

Item 09
For Discussion and Noting

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Learning and Teaching Committee of 22 November 2023

Students' Association Update

Report by Student Association Presidents

1. Introduction

Glasgow Kelvin College hosted a Progress Visit (PV) from Education Scotland from 17 – 19 May 2023. Education Scotland's final report, dated 05 September 2023, outlined two key areas for development which related to the Student Association and Learner Engagement. These were:

- *The Students' Association (SA) is not sufficiently visible to learners and is not able to fully represent their views.*
- *Class Representatives are not sufficiently aware of their role and its intended purpose. Many class representatives have not yet accessed the online training available, and many were unaware of its existence.*

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the SA in relation to addressing these two areas for development.

2. Update on activity

- *The Students' Association (SA) is not sufficiently visible to learners and is not able to fully represent their views.*

The SA have implemented a more comprehensive series of coordinated student engagement events, alongside continuing to make good use of digital communication approaches to build a stronger profile for the Students' Association. This included establishing earlier in the academic year a working Student Executive group and Class Representatives.

Actions being taken to improve SA visibility and engagement have included;

Freshers and Meet Your Classmates events

Over the summer months the SA supported delivery of an extensive programme of Freshers and Meet your Classmates events, where the focus was on planning and preparation for students starting and returning in the new academic year. This allowed students to meet informally with their tutor and class group before classes formally commenced.

The Student Association organised the 'Freshers' part of the event. Many organisations were in attendance including, Glasgow East Women's Aid, Spike Awareness, Fast Forward, SAMH, Crew and many more. The Students' Association organised numerous activities for the students to engage with during this event.

New location of SA offices

The campus redevelopment has allowed the SA to relocate themselves in each of our campuses, allowing a more prominent presence and easier access. The relocation has also allowed better collaboration between the SA and key support staff personnel and departments.

Presidents have been continuing to work hard to raise the profile of the Student Association and have made themselves available for lunchtime drop ins in student common rooms.

Further development of the Students Association Teams page

To keep students informed a Student Teams page is used to share information. The SA have created a channel to populate with adverts for events/activities. A weekly update is posted on a Friday of the activity which has taken place and is being planned. The Teams page also has channels used to communicate more specifically with Class Representatives and the Student Executive Committee. Promotional videos and information have been posted on various other platforms, which has increased followers of various social media accounts.

Student Engagement events

The SA have organised a range of student engagement events to allow students to meet others outside of classes and form social connections to help them engage with college life. These have included themed movie nights and various charity events. During October we 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.

The SA also 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.

- *Class representatives are not sufficiently aware of their role and its intended purpose. Many class representatives have not yet accessed the online training available, and many were unaware of its existence.*

The SA have worked to strengthen the role of the Class Representative in the design and delivery of learning and teaching. This will include regular meetings with the course team and the opportunity to provide feedback from the group on learning and teaching approaches.

Actions being taken to improve Class Rep recruitment and role development have included;

Class Representative Recruitment

Class Rep recruitment has been strengthened and we currently have 212 Class Representatives, meaning that almost all full-time classes now have a Rep in place. Having more Class Reps in place earlier than previous years means more students can feed into course team meetings to affect change or highlight any ongoing issues.

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.

Numbers of Class Reps who have successfully completed training is already higher than in previous years. Additional sessions are currently being organised. The SA will continue to push hard to ensure Reps still requiring training are encouraged to engage.

Student Executive Committee Recruitment

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

In previous years, the college has struggled to fill these posts. Better promotion and earlier recruitment have had a positive effect on students engaging with these roles. For the first time ever, a full election process had to be followed as 40 individual students stood as candidates.

Meet the Managers Event

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.

Class Rep and Student Executive Committee Meetings

Presidents will organise monthly meetings throughout the year to ensure Class Reps and Executive Committee members are fully supported in their role. The first meeting was held on 26th October and had good attendance and engagement. These meetings will be an important opportunity for volunteers to meet with one another to feedback and discuss college life.

3. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4. Impact on Students

This report highlights the changes made to ensure the student voice is taken into consideration.

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.

Glasgow Kelvin College
SN/EL
November 2023