Beyond the pandemic

Chair: Paul Goffin
Estates Services Director
Environmental Sustainability

Harriet Waters
Head of Environmental Sustainability

Professor Malcolm McCulloch,
Associate Professor in Engineering Science
The University’s first sustainability strategy
The University’s first sustainability strategy

- Two goals
- Four enablers
- Ten commitment areas
The Need for Change

- Ecological crisis
- Climate Crisis
- Need for University consensus view
Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Cross University working

• Working group and sub groups

• The four enablers

• Large scale consultation
Next steps

• Setting up the new subcommittee
• Producing a programme of works
• Working out how to keep people informed
Estates Strategy

Isobel Hughes
Operations Director
Estates Strategy

Estates Strategy for 2021-26 and beyond

- Replaces old plan
- Develop broadbrush strategy for major themes
Why this is important

• Aligns with other new strategies

• New Ways of Working
Collaboration

- Working Group
- Theme working groups
- Consultation
Next steps: Theme Working Groups

- Demand
- Supply
- Affordability
IT Projects

Sean Duffy
Chief Information Officer
• Roughly 100 IT projects have been running over the past 14 months (only 2 are Covid-specific)
• Currently 61 active IT projects.

• Highlight 5 of these:
  • TMS – Teaching Management System
  • Arcus-C – high performance computing upgrade
  • Oracle R12 upgrade
  • e-Expenses
  • Multi-factor Authentication
# Teaching Management System

## About
- Modernises the 20 year old OxCORT system
- Add a range of functional enhancements

## Why important
- Core mechanism for managing U/G teaching and tutorials between Colleges and academic departments
- Manages all payments

## Collaboration
- College teams, academic departments, Student Systems Team, IT Services

## Next steps
- Progressively available to tutors and admin staff over this summer
- Widespread launch for Michaelmas Term 21
### Arcus-C

#### About
- Implements new HPC (research performance computing) service platform
- Provides 12,096 cores with 28 GPU nodes

#### Why important
- Arcus-B is end-of-life
- Provision of Tier 3 shared facility for users across the University

#### Collaboration
- IT Services’ Research Computing and Support Team, in collaboration with researchers across the four Divisions

#### Next steps
- Go-live this week *(w/c 19/4/21)*
- Migration of all jobs from Arcus-B by end July 21
### R12 upgrade

#### About
- Migration from 12.1 to 12.2.9
- Mainly a ‘lift and drop’ process, but a significant technical upgrade
- Minimal functional change
- Updated look and feel

#### Why important
- Better stability/performance
- Current version goes out of support in Dec 21
- Will support us until 2030
- Critical core system for our £1.7b business

#### Collaboration
- Joint Finance and IT Services project
- Wide engagement, esp in upcoming User Validation
- Significant interdependencies with other projects

#### Next steps
- First phase of testing complete
- Further testing phases
- Avoid year end activities
- Likely go-live in 2022
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>About</th>
<th>Why important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Introduce fully online process for handling expense claims</td>
<td>• Removal of paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Available on phones/etc</td>
<td>• Easier submission of receipts</td>
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<td>• More straightforward approval process</td>
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<td>• Faster payment to claimants</td>
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<td>• Focus initiative involving Finance Division and finance colleagues across the University</td>
<td>• Golive in May</td>
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<td>• Each departments sets its own launch timescale up to end Sept</td>
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Collaboration

Next steps
### Multi-factor Authentication

#### About
- Additional security as users logon from any device
- Mobile / SMS / tokens

#### Why important
- Combat the 4-fold growth in compromised accounts (credentials)
- Dramatic rise in HE cyber attacks inc ransomwares

- Impacts every user (70,000+ accounts) – in UAS, academic departments, Colleges
- IT support staff in departments and Colleges

#### Next steps
- All primary accounts completed (58,537).
- Accounts cleanup
- Secondary accounts to complete by summer
Race Equality Task Force

Daisy Hung
Programme Manager Race Equality Task Force and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, MPLS
The Vice Chancellor’s oration (Oct 2020): Race Equality as a strategic priority

“...ending racism requires not merely an absence of prejudice, but a continuous presence of mind with regard to racial equality...I would like to see a University-wide task force convene to engage, to listen, to share ideas and together to make recommendations for ways that we can address the under-representation of racial minorities at all levels – especially the most senior levels – within the University.”

Webpage: https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/task-force
Who is involved

Ming Alsop-Lim
Effie Armah-Tetteh
Doyin Atewologun
Lauren Bolz
Laura van Broekhoven
Lanisha Butterfield
Alice Chilver
Zeba Chowdhury
Michelle Codrington-Rogers
Daphne Cunningham
Patricia Daley
Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini
Rachel Dearlove
Tracy Fahey
Jane Garnett
Rob Gilbert
Alexander Gordon
Adrienne Hopkins
The Race Equality Task Force

How we are working

• Looking at the existing data and initiatives/activities, and identifying gaps
• Learning from others through direct engagement and an external consultant
• Engaging with staff and students throughout the collegiate University
The purpose of the Task Force is to advance racial equality across the collegiate University of Oxford, and to ensure that all people and perspectives are valued and that, in practice, opportunities are open to all people without racial discrimination. We will work actively to be antiracist at all levels, to articulate existing barriers, and to identify what can be done by everyone in the collegiate University, especially its leaders, to dismantle those barriers.
Collaboration

- Internal mapping and gap analysis
- Staff Experience Survey
- Ideas, comments and questions? RETaskForce@admin.ox.ac.uk
Next steps

- Trinity Term engagement activities for staff: Conversations on Race series, semi-structured interviews led by an external consultant
- Continue existing work streams: staff issues, student issues, responding to racial harassment, research & impact, communications & engagement, governance, and learning from others.
- Report and presentation to Council in September 2021
Taking hold of our data

Stephen Purbrick
Interim Head of Planning

Mark McDermott
Head of Strategic Planning and Projects,
Social Sciences Division
Taking hold of our data

Why do we need a Data Strategy?

- Data is an asset
- How much do we value it?
- How well do we look after it?
Taking hold of our data

Why should we take action now?

• If data were a building...

• ...would we keep patching it up?

• Or would we fix the roof?
Taking hold of our data

What the strategy aims to do

- Clarify who is responsible
- Empower staff to do their job
- Understand interconnectedness
Why this is important

• Reduce frustration
• Spend our time better
• Make informed decisions

“Without data you’re just another person with an opinion”

W. Edwards Deming
Data Scientist
Taking hold of our data

Collaboration

- Core team
- Divisions and departments
- You
Taking hold of our data

Next steps

• Listening

• Data issues log

• Time to fix the roof!

[Link to data strategy]

governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-strategy
Beyond the Pandemic

Q & A