

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE**Academic Board – 10th November 2023****Student Association Priorities Update****Report by Student Association Presidents****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Student Association (SA) this session and give an overview of future priorities and plans.



Since the start of the college session the Student Presidents have been busy raising awareness and assuring that the SA is available to students in campus and online, helping to share college information, answering general student enquiries, and supporting students with any arising issues.

As a voice for the student body, the Presidents have fed back quickly to management any concerns or issues raised.

2. Update on activity**Class Representatives**

212 Class Representatives have been recruited, meaning that almost all full-time classes now have a Rep in place. The Presidents have created a dedicated Teams channel and have been encouraging Reps to familiarise themselves with their handbook to help them become more comfortable in their new role. Reps have been encouraged to introduce themselves to their class, explaining their role checking everyone in their group is settling into college life.

The Presidents have been working closely with SPARQS (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland) to offer Class Reps introductory training to help develop confidence in their role. This is the recommended package for training reps in Scotland. This training comes in two parts.

- Part one is a self-directed study module hosted on the colleges VLE which was made available to all Reps on 19th September.
- Part two is a bookable part of the training and was delivered by SPARQS online via Zoom. The training is designed for up to 30 delegates per session and lasts 2 hours. Presidents managed to organise three sessions, which were delivered October 3rd, 4th and 5th. Additional sessions are currently being organised. The

SA will continue to push hard to ensure Reps still requiring training are encouraged engage.

Presidents will organise monthly meetings throughout the year to ensure Reps are fully supported in their role. The first meeting was held on 26th October and had good attendance and engagement.

Student Executive Committee

The Student Association have now fully recruited 12 volunteers to take up roles in the Student Executive Committee. Alongside the Student Presidents, the Executive Officers will be responsible for influencing change across the college, ensuring the views of our diverse student community are included and represented in how the college delivers services. The roles include;

- 2 x Vice Presidents
- 2 x Campaigns Officers
- 2 x Equality and Diversity Officers
- 1 x Women's Officer
- 1 x LGBTQ+ Officer
- 1 x ESOL & International Officer
- 1 x Care Experienced Officer
- 2 x Sustainability Officers

37 candidates campaigned for the roles. Elections closed on October 27th with successful candidates being announced on October 30th. Presidents will organise monthly meetings throughout the year to ensure Executive Officers are fully supported in their role.

Planet Earth Games

Glasgow Kelvin College was recognised as one of the top performers in this year's Planet Earth Games – College's competition. The competition brought together almost 40 UK colleges to organise events and the College finished first in Scotland, and fifth in the overall UK rankings. This resulted in the college being shortlisted for a SPARQS Student Engagement Award for 'Sustainability in the Learning Experience'. Due to involvement with Planet Earth Games, the Presidents attended the awards ceremony at DoubleTree SKYbar in Edinburgh on the evening of Thursday 5th October.



Clubs and Societies

The SA have a variety of clubs and societies students can join, including: Book Club, Cycling Club, Parent Patrol, Film Club, Gaming Club, LGBTQ+ Society and more. Students can join through MyKelvin and we welcome new ideas for social activities to enhance life at Kelvin.

Freshers festival

The Presidents attended a Freshers Festival in Glasgow city centre on the 13th and 14th of September. Through networking at this event, Presidents were subsequently invited to attend a Freshers event at Glasgow Caledonian University. This has allowed us to develop new contacts for our Student Association and generate some innovative ideas for our own future Freshers activities.



Active Campus Coordinator

The Student Association has been working closely with the college's new Active Campus Coordinator, Grant Sutherland, and we will be encouraging Reps to promote Wellbeing 'daily habits' to their class groups. We will continue to support Grant to facilitate the delivery of sport and physical activity on campus to promote positive mental and physical wellbeing to students.

Communication

A dedicated SA Teams page has been set up for all students, this is used to promote events, SA activities and encourage participation in campaigns and discussions. This page is also used to advertise job vacancies and volunteering opportunities.

Green Week

The Student Association prepared visual resources to engage with students during Glasgow Kelvin's 'Green Week' which took place between 3-5 October. Students and staff were invited to join in some of the exciting events across all three campuses to support sustainable behaviours. These included Free Dr. Bike Sessions, Sustainable Coffee and Food Pop-ups, stalls and freebies from vendors such as First Bus, Home Energy Scotland, Enva and our new Campus Cycling Officer.



Student Mental Health Agreement

Presidents are involved with leading on the Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA) project with NUS Think Positive. This project brings the Student Association and college together in partnership to develop, monitor and evaluate the mental health support on offer. Leading on this project means we will share some responsibilities, including reviewing the project resources and arranging and facilitating SMHA working group meetings.

Priorities/Next Steps

End of block reviews

Class Representatives play a key role with inputting student feedback into end of block course team discussions, which take place during each down week. Prior to the course team meeting, Reps will be encouraged to meet with the class on their own to collect

feedback from their class group. College Senior Management will also encourage Tutors to help Reps allocate some time with their class for these discussions. The class representative will use the feedback to input at the course team meeting and, following the meeting, take information resulting from the discussion at the meeting back to other learners.

Meet the Managers

A 'Meet the Managers' event has been organised for Thursday 16th November. The Student Association will organise this event to provide Class Reps with an important opportunity to meet college Senior Managers in a live discussion about students' experience of the college.

Panelist management will include:

- Robin Ashton – Vice Principal, Curriculum and Quality Enhancement
- Lisa Clark – Director for Estates and Corporate Services
- Monica McKerlie – Head of Student Support Services
- Michelle Harding – Head of Digital and ICT Operations
- Allison Miller – Operations Manager (Baxter Story)

This will be an opportunity for Class Reps to raise any issues from students, and for the college management to provide responses and actions directly to students.

Education Scotland visit

The College has been selected to take part in an Education Scotland Thematic Visit from Monday 6th November to Thursday 9th November. The Presidents, Class and Executive Representatives will be participating in important discussions with HMIs relating to equity of learners and leadership of learning and teaching.

Ongoing Awareness Raising

Presidents have been continuing to work hard to raise the profile of the Student Association and will ensure there is a presence at each of our three campuses throughout the session. Promotional videos and information have been posted on social media platforms, which has increased followers of the various social media accounts. Presidents are also planning various fundraising activities to continue with the successful partnership with East End Flat Pack Meals.



Campaigns and Events

During October the SA have run a poster campaign highlighting Black History Month, and plan to run many more campaigns happening throughout the year, such as Stress Awareness and Transgender Awareness.

Networking and Partnerships

The SA will continue to work to enhance partnership work with services and organisations which can impact positively on the student experience. We will continue to meet with community partners to develop our main priorities including: Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing,

Gender-Based Violence and Digital Inclusion & Communication. Plans are also in place to visit a minimum of two other education providers to benchmark and develop an awareness of other SA engagement activities.

Internal Consultations/Discussions

The SA will develop a staff/student consultation group which includes representation from SMT, SA and the wider Student Executive to enhance the student voice in college developments.

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 Sonique Noreiga, President of Learning and Teaching or Emma Leslie, President of Welfare, Community and Sustainability.