Item 09
For Discussion and Noting

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Academic Board – 2nd February 2024

Student Association Priorities Update

Report by Student Association President

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 SA 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 SA have fed back quickly to management any concerns or issues raised.

The full time Student President is now no longer in post within the college. The college Management is currently looking at options to have a second Student President in post as soon as possible to support the remaining part time President.

2. Update on activity

Class Representatives

Class Representatives played 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 were encouraged to meet with the class on their own to collect feedback from their class group. College Senior Management also encouraged Tutors to help Reps allocate some time with their class for these discussions. The class representative used the feedback to input at the course team meeting and, following the meeting, took information resulting from the discussion at the meeting back to other learners.

Class Representatives were also encouraged to ensure that their class groups were engaging with the Block 2 Stop and Check survey. This survey allows students to feedback on their learning experience at Glasgow Kelvin College and document anything the college could do to make it better and more enjoyable. Feedback from this survey will be used by the SA to identify and action any issues students are having as quickly as possible.

The SA are continuing to work closely with SPARQS (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland) to offer additional 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 initial sessions, which were delivered October 3rd, 4th and 5th. Additional 'mop up sessions' have been organised for Wednesday 24th January and Wednesday 7th February. The SA will continue to push hard to ensure Reps still requiring training are encouraged to engage.

The SA are continuing to organise regular meetings throughout the year to ensure Reps are fully supported in their role. The last meeting was held on 13th December and had good attendance and engagement.

Meet the Managers

A 'Meet the Managers' event took place on Thursday 16th November. The Student Association organised 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 included:

- 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 Storey)

This was a great opportunity for Class Reps to raise any issues from students, and for the college management to provide responses and agree actions directly to students. The SA will organise another every before the end of block 2.

This event led to a meeting between the SA and Baxter Storey management to discuss issues which were raised.

Student Executive Committee

The Student Association have 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

Some examples of progress being made by Officers include:

- Campaigns Officer aiming to progress College Development Networks (CDN) '#LoveScotlandsColleges' campaign, which celebrates the outstanding innovation, hard work and best practice that takes place across the sector every day
- Equality and Diversity Officers have been linked in with Amrit Bedi, Equalities and Inclusion Lead
- Care Experienced Officer has been linked in with Nicki Campbell, Team Leader – Advice, Guidance & Learner Support
- Sustainability Officers have been linked in with Sarah Shea, Environmental Sustainability Manager

The SA are continuing to organise regular meetings throughout the year to ensure Executive Officers are fully supported in their role. The last meeting was held on 20th December and had good attendance and engagement.

Active Campus Coordinator

The Student Association has been working closely with the college's new Active Campus Coordinator, Grant Sutherland. 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, and support the college Brit Challenge project.

Student Mental Health Agreement

Presidents have worked closely with the colleges Advice, Guidance and Wellbeing teams to produce a Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA) 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. This agreement is on the Academic Board agenda for approval.

Baxter Storey / East End Flat Pack Meals

Prior to the Christmas holidays, the SA Presidents ran a Christmas stall which, amongst other activities, provided hot chocolate to students for small cash donations. The urn, hot chocolate, cups etc. were all provided to the SA free of

charge by Baxter Storey. The money raised allowed the SA to continue the successful partnership with East End Flat Pack Meals. 30 meal bags were distributed to our students prior to the holidays.

Priorities/Next Steps

Ongoing Awareness Raising

Presidents have been continuing to work hard to raise the profile of the Student Association and will aim to have 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.

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 Dumfries and Galloway College as part of a Student Support networking and sharing good practice event.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) – short working group

Steven Donnelly, Senior Curriculum Manager – Science, Engineering and Access, has contacted the SA as he is in the process of organising an AI short working group to look at AI in teaching within the college. The group requires student involvement to ensure their perspective is voiced and considered. The SA will liaise with Class Reps to recruit suitable students for this working group.

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 at snoreiga@glasgowkelvin.a.cuk

Glasgow Kelvin College
SN
26 January 2023