

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Board of Management Meeting of 10 October 2022

Student Association Priorities Update

Report by Students' 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 and Student Executive

The SA has the responsibility for ensuring that all full-time courses organise Class Representatives and for having the Student Executive in place to utilise their skills base to enhance the work of the SA.

Progress to date:

- Currently 206 Class Representatives with meetings being organised in October
- SPARQS (Student Partnership in Quality Scotland) training will be delivered online again as in previous years, after the October week
- Interest for Student Executive positions has been really positive and the SA hope to have all posts filled within the coming weeks



Clubs and Societies



Clubs and Societies are already up and running including, Book Club, Gaming Club, Parent Patrol, LGBTQ+ Society, Film Club, Women's Support, Music Lovers Club and Men's Support.

Student Offers

Following an initial agreement between college and catering, which provided students with a 'Meal Deal' offer, the SA were able to continue discussion and secure a further two options. This ensures students are provided with more affordable lunchtime options.



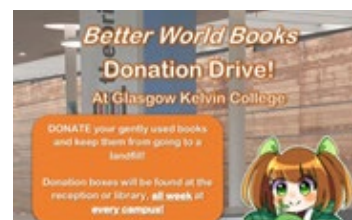
Communication



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 Presidents have participated in Green Week, by having a stall in all campuses, arranging a quiz and being part of the litter pick, arranged by College's Environmental and Sustainability Manager.



3. Agreements

Partnership Agreement

The attached Partnership Agreement (appendix 1) has been developed by the SA and Learner Engagement Officer. The document sets out four priorities that Glasgow Kelvin College and the SA will work on together in academic year 2022/23.

The agreement is in two parts, with part A discussing the means on which students can meaningfully express their views and opinions within their course and the wider working life of the College, through a range of various mechanisms.

Part B sets out the specific working areas in which the Association and the College intend to collaborate. For 2022/23, they are as follows:

- **Health & Wellbeing:** promote positive mental health and wellbeing using tools from NHS Scotland and college resources.
- **Inclusion:** where the focus will be on promoting events and campaigns, including, Black History Month, 16 Days of Action, and LGBT History Month.
- **Communication:** create more online activities/social events, taking into consideration the wants and needs of students.
- **Gender-Based Violence:** they will continue to strengthen partnerships with external organisations such as White Ribbon Scotland and Glasgow East Women's Aid.

Student Mental Health Agreement

The attached Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA) (appendix 2) has been in development over the previous year in conjunction with NUS Scotland's Think Positive Campaign. The SMHA is developed over a two year period, with the first year allowing institutions to gather feedback from students to shape the work of the SMHA. The second year consists of the launch of the SMHA, and delivery of the work stated within

it. The SA will continue to monitor and evaluate the work as it is delivered throughout the year.

The SMHA contains five main working areas, they are as follows:

- **Promotion of College Support Services:** which will include working with the college support departments and teaching areas to identify and promote services available to students, including counselling services, wellbeing workshops and physical activities, such as fitness classes and lunchtime clubs.
- **Tackling Stigma:** we will work to end the stigma surrounding poor mental health.
- **Student Involvement:** we will encourage students to voice their opinions in all aspects of college life and to take ownership of clubs and societies.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** we will create safe social spaces to help students connect with each other and work with our partner organisations to create events throughout the year and promote their services.
- **Improving links with External Mental Health Agencies:** we will build stronger links with existing organisations and develop new relationships with organisations that can help support students.

The SA will report routinely to various College committees throughout the year and monitor outcomes and successes.

4. Priorities/Next Steps

Ongoing Awareness Raising

The SA will have a regular presence in every campus to enhance student awareness and encourage student engagement. Planned online themed drop-in sessions will also be organised to promote the association, the themes will relate to current issues and events on the equalities calendar.



Campaigns and Events

During October the officers will be participating in various campaigns and events including, Black History Month, Dyslexia Awareness week, Stress Awareness Day, Baby Loss Awareness week and will be planning some events around Halloween, including a scary movie night. The SA are also currently exploring with Faculty teams the possibility of lunchtime students showcase live music and performance sessions.

Networking and Partnerships

The SA will work to enhance partnership work with services and organisations which can impact positively on the student experience. 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

With the Learner Engagement Officer, 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.

The SA will also organise a 'Meet the Managers' event each block to encourage discussions between students, Student Executive and College managers.

5. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report

6. Equalities

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

7. Risk and Assurance

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

8. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report

9. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- i. note the contents of the report and appendixes;
- ii. approve the Partnership Agreement for academic year 2022/23;
- iii. note that part B of the Partnership Agreement is subject to change for each academic year, depending on the Student Association priorities, and
- iv. approve the Student Mental Health agreement.

10. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Noma Dube, President of Learning and Teaching or Emma Leslie, President of Welfare, Community and Sustainability.

Glasgow Kelvin College
ND/EL
30/09/2022



Partnership Agreement 2022- 23

Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association and Glasgow Kelvin College

This document sets out the partnership between
Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Kelvin
College Student Association

Introduction

This document sets out the partnership between Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association. The engagement, involvement and representation of students (both individually and collectively) is critical to the success of Glasgow Kelvin College and the Student Association, and the advancement of the aims of the Board both at a college and regional level.

What is a partnership?

The terms 'partner' and 'partnership' are used in a broad sense to indicate joint working between the students and staff. Partnership working is based on the values of:

- openness;
- trust and Honesty;
- agreed and shared goals and values; and
- Regular communication between the partners.

It is not based on the legal conception of equal responsibility and liability; rather, partnership working recognises that all members in the partnership have legitimate but different perceptions and experiences. By working together to a common and agreed purpose steps can be taken that lead to enhancements for all concerned. The terms reflect a mature relationship based on mutual respect between students and staff.

Part A of this agreement outlines the general approaches to student engagement and partnership working between Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association 2022/23.

Part B outlines specific project aims to be jointly undertaken during academic year 2022/23.

The College and the Student Association will work together to ensure students have a positive college experience and are able to feed into the College quality processes, to enable change within not only their course but the wider working life of the College. Working through these ensures goals can be achieved in a timely and effective manner.

The purpose of this agreement is to highlight activities undertaken to improve the student experience through the partnership between Glasgow Kelvin College (The College) and Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association (GKCSA). It does not replace other strategic documents, and the activities are not limited by the document – both parties actively encourage student involvement in improving and shaping their education. This agreement is complimentary to all other local, regional, and national partnerships. Part B should be reviewed and agreed annually, before the beginning of the academic year to incorporate manifesto pledges of incoming officers. The agreement will be signed by the Presidents of GKCSA and the Principal of the College, at the beginning of each academic.

Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Student Association shall be to:

- advance the entirety of the student experience of its members;
- provide the facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations, which will improve their conditions of life by enabling or assisting them to participate in the intellect, social and other activities of or connected with Glasgow Kelvin College, of which they have need by reason of their being learners;
- act as a channel of communication between its members and the College Board and Management teams within;
- pursue any appropriate matter of interest to its members;
- represent the views and interests of learners in the college and the wider community; and
- represent the students in disciplinary procedures.

Glasgow Kelvin College Ethos

Glasgow Kelvin College's ethos derives from its commitment to Excellence, Progression and Enterprise. It seeks to provide learning opportunities of the highest quality, which engage students from the widest range of backgrounds, and support their progression to employment or to further study. It seeks to develop enterprise in individuals – as a core skill for learning, life and work; and to support enterprise in both organisations and communities – by developing the capacity of both employers and employees and of community representation.

The ethos is an inclusive one, and is developed through a series of commitments:

- commitment to the priority of the needs of individual learners;
- commitment to quality and innovation;
- commitment to ethical curriculum design;
- commitment to improving access and equality of opportunity;
- commitment to learner engagement and customer care;
- commitment to staff involvement;
- commitment to collaborative working;
- commitment to de-centralisation and outreach;
- commitment to sustainable development; and
- commitment to high standards or governance.

A strong and mutual respectful partnership with the Student Association will enable the College to reach their commitments through effective engagement of students.

Our Community

Glasgow Kelvin College and GKCSA are proud of the contribution the College makes to the local community. Our mission is to develop skills and personal attributes in our students for the benefit of the whole community in the North East of Glasgow and the surrounds. Our student body is central to that mission. Both Glasgow Kelvin College and GKCSA value the diversity of the student population, and work to make sure everyone feels welcome and supported. All staff and students should interact in a way which helps create an inclusive, pleasant and welcoming environment for all. Students at Glasgow Kelvin College are represented collectively by GKCSA. GKCSA represents the views and interests of all students to the college and other decision makers and works in partnership with the college to secure the best possible student experience.

PART A

Student Representation

Effective student representation will ensure that students are enabled to express their views and opinions through a variety of different mechanisms to shape the life of the college:

- student responses to feedback surveys and focus groups;
- course team meetings;
- class representative meetings;
- student representation on college Committees and the Board of Management and its standing committees;
- strategic planning days;
- facilitated discussions;
- Education Scotland reviews; and
- external verification events.

Each class shall have at least one class representative who will act upon the classes behalf deliver feedback to GKCSA and other relevant bodies to ensure any issues are dealt with in a timely and efficient manner. GKCSA will then engage in the College's policies and procedures to facilitate change where required and recommended.

Fair student representation on College committee's both internal and at Board level shall be encouraged by both parties and wherever possible all barriers including timetabling and transport to venue will be removed by the college when organising meetings/committees to ensure student participation.

Students shaping the Life of the College

Learner engagement is one of the three key principles on which college quality arrangements are based. College staff are increasingly involving students in shaping and agreeing how they will learn. Students provide feedback on how well learning and teaching approaches, programmes and college services meet their needs. The College uses feedback from students to make improvements to programmes and services. Staff involve students to work together to enhance and enrich the learning experience and the wider working life of the College. Managers are involving students in the planning and decision-making processes at College level, through meaningful involvement of students in cross-college collaboration, standing committees of the Board and other college committees.

The College and the Student Association have agreed to work in partnership to raise awareness and participation in the Student Association during session 2022/23, together they will:

- work intensively with class representatives to provide training and opportunities that will engage their class and implement an effective transport of communication;
- actively promote Student Association activities to engage students in their campus and greater college community; and
- support students as we adapt into a new era of blended learning and agile working.

Glasgow Kelvin College and GKCSA have agreed to work together on the following areas over the coming year. We will undertake equality impact assessments on any policies which arise from this work.

As a result of Covid-19 and the Colleges Digital Transformation Strategy, the GKCSA will be more dynamic in its engagement with the student body. This will mean increasing their online presence using Microsoft Teams, MyKelvin and various social media channels.

PART B

Health and Wellbeing

The time our students spend at college emphasises the importance of promoting health and wellbeing in the wider areas of the College and beyond. Investing in a health and wellbeing campaign can have positive outcomes both for students and staff of the college. Studies have shown there is a relationship between the psychological wellbeing of our students and positive organisational outcomes, such as reduced levels of sickness, stress, and absences as well as enhanced productivity and performance within their courses.

The College and the Student Association will:

- work closely with the Student Support Services and in particular the Wellbeing Officer and refer students to the appropriate service they require such as the counselling service,
- create a new Mental Health Agreement in conjunction with the NUS Think Positive Campaign,
- promote and support a healthy lifestyle which accommodates a student budget during a strained financial year,
- create student communities through clubs and societies, which will provide students with the opportunity to create new connections; and
- promote any sporting or positive mental awareness activities organised by the College.

Inclusion

The College takes the view that the learning experience can and should be designed to help students feel valued and included as an individual.

Diversity is at the heart of the College experience to ensure that all students feel included in the college community. Students from all backgrounds should feel encouraged to engage proactively with the Student Association and the wider life of the College. The Student Association will help to empower students that need that extra support to have their voices heard within the college.

The College and Student Association will:

- promote events and campaigns to increase awareness and inclusion for example, Black History Month, 16 Days of Action and LGBT History Month,
- support and encourage students with disabilities to participate in college life,

- work closely with the Student Support Services to encourage student participation in campaigns,
- support and empower students in which English is a second language; and
- support and provide a safe space for student who are also parents.

Communication

Communication between the students and the college is important as it provides important feedback, information and support. In response to the previous two years, many of the college's communication is now digital, which has had a great impact with getting information out to the students and so should be continued. However, we will continue to provide a hybrid approach to include all students.

The College and Association will:

- host and provide engaging events/clubs which include digital elements so all students from across our four campuses can be involved,
- provide range of communication through social media to help enhance the student experience, i.e. Microsoft Teams, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter; and
- provide students with the opportunity to give feedback and suggestions without fear, judgment, or confrontation, using a suggestion box and an online drop in session.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of gender (including gender identity/expression). It reflects and reinforces stereotypes and inequalities within society. It may deprive a person of their ability to enjoy fundamental freedoms.

Gender-based violence affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, psychological, emotional, sexual abuse, threats and also includes coercive control. Reports of gender-based violence have risen significantly over the past 6 months whilst the country has been in lockdown, we recognise this and will ensure there is appropriate support and resources available.

The Equally Safe Strategy sets out Scotland's commitment to take action on all forms of Gender-based violence. While the overarching aim is to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence

While the strategy sets out some early commitments it also develops awareness raising campaigns and gender-based violence prevention education and training programmes for students and staff.

The College and the Student Association will:

- continue to work in partnership with external organisation such as the White Ribbon Campaign, Glasgow East Woman's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland to raise awareness of gender-based violence
- look at a wide range or different external organisations which help to tackle the impacts of gender-based violence, i.e. Spike awareness and Fast Forward; and
- promote the student gender-based violence guidelines and actively seek to expand their knowledge base through online training.

Overall statement

Glasgow Kelvin College and the Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association agree to work together to pursue and address any issues arising from student feedback, as required throughout the year. Glasgow Kelvin College agrees to support the Student Association to fulfil their role to represent all students.

Through these challenging and unprecedented times, the Student Association will endeavour to support students through the use of technology and ensure that no student is disadvantaged.



Glasgow Kelvin College and the Glasgow Kelvin College Students' Association (GKCSA) agree to work collaboratively to help and support all students to develop resilience and positive mental health.

Good mental health is important to all of us, however we can all experience times where we feel less able to deal with challenging or stressful situations. Positive mental health and good wellbeing makes it more likely that students will enjoy their experience at Glasgow Kelvin College and achieve learning and development goals. The College and the Students' Association will come together to tackle the stigma of mental health and develop a culture of positive mental health and wellbeing. We believe that by working together in this way we can have a more focussed and effective approach to developing and supporting positive mental health and wellbeing.

We will work together to:

- Run college wide campaigns that promotes positive mental health
- Increase awareness of the benefits of positive mental health, good wellbeing and the contribution it can make to student success
- Support the delivery of mental health awareness training to the Student Association Executive team
- Promote positive mental health and wellbeing throughout the year, at social events and conferences
- Develop networks with other agencies and community organisations which support mental health improvement and wellbeing such as, GAMH, SAMH, and See Me
- Support and promote the further development of mental health support mechanisms available for students such as help available from Advice and Guidance, Learner Support, Counselling and the Wellbeing Officer.

Glasgow Kelvin College

Student Mental Health Agreement 2022/23

Introduction

The College recognises that our students' mental health and wellbeing is linked to success. We have joined up with the College and NUS's Think Positive campaign, to show all students how important it is to take care, build resilience and how to have positive mental wellbeing.

Purpose

The purpose of the agreement is to work in partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College staff and the Students' Association in relation to student support. This will help to ensure that full account is taken of the needs of students experiencing mental health issues.

This agreement sets out the areas that the College and the Students' Association will work closely on during the academic year. This agreement also states that the College and the Students' Association shall aim to meet the goals in the agreement and run focus groups on mental health to help our students have their voices heard.

The Students' Association will work in collaboration with the College to help coordinate events and participate in working groups.

Commitments

The College have a statutory duty of care, to provide a safe and supportive environment for all. However, it is also important to recognise where the limits and professional boundaries of Glasgow Kelvin College might lie.

The Students' Association acknowledge the commitment of the College to provide appropriate mental health support in a non-judgemental and discreet setting, within the limits of available resources.

As an education provider, the College has a duty to make reasonable adjustments if students have made staff aware of mental health issues. The adjustments are agreed between the student and the College. Any adjustment made is based on the need of the individual following a needs assessment and although not exhaustive, may include:

- Adjustment to the physical environment, including changes to the study area, introduction of a quiet area/reflection room
- Change to communication methods
- Change to assessment methods
- Extension to assignments
- Change to examination conditions, as agreed with the examining body
- Offering temporary time out / suspension of studies

Working Areas

The Students' Association have looked at the possible areas of work where we feel we can make a positive impact for our students.

The Students' Association have identified key areas and they are:

- **Promotion of College Support Services**

To assist in promoting the services that are available to students every day such as counselling and linking in with the Wellbeing Officer and signposting to other appropriate support services i.e. mindfulness classes and mental health sessions. We will do this by using social media posts, poster campaigns, all student emails, MyKelvin app, class representative meetings and Students' Association executive meetings. We will promote activities that students can access, to help with their physical health i.e. the college gyms, fitness classes and Student Association clubs.

- **Tackling Stigma**

Glasgow Kelvin College and the Students' Association will continue to work on ending the stigma that surrounds mental health issues. We will do this by continuing to raise awareness and by providing sessions that educate students of the facts surrounding mental health and the reality of living with it.

- **Student Involvement**

Mental health and wellbeing is of paramount importance to all students. Glasgow Kelvin College and the Students' Association will engage students to think about positive mental health. We will facilitate focus groups to seek students views on support offered around mental health and wellbeing. The Student Association will encourage and support students to take ownership of clubs and societies and introduce more lunchtime/after college activities.

- **Health & Wellbeing**

We acknowledge the impact on students mental health due to the previous two years. To combat this we aim to support the running and development of clubs and societies by running regular meetings to create a safe social place where students can help connect to their classmates and the wider college community. We will also strive to create wellbeing packs for students and organise events throughout the year. The student association will link with external organisation such Fast Forward, CAB, Crew and Spike awareness to causes that lead to mental issues.

- **Improving links with External Mental Health Agencies**

We will endeavour to build strong links with external mental health support organisations. Promotions, campaigns, and links to these organisations will be available within the student intranet, MyKelvin app, Microsoft Teams, social media and student SWAY newsletters. Organisations such as SAMH and NHS will be invited to attend various events throughout the year including freshers in order to strengthen partnerships. The Student Association will look to provide training to tackle mental health issue through external organisations.

Benefits

The anticipated benefits of having a Students' Mental Health Agreement include:

- Identification of joint priorities, goals and agreed actions
- Improved mental health for students and the identification of issues affecting students
- Stronger links between the College and the Students' Association to address challenging issues
- Review of policies and strategies with a view to identifying areas for development
- Dissemination of information and advice to students
- Improved partnership working with external organisations which will help students gain access to more resources