

Glasgow Kelvin College

Board of Management Meeting of 11 June 2025

Student Association Priorities Update

Report by Learner Engagement Officer

1. Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities and progress of the Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association (SA) throughout the 2024/25 academic session. It also outlines recommendations for initiatives and priorities to be considered for the 2025/26 academic year.



2. Key Activities and Achievements in 2024/25

Student Representation and Engagement

Class Representatives: Significant effort was put into recruiting and training Class Representatives. Training was initially delivered by Sparqs and the Learner Engagement Officer, with catch-up sessions provided throughout the year. Training was also adapted for ESOL Class Reps. The SA created a dedicated Teams channel for Class Reps and encouraged them to introduce themselves to their classes. Feedback was gathered from Class Reps to improve support for future Reps and the overall student experience.

Student Executive Committee: The SA successfully recruited volunteers to serve on the Student Executive Committee in various roles, including Vice President, Campaigns Officer, Equality and Diversity Officer, Women's Officer, LGBTQ+ Officer, ESOL & International Officer, Care-Experienced Officer, and Media and Communications Officer. These officers established clubs, such as the ESOL speaking club, which had consistently good engagement. Support and regular meetings were organised for the Executive Officers.

Meet the Managers Events: The SA organised three 'Meet the Managers' events across the academic year, one in each block, providing Class Reps with the opportunity to engage in direct discussions with senior college management about students' experiences. Management panellists included Vice Principals and Directors from various departments. These events allowed Class Reps to raise student issues and receive direct responses and agreed actions. A 'You Said, We Did' information leaflet is produced and distributed to Class Reps following each events.

Student Association Assistants: Following the departure of the full-time Sabbatical Officer, two part-time Student Association Assistants (Jon Craig and Isabelle Price) were recruited to support the SA's work and increase its visibility. They have been involved in numerous meetings with college staff and have undertaken relevant training, as well as attending events organised by NUS Scotland.

Student Support and Wellbeing Initiatives:

Microwaves, Hot Water Facilities & Breakfast: Following student requests over several years, microwaves and kettles were successfully installed across all three campuses. Additionally, a free breakfast initiative was introduced, providing toast, breakfast bars, fruit, and hot drinks, which has been well received by students and staff and is aimed at supporting those facing financial difficulties or lacking morning access to food.

Student Pantry/Clothing Bank: The popularity and usage of the student pantry and clothing bank continued to increase. Generous donations were received from staff and students, and the college donated £250 to the pantry. A staff member also raised £105 for the pantry through a social event. Student volunteers actively manage the clothing bank and food bank, sorting donations and ensuring timely distribution.

Halloween and Christmas Raffles: The SA successfully organised Halloween and Christmas raffles to raise funds for the student pantry. Both raffles raised a total of £271.50.

Toy Drive: An initiative was ran to collect donated toys to supplement Christmas gifts for students' children.

Mother's Day: Due to a generous donation of toiletries, the SA were able to give out gift sets to our students who are mothers as a thank you for all of their commitment and dedication to, not only their studies, but to their families too.

Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA): Progress was made working with college staff on the Student Mental Health Agreement with NUS Think Positive, building on work from the previous academic year. Nine key commitments were made, each with various components to them, which allowed us to measure the success of each and document how we achieved these (or not). The commitments were measured across two academic years: Year 1 (2023–24) and Year 2 (2024–25). The SMHA will be reviewed and developed further in the next academic year with relevant college staff and the SA. This will cover the period 2025-2027.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS): The SA actively promoted SDS Careers Adviser services, including monthly drop-in sessions at the East End campus. From April, these drop-in sessions were also piloted at the Springburn and Easterhouse campuses. This service will be reviewed over the summer months. The SA also provided contact information for students needing to speak to SDS out with these drop in sessions via a QR code.

Student Association Development and Awareness:

Ongoing Awareness Raising: The SA President worked to raise the profile of the SA across all three campuses through various communication methods, including Microsoft Teams, social media, campus TV screens, and physical presence.

Student Hub Development: The development of the Springburn Student Hub is progressing well, with student input sought regarding furniture and layout. This project also benefited the East End and Easterhouse campuses with gaming activities now accessible in the common room areas.

SA Sponsorship: The SA sponsored the college football team, covering the cost of new strips displaying the SA logo.

Equality and Inclusion Initiatives: The ESOL and International Officer and LGBTQ+ Officer established clubs. The SA planned activities for LGBTQ+ History Month. Planning began for Block 3 activities related to equality, diversity, and inclusion awareness days, including Autism Awareness Day, International Women's Day, and Trans Day of Visibility. For International

Guide Dog Day, the SA arranged for two guide dog owners and their guide dogs to come into college and speak about their challenges with visual impairment.

Proud Scotland Awards: Jon Craig, Student Association Assistant, was nominated for the Education award in the Proud Scotland Awards. Although the award went to our worthy colleagues at Fife college, to be nominated for the award was an honour in itself.

White Ribbon Scotland: The college's partnership with White Ribbon Scotland was reignited, with training sessions organised for students and staff to become national speakers. The campaign was promoted at events.

Student President Elections 2025/26: Planning and promotion for the 2025/26 Student President elections commenced in January, aiming for earlier and wider engagement to attract high-quality candidates. Promotional materials were created, and discussions took place on improving the effectiveness of the recruitment process, including nurturing internal candidates and developing a comprehensive induction programme. Nominations opened on Monday 28th April, with elections held between Tuesday 27th – Friday 30th May.

The election results are as follows:

President of Welfare, Community and Sustainability (full time) – Jon Craig
President of Learning & Teaching (part time) – Chantell McCallum

Recommendations for the 2025/26 Academic Year

Building on the successes and lessons learned during the 2024/25 session, the following recommendations are proposed for the 2025/26 academic year:

Continue and Enhance Class Representative Programme:

- Maintain the partnership with Sparqs for Class Rep training.
- Continue to deliver in-house training earlier in the academic year, incorporating college-specific engagement activities, and ensure all Class Reps receive comprehensive training, including ESOL representatives.
- Further utilise the dedicated Teams channel for communication and support of Class Reps.
- Formalise the process of gathering feedback from Class Reps to inform future support and college improvements.

Strengthen Student Executive Committee Engagement:

- Provide ongoing support and guidance to Executive Officers to ensure they can fully engage in their roles, potentially including more structured induction and mentorship.
- Encourage and support the establishment of a wider range of clubs and societies based on student interests.

Sustain and Expand Student Support Initiatives:

- Using student volunteers, maintain and potentially expand the student pantry and clothing bank, actively seeking donations and exploring external funding opportunities.
- Continue to utilise fundraising initiatives like raffles to support student welfare.
- Further promote and collaborate with the Advice, Guidance, and Wellbeing teams on mental health support initiatives, building on the Student Mental Health Agreement.
- Maintain the promotion of SDS Careers Adviser services across all campuses, based on the positive pilot of expanding drop-in sessions.

Build on Student Association Profile and Reach:

- Maintain a strong online presence through Microsoft Teams and social media, alongside regular face-to-face engagement activities like campus stalls.
- Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with college departments and external organisations.

Enhance Student Voice and Influence:

- Continue to organise 'Meet the Managers' events across all blocks, ensuring effective follow-up and communication of actions through initiatives like 'You Said, We Did'.
- Actively encourage student participation in college surveys, focus groups, course team meetings, and other feedback mechanisms.

Successful Student President Elections and Induction:

- Implement the agreed approaches for the 2025/26 Student President elections, focusing on early promotion, nurturing internal candidates, and providing comprehensive briefing sessions.
- Deliver a thorough induction programme for the newly elected Student Presidents, including introductions to college structures, HR policies, Board member expectations, and action prioritisation.

Student Association Constitution:

The Student Association Constitution is due to be reviewed for this academic year, but as there are no officers currently in position, this has been postponed and has now to be reviewed for the December Board of Management meeting. This will allow the new Presidents time to become accustomed to their role and look at the Constitution in detail before making any recommended changes.

By continuing these successful initiatives and implementing the proposed recommendations, the Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association can continue to effectively represent and support the student body, ensuring their voice is central to the college experience in the 2025/26 academic year.

3. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4. Impact on Students

This report highlights the opportunities for better student engagement and the positive impacts on students by supporting them to improve their experience at college, creating opportunities to further develop and gain new skills and experiences.

5. Risk and Assurance

This report provides assurance that the College is supporting the Student Association to engage with learners and participate in life and work of the College.

6. Equality

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

7. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report.

8. Environmental and Sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

9. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of the report.

10. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Chantell McCallum, President of Learning and Teaching.

Glasgow Kelvin College
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04 June 2025