

**THE OD UNION**  
**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2016**

**BALANCE SHEET**

The balance sheet shows the OD Union funds at R 11.5 million (2015 – R 12.1 million) against the OD Union Bursary Fund of R 12.9 million (2015 – R 13.4 million.) The ODU Fund now comprises R5.3 million in property rights, furniture and equipment and the investment portion is at a lower level than in previous years. Consequently the ODU Fund is not expected to increase in line with the ODU Bursary Fund which comprises almost 100% investments in the market.

The investments in 2016 did not enjoy the returns of 2015 (and indeed the years prior to 2015 as well,) translating into lower overall fund values. Also see commentary on the Income Statement below.

**INCOME STATEMENT**

The loss from investment income and activities remains within budgeted levels at R 48 000 against R 67 000 in 2015 (approximate figures.) As previously reported, your committee does not budget to make a profit out of functions, and clothing and memorabilia sales, although every effort is made to cover costs where possible. One should bear in mind that this loss includes the ties given to each new OD as they leave the school.

Where there has been a significant change against prior years is in the ODU Fund expenses which have increased substantially, mainly due to additional staff costs.

Your committee has debated this for more than a year, and a decision was taken during the year to become a more proactive, rather than an historically reactive, organisation. To this end it is common knowledge that we resolved to employ an Executive Manager of the OD Union in the very capable and enormously enthusiastic Dr WP van Zyl. We also launched The OD Union Mentorship programme ably steered and navigated by Nicky Bicket.

Each of these projects has contributed towards the overhead structure of the OD Union, it should be said with the blessing and support of the donor of the substantial portion of our funds, our president Mr Raymond Ackerman.

We have approached this in the knowledge that there will be a substantial investment and commitment of a portion of the OD Union funds before we shall see any financial return. We remain committed in the belief that furthering the aims and objectives of the constitution of the OD Union are more important than the protection and accumulation of capital.

That said, we have approached a donor who will favourably support a portion of any financial loss incurred in the short to medium term should this be necessary.

In 2016, expenses increased from R 702 000 in 2015 to R1 066 000 in this past year (again approximate figures,) and increase of R 364 000. R 325 000 of this increase is covered by the increase in life membership fees.

As reported above, the investment capital value decreased by approximately R90 000, while in the OD Union Bursary Fund the decrease in value amounted to approximately R 114 000,

Bursaries awarded to sons of OD's in 2016 amounted to R 488 000, up 11 ½ % over 2015 and in line with the committee policy to apply approximately 5% of the capital funds to bursaries each year.

It has been a pleasure to work with such a motivated and diverse committee, in both ages and skill sets, ably led by Bruce Jack, and we look forward to exciting times for the OD Union in the coming years.

Guy Lanfear, Treasurer, The OD Union, March 2017