' UNION

IMPACT REPORT



The YUSU
Sabbatical Officers
2011-2012

IMPACT REPORT

2011-2012



Welcome to the YUSU impact report detailing some of our achievements from 2011/12 and the impact we have had on students and the wider community.

YUSU exists to promote and defend the educational and welfare interests of its membership and future membership, within the University and as part of the wider community. It also has over 250 clubs and societies and hosts a range of activities and events throughout the year for its members.

The impact report shows the growth in YUSU's range of activity and quality of impact on the student population. It demonstrates how the union is increasing its sphere of influence over the full breadth of the student experience. Increasingly we are supporting student employability, generating charitable fundraising for the community, providing employment opportunities for students, supporting student wellbeing, developing the college communities, providing a wider range of sporting opportunities and much more.

The report reflects our performance over the second year of our three year strategic plan and shows a maturing organisation that is increasingly focused on measuring the impact it has on the lives of students. As we prepare to finish our plan and implement a new long term strategy we believe we have created a sound platform for building upon our successes.





introduction

12 months ago in the YUSU impact report I talked about the wealth of potential and opportunity that I believed existed for us in 2011/12 while recognising the uncertainty that was created by changing fee structures. Looking back now on my year in office I feel proud that while acknowledging the changing environment we never shielded away from the opportunities that existed. We worked hard to create a more mature, more sophisticated and more student focused students' union.

The year was one of growth for us. Vitally our growth was focused on growth for membership benefit. It was balanced, well planned and mindful of delivering positive impact for students.

Watching the new Student Centre building going up allowed us to think about how we created new space for student communities to form. Seeing the plans for the new Glasshouse service being developed I knew we were responding to an urgent need from an alienated and growing community on Heslington East. Designing the Community Partnership strategy I knew we would face a long ignored challenge of building cohesive student relationships with the wider city but I also knew this was a challenge that we had to take responsibility for. Registering as a charity was a response to the legislative changes around our legal form and yet the process was taken on with a view to creating new opportunities to diversify our funding and to become focused on delivering public benefit. Our growth required us to build new partnerships and relationships to provide a bigger and better union that was focused on the needs of its membership.

The challenges of the wider world for students have not been ignored. The increasing financial burden of the new fees structure and a global recession meant that we had to show agility and strength. Our 'what are you paying for' research and activity, our work on creating employment experiences for students and new graduates, our work on providing high quality advice and advocacy it all became critical as we responded to the challenges that our members faced.

I am proud of how my term of office saw continued growth in YUSU's capacity, physical space and campus wide presence. I hope that through this impact report you will get a chance to join me in celebrating some of our key achievements.

Tim Ellis, YUSU president 2011-2012



CELEBRATIONS OF YUSU



yusu awards

YUSU Awards is in its 3rd year and is a prestigious night to recognise the countless hours and commitment students put into YUSU.

This year there were 349 nominations.



'It's great to be recognised for the hard work we've put in this year. The venue looked amazing and it was a really special night!'

YUSU Award winner 2012 from History of Art.

supervisor of the year awards

252 nominations.

This is a chance to give some public recognition to those supervisors who have done a great job this year and made a real difference to learning experiences.

This year has seen levels of students engagement and participation soar! Societies developing, new volunteering projects added, more volunteering sign ups than ever before and the RAG totals have increased significantly. We have trained more course reps than any other year and introduced welfare training for welfare reps and STYCS. We are also very proud to have increased our turnout in the YUSU Elections to one of the best in the country.

We have achieved a Silver accreditation in the London 2012 & NUS UK Be A Champion Initiative. This recognized our Olympic and Para-Olympic Games inspired events such as the Roses Torch Relay. As a result of this we have seen participation in disabled sport increase and the formation of our first wheelchair basketball team.

We were runner up for the NUS Internationalisation Award for Activities & Participation recognising the level of engagement in Global Week.

We were shortlisted for the NUS Technology Innovation Award for the design, production and release of a smartphone application for both Android and Apple's iOS, providing members with up to date news and information directly from YUSU, including an automatic course feedback function.

GETTING INVOLVED



yusu societies

Joining a YUSU society is a great way of meeting like-minded people, a chance to learn new skills, and an opportunity to work hard at developing something that students and their friends care about.

YUSU has a total of 161 ratified societies including media societies, performance societies and academic societies amongst others, so there really is something for everyone.

91% of respondents to the Student Experience Survey were satisfied with the societies at York.

'Society involvement has been the most beneficial part of my personal development at University'.

Postgraduate Theatre, Film and Television student.

'Very valuable part of University life'.

2nd year Music student.



freshers & refreshers' week



YUSU Freshers' Fair 2011 had a total of 292 stalls across 3 venues and society performances throughout the day. The Student Experience survey showed that 89.5% of students were satisfied with the Freshers' fair event!

'Freshers' Fair was really well organised and the representatives of each society were so helpful and polite that it was hard for me to pick a society. I wanted to join all of them.'
-1st year Politics student

Refreshers Week was held in February 2012 and provided a great opportunity for those who had missed out in the first term to get involved. It started with Freshers' Fair 2 and continued with a full week of activity including 20 free taster sessions and flash mob style demonstrations across campus.

society achievements

URY received six nominations at the Student Radio Awards. Four of these were successful: The Chalk and Charles Show won Gold Best Entertainment Show, James Bugg's The More Beautiful Game won Bronze Best Speech. On top of this, URY picked up Silver Best Station and The Kevin Greening Award for Tess Humphrey's Prince of Humberside.

YSTV were awarded the coveted BEST Broadcaster title at the National Association of Student Television Awards (NASTA). They also scooped Best On-screen Female which went to Emma Bennett and were highly- commended for Best Light Entertainment with 'Pushing the senses'.

Nouse was shortlisted for student publication of the year and Nouse reporter Jonathan Frost was nominated for student digital journalist of the year at the 2012 Guardian Student Media Awards.

York Vision reporter Oliver Todd was nominated for best reporter of the year for the 2012 Guardian Student Media Awards and York Vision was nominated for Best Student Media at the 2012 NUS Awards.

York Dance Society once again had huge successes at the National Dance Competition in Loughborough – placing 1st in Advanced Hip-Hop, 1st in Advanced Jazz, 2nd in Advanced Tap and 3rd in Advanced Contemporary. They were also Awarded Best Costume for Advanced Jazz.

Darts Society was selected to host the University Darts UK, UK Singles, University CUP and Plate Finals. Darts Society lost out to Lancaster in the final of the University Cup, but got their revenge in a win at ROSES 2012.

Brass Band Society hosted Massed Brass with Local Brass Band group Shepherd Group Brass.

GETTING INVOLVED

yusu volunteering

YUSU has a strong team of volunteers and offers opportunities to learn new skills, gain experience and give back to the local community across a variety of different projects. These include projects with children, the community and older people to mention only a few.

Five new volunteering projects were introduced: Sexpression, Theatre In Schools, eVent, Eco Volunteers, & All about Animals

kids camp

This year, Kids camp had 92 volunteering applicants - almost 40 more applicants than last year.

Some of the volunteers commented:

'Kids Camp was a huge, exciting, happy, unique, fun, unforgettable learning experience.'

'Fun, challenging, full on, tiring but 110% worth it!'



Over 400 students got involved in a range of activities during volunteering week.

Over 200 people were CRB checked through YUSU.

6 YUSU volunteers were awarded for Higher York Awards - The Higher York Awards for Student Volunteering, which are now in their fifth year, saw students from across the city recognised for their hard work in support of local good causes.

training

Last year YUSU:

- Trained 217 Responsible Persons (RPs)
- Trained 418 stewards
- Provided first-aid training for almost 220 students.

Each student volunteer gives on average 82 hours per year to their community. Contributing nearly £1,000 per year to the local economy.



raising & giving

In addition to its projects, YUSU also has its own charity wing – RAG which stands for raising and giving and involves hundreds of students in its various fundraising activities. This year, the six beneficiaries that RAG raised money for were:

- Martin House Hospice & Refugee Action York at a local level.
- Teenage Cancer Trust and Alzheimer's Society at a National level.
- War Child at an International level.

When given their cheque for over £7,000 Refugee action York described the money as 'transformational for their student charity'.

Total Raised by RAG : £81,129.84 compared to a total of £32,485.50 in 2010-11.

RAG week raised £6,877.45
Lost raised £2,034.98 – Students were driven in a blackout coach to an unknown location and from here they had to hitch-hike their way back to York for free, in teams of two or three, within a given time period.

The Winter Wonderland event raised £1,264.64 and included ice skating, a panto, markets, performances and lots more.

TOTAL RAISED BY RAG : £81,129.84!



Woodstock is a 12 hour music festival in aid of RAG charities. It was founded in 1992 by students and is one of the biggest summer events on campus where students are given the opportunity to showcase their talent. 2012 saw almost 2,000 students enjoying the outdoor festival.



WOODSTOCK RAISED : £3,243.82

GETTING INVOLVED



sports

Sport is one of the largest parts of student life at the University of York and with 61 clubs, York boasts the most sports clubs per student in the country. Students compete both at a national level, University level and college level in a wide range of sports which means there is something for everyone.

College Sport: 13 league sports, 9 one-day tournaments (which is 6 more than last year) and Derwent won the college cup!

"Being able to play for my college, every win brings a bit of confidence, a bit of pride to the college members and a sense of team play"

Education Undergraduate.

2,956 people were members of a York Sports Club compared to last year's 2,822.

BUCS: 55 different sport teams. Ranked 43rd out of 155 institutions, which is up by 5 places from last year.

York Sport was successful in obtaining a Sport England bid for 141k to increase sports participation.



Collaboration between York Sport and the University Sports and Recreation Service has meant YUSU has had a significant involvement in the Sports Village plans. This has led to a rebrand of York Sport to York Sport Union and given us the opportunity to enhance YUSU's role in sports provision at York.

York Sport increased their presence on social media, launching a twitter account which provided students with up to date information on sport on campus, fixtures and results.



Twitter Followers: 329



Facebook Likes: 767

sporting achievements



This is the 2nd year of hosting White Rose Varsity where York competes against Hull in 17 sports in one day.

In 2012 YORK beat HULL 61.5 - 21.5

Senior Men's Boat team qualified for the Henley Royal Regatta.

York Sport received £4000 from the Annual Fund for a pair's boat for two rowing GB prospects.

Charlotte Austwick played at the World University Championships for the GB golf team and finished 41st.



Roses 2012 was hosted at Lancaster this year and York played a key role in the Opening Ceremony in support of the NUS programme, Be a Champion. Students were asked to submit designs for a Roses torch and nominations were then uploaded to facebook for students from both institutions to vote on their favourite. (The winning design is shown to the right)

Following this, students could submit nominations for Roses 2012 torch bearers, there were 10 people running the torch around York campus and 16 people cycling the 'way of the roses' cycling route to Lancaster. RAG were heavily involved by fundraising along the relay journey and all their proceeds went to their beneficiaries. This project helped us to gain 'Be a Champion' silver accreditation.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Each Year YUSU holds some of the biggest events on campus, helping to create social opportunities for new and returning students. This year the Freshers' event Live and Loud brought a festival atmosphere to campus with headline music acts, a wide range of entertainment and fireworks over the lake.

yusu freshers' events 2011

- Comedy Night: **673** Comedy tickets sold.
- Viking Raid: **2,297** attended Viking Raid.
- Live & Loud: **2,106** attended Live & Loud.

'Live & Loud was also an amazing event which was the perfect way to end Freshers'

1st year Undergraduate



summer ball 2012

YUSU ended the year with another very successful Summer Ball at the racecourse.

2,202 people attended the Summer Ball 2012.

That's almost 200 more than 2011!

'The whole event was an incredible way to end yet another fantastic year at York. The live music was all brilliant and the rides were fun'

3rd year Student commenting on the summer ball.



COMMUNITY

YUSU is working hard to make students an important part of the vibrant local community, and to help students to build positive relationships with other local residents.

YUSU is a key partner in the York Student Community Partnership, and this year launched the Joint Community Strategy together with the City of York Council and York St John's Students' Union.

Neighbourhood Reps

A team of 11 Neighbourhood Reps and a dedicated staff member for Community are working to build a strong network across the City, ensuring that the interests of students are represented across a wide range of areas.

Together with the City of York Council, our Neighbourhood Teams have delivered over **3,000** Community Guides to students, packed with information to help them get the most out of living in York.



YUSU organised "Celebrate York" in May 2012, a day of entertainment and activities for local families to enjoy for free. Over 200 students took part, and were joined by over 1,000 local residents.

20% of the Student Experience respondents volunteer within their local community and 15% take part in a local organisation/association or club.

The new RAG Community Fund, which opens for bids at Easter 2013, will help YUSU to build stronger links with the local community by offering direct financial support to local groups and charities.



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

YUSU have a variety of ways in which they communicate with their students and keep the up-to-date with what is happening in the union: (numbers were taken in July 2012).

facebook

- **7,526** YUSU Facebook page likes.
- **3,106** members of Official York Freshers' 2011 facebook group.

60% thought that the YUSU communication was good - Student experience survey.

twitter

- **3,571** twitter followers @yorkunisu

yusu website

- **178,752** unique visits to the YUSU site.
- **505,921** visits in total 2011/2012.
- **2,058,367** pages visited in total 2011/2012.
- **4.07** pages per visit.

Email, Facebook and the YUSU newsletter were the 3 most popular ways that students wanted YUSU to communicate with them.

YUSU now has 12 plasma screens across campus which are located in all the colleges, the student centre, the studio and yourshop.

yusu iphone app

Provides students with up-to-date information about YUSU events and activities as well as a range of other information about the campus and the University.

3,558 downloads

yusu android app

A NEW Android app was launched at the beginning of summer 2012.

366 downloads



DEMOCRACY & REPRESENTATION

2011-2012 was the first year of the new YUSU democratic structure and saw success at all four of the Assemblies:

Community Assembly: developed and pioneered a new Neighbourhood Reps System.

Academic Assembly: Set YUSU's Access Agreement policy against fee waivers.

Liberation assembly: Shaped and influenced the University's first Mental Health Policy.

Student Development Assembly: Revitalized the way that RAG and volunteering operate.

yusu officer elections



March 2012

Record number of students nominating themselves for the 5 full-time officer and 14 part-time officer positions. For the first time in five years all positions had candidates.

Total of 40,218 votes from 5,720 voters. This is 36.8% of the University population and one of the highest turnouts in the country. This is a highly significant increase from 2011 where only 26.5% of the population voted.



This year has seen a great turnout for the Referendum:

2,537 votes over 2 referenda with a total of 4 motions.

Voted:

- to keep the Women's Officers.
- to not twin with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- to engage with the University on how tuition fees are spent.
- to reject discontinuing all research contracts with BAE Systems.

representation - course reps

This year 208 course reps were elected and trained - this is almost 50 more than last year!

Course reps had a large impact in several departments where they were able to increase contact hours, change the structure of exams and acquire more resources.

70% of respondents knew who their course reps were and what they did and 61% were satisfied with their ability to communicate with their course rep.

"My course reps have been very good and approachable"

2nd year Psychology undergraduate.

CAMPAIGNS & STUDENT VOICE



YUSU is run by our students and therefore it is vital that we listen to their feedback and opinions. Thanks to the feedback from our members we have been able to campaign for a range of changes and have seen many successful results.

In conjunction with the Welfare Officer and the Women's Officer, YUSU conducted the 'How safe is your campus?' survey which received a total of 376 respondents.

annual survey respondents

- 644 First Impressions
- 2,545 Student Experience

95.7% of respondents felt that sufficient lighting on campus was important to their feeling of safety on campus.

55.6% were concerned about safety on campus.

summer of love

Got over 100 people along to learn more about their sexual health and what services there are.

catering survey

Findings from the Catering Survey that over 400 people filled in have helped YUSU lobby for improvements to the service, and we have won: later breakfast times, improved quality and quantities and for catering to be considered carefully for the further developments on Heslington East.

The 'What are you paying for?' survey was completed by 1,146 respondents and explored a range of additional costs at University. Thanks to the information from this survey, officers were able to prevent a rise in printing costs and have used the information to compile a list of what costs need to be reduced for the Vice Chancellor, who has agreed to reduce these costs as much as possible.

"Students should be given realistic estimations of additional costs at University"

1st year Music student.



YUSU have successfully fought to ensure that students who may face eviction because of their landlords not complying with legislation will be given as much information and warning as possible, and either stay until the end of their let, or live on campus for that time.

WELFARE & ADVICE

stycs

The Second and Third Year Contact (STYC) system is designed to help new students settle into their College and University community here at York. YUSU now co-ordinates the recruitment, training and support of all STYCs and Head STYCs.

Approximately 1,200 STYCs were organised by 200 Head STYCs, who were in turn recruited and managed by the Junior Common Room (JCR) Committees of each College.

Estimated hours worked (for free) during Freshers Week 2012, based on data recorded by JCRs.

- **3,220 hrs** - JCR Welfare Team
- **8,400 hrs** - Head STYCs
- **28,800 hrs** - STYCs

At the University Ambassador Rate (£7.05 an hour) this amounts to work equal to £284,961.

"The STYCs were genuinely amazing! I wouldn't have had even half as good a time without our STYCS during Freshers' week, and I wouldn't have felt as secure and safe as well. They were really amazing and I think the idea of STYCS in general should be upheld for the future!"

1st year Undergraduate.



The clubbers bus is doing very well in its second year and now has a regular amount of people using it ensuring our member gets home safely from the official club nights.

'The Clubbers' Bus is an invaluable service'

advice



In terms of welfare, YUSU has a very active Advice and Support Centre (ASC) which is situated in the Student Centre and provides help with issues ranging from sexual health to cases of academic misconduct. This year the ASC has started outreach services which involve weekly visits to Heslington East and Campus North, expanding the number of students with direct access to help and support.

In numbers:

- **160** cases of which 120 were academic.
- **40** academic appeal cases.
- **100%** success rate at academic appeals.

Outreach Sessions

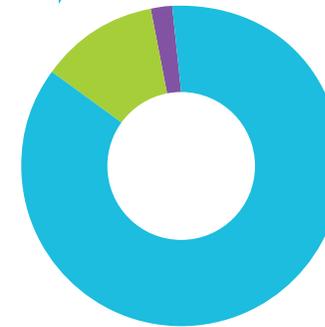
The ASC has started an outreach service which involves weekly visits Heslington East and Campus North which provides more opportunities for students to access help and they are hoping to expand this service over the coming year.

FINANCE & RESOURCES

The University of York Students' Union is a not for profit organisation. The funding of the Union's work comes from two main sources: a grant from the University and the trading income from YUSU commercial operations. All profits from these commercial operations go directly to funding the services we provide for our members. The figure below is a representation of the sources of YUSU income and the main areas of expenditure.

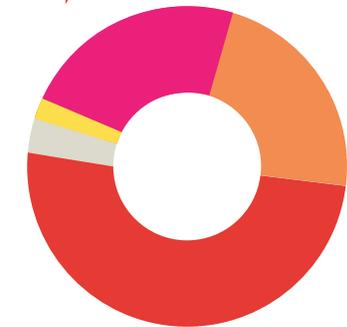
YUSU funding and resources

TOTAL INCOME : £1,079,965



- Block Grant - £899,190
- Trading income - £165,658
- Other Income - £15,117

TOTAL EXPENDITURE : £1,036,243



- Student Activities - £599,416
- Democracy & Representation - £212,355
- Academic and Welfare - £201,255
- Other - £23,217
- Surplus - £43,722*

*The generated surplus of £43,722 will be allocated to our free reserves in line with our Reserve Policy.

Some of YUSU free reserves accumulated over the last few years have been used to fund the expansion and improvement of the Student Centre. The project was completed in July 2012.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

the COURTYARD

The Courtyard is run by YUSU which means that every extra penny that it generates goes straight back into student-led activities. It is open daily during term time and offers a wide selection of food and drink throughout the day. In addition the Courtyard hosts a range of events from quizzes to sports nights to one-off events.



85% satisfied with the quality of products available in the Courtyard.

This year, for the first time, YUSU has introduced a new graduate management scheme within its commercial services. This exciting venture allows two successful York graduates to gain vital practical management experience over the course of a year alongside a qualification.



"Courtyard is great – menu is really good and staff are friendly."

2nd year history undergraduate.

79,887 pints of beer



75,491 individual meals

63,828 soft drinks



24,456 hot drinks

14,132 cocktails (new to last year)



13,834 burgers

6,825 Pizzas (new to last year)



the lounge @rkc

The Lounge is YUSU's second licensed social venue and opened in October 2011. Designed to operate as "the home of YUSU activities" The Lounge has proved popular with a wide range of clubs and societies hosting everything from charity quizzes to poker nights and from large scale dance performances to an overnight Gamalan music festival and puppet show.

Designed as more of a premium venue The Lounge sold more than 14,000 cocktails in its first year as well as hosting more college events in the academic year than any other campus venue.

"Excellent bar staff in the YUSU bars on campus."

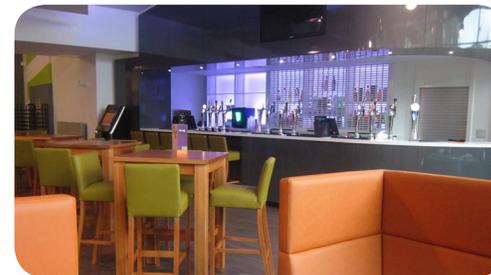
2nd year PEP student.

your shop

Your shop aims to cater to the needs of both the students and the staff of the University of York. It is situated in Market Square and provides a range of products including newspapers and magazines, crisps and snacks, sandwiches, University merchandise and stationery.

Students said that Yourshop should offer more in-store promotions particularly for meal deals, stationery and University merchandise and have wider advertising of these promotions. As a result YourShop will now be widely advertising a new promotion every week throughout the term.

90% of students were satisfied with the staff in YourShop.



86% of respondents were satisfied with the staff in the Lounge.

"The staff in the Lounge are always really friendly and give fast service. I feel really welcome in there."

1st year History of Art Undergraduate.





plans for the future

I am delighted to be taking on the presidency of YUSU at a time when I think students are ready to demand more. Demand more of themselves, of their environment, of their University and of their union. My vision for this academic year is that YUSU will become a catalyst for helping students to grow their social consciousness, for helping them to explore and be a part of change and for helping them to create a transformative student experience here at York.

The shift of financial responsibility for higher education away from the state and onto the individual, coupled with a deflated employment market and economy mean that we need to work with students to help them realise the wider potential of student experience. We will fulfil this through new research and analysis of modern student experience across the full diversity of the student demographic. This research will then create an evidence base on which the union can prioritise its work and develop a common dialogue with the university and the wider community that will see us make an evidenced and measured impact on student experience.

As well as capturing the immediate opportunities and addressing the immediate challenges we will also complete the process of long term strategic evaluation. Using enhanced governance and student focused long term planning we will prepare the union for the future. This will culminate in a long term strategic plan for the union to commence from summer 2013. This will allow today's students and today's elected officers to show that, while we are responsive to the immediate priorities of students we are also taking responsibility for creating a great union for our future members.

I am excited about being part of a progressive and forward thinking students union and I believe I can take the union forward for the benefit of students. To fulfil these I intend to make sure that students are at the heart of our organisation, working within the union community to be part of the change.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President 2012-2013



The YUSU
Sabbatical Officers
2012-2013

