

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Board of Management Meeting of 12 June 2024

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 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.

2. Update on Activity

Education Scotland annual engagement visit

The Education Scotland annual engagement visit took place on Tuesday 14th May. Along with Class Representatives, the SA Presidents attended one session which focused on the following:

- progress that has been made in making the SA more visible to learners
- progress that has been made to ensure the SA are fully representing student views
- progress that has been made to ensure Class Representatives are better aware of their role and the roles purpose

Feedback has stated that the Inspectors greatly appreciated and valued the input during this meeting and highlighted positive aspects of progress made to support more of our students. However, Inspectors also highlighted that further progress is required in relation to these areas. This will be a priority for the SA moving forward.

Class Representatives

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 Wednesday 17th April and had good attendance and engagement. The next meeting has been organised for Wednesday 5th June.

The SA are continuing to work closely with SPARQS (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland) who offer additional Class Reps introductory training to help develop confidence in their role. A meeting took place with SPARQS for Thursday 30th May to feedback and discuss ways of improving Class Rep recruitment, training, retention and ongoing engagement. These discussions will help the SA plan more effectively for session 24/25.

Student Executive Committee

The Student Association have fully recruited 11 volunteers to take up roles in the Student Executive Committee. Alongside the Student Presidents, the Executive Officers are 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.

Some examples of progress being made by Officers include:

- 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 Friday 19th April and had good attendance and engagement. The next meeting has been organised for Wednesday 5th June.

Active Campus Coordinator

The Student Association has been working closely with the college's 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.

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 new agreement is now live after being approved by the Academic Board in February.

National Union of Students (NUS) Conference

NUS is led by students and students' unions. Every year they run a series of events across the UK to bring together students and build focused, high-impact campaigns. These events are NUS' democratic conferences and held in each part of the UK, plus a dedicated Liberation Conference. Conferences also serve as a space to shape upcoming priorities for students, students' unions, and NUS.

A GKC Student President attended the Scottish conference, held in Stirling on 27th and 28th March.

Environmental & Sustainability projects

The SA has been supporting the Environmental and Sustainability Manager, Sarah Shea, with progress of 'Planet Earth Games'. This project allows GKC students to participate in a number of activities and challenges surrounding sustainability, with an emphasis on sustainable sport. This project will help students develop leadership skills and share knowledge and new ideas of sustainability. We will continue to work with Sarah, our students and community partners on a variety of projects throughout the year.

Student President Elections

Elections for the 2024-25 Student Association Sabbatical President roles took place in May. Nominations for these posts opened on Monday 22nd April for a two-week period, with the elections being held from Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd May. The results confirmed that the following two students will now go forward as the Student Association Presidents for Session 24/25 and will take up posts on Monday 1st July.

- **Ryan Donachie:** Full Time President – Welfare, Community and Sustainability
- **Chantell McCallum:** Part Time President – Learning & Teaching

The SA Presidents would like to thank all students who took part in the vote and congratulate Ryan and Chantell.

Priorities/Next Steps

Meet the Managers

A Block 2 'Meet the Managers' event was organised by the SA for Wednesday 21st February to provide Class Reps with another opportunity to meet college Senior Managers to discuss students' experience of the college.

Panelist management included:

- Robin Ashton – Vice Principal, Curriculum and Quality Enhancement
- Jeanette Evans – Vice Principal, Operations
- Lisa Clark – Director for Estates and Corporate Services
- Monica McKerlie – Head of Student Support Services
- Michelle Harding – Head of Digital and ICT Operations

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 planned to organise another event before the end of block 3, however this has not been possible due to ongoing industrial action.

Ongoing Student Association Awareness Raising

In response to Education Scotland feedback, the 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 rest of the session. Presidents have also been working with the college's Marketing team to develop an updated strategy for the SA. 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. The SA Presidents also visited Dumfries and Galloway College on Thursday 4th April as part of a Student Support networking and sharing good practice event.

Future planning

Presidents will continue to be involved in meetings relating to 'Pre-course planning and retuning to college for session 24/25'. The college's Learner Engagement Officer returns from maternity leave early in June and will be actively involved in planning for session 24/25.

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 and Calum Campbell, President Welfare, Community and Sustainability.

Glasgow Kelvin College
CC/SN
31 May 2024