

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE**Learning & Teaching Committee 26 February 2025****Student Association Priorities Update****Report by Student Association President****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress being made by the Student Association (SA) this session with raising the profile of the student voice.

**2. Update on Activity****Class Representatives**

Class Representatives have had the opportunity to participate in training developed and delivered by Sparqs (Student Partnership in Quality Scotland). Training is made available at the beginning of the academic year, with catch up sessions offered in December and February. In-house training has been developed and was delivered by the Learner Engagement Officer in January, to increase Class Reps knowledge of their role and make them more aware of the activities that take place within the college.

This has helped the SA to strengthen Class Representatives confidence and knowledge of their roles as well as making them more aware of college mechanisms to provide feedback. This has also allowed more opportunities for Learner Engagement. This ensures that the student voice is not only better heard but that it actively influences the student experience at the college.

Student Executive Committee

At the moment we have an active ESOL and International Officer and an LGBTQ+ Officer. These Officers have established clubs, with the ESOL speaking club in particular having consistently good engagement and attendance. Due to course workload and other factors, some of the Executive have yet to engage fully in their roles.

By providing support for officers and by strengthening opportunities for engagement, this ensures that voluntary officers can effectively support students wants, interests and needs.

Fundraising

Leading on from the success of the Halloween raffle, we sold Christmas raffle tickets in order to raise funds for the student pantry. We had two Christmas hampers up for grabs, one containing an Amazon gift voucher and the other with a tour of a football ground, £140 was

raised. There was also an initiative to run a toy drive, where donated items were offered to students to supplement Christmas gifts for their children.

These initiatives have helped to amplify the influence of the student voice by addressing real student challenges and encouraging community engagement across the college.

Microwaves, hot water facilities & breakfast

Having access to microwaves and kettles has been requested by students over the years. Health and safety and cleanliness were the main concerns which resulted in no offer available to students. However, these have now been overcome and all three campuses have access to these facilities. Students are happy they are now able to bring and heat their own food.

Students also now have access to free breakfast items, which includes toast, breakfast bars, fruit and a hot drink. This initiative has been very successful, with students and staff praising it. This will hopefully help students who are struggling financially and those who do not have access to food in the morning.

By ensuring that student needs are met and demonstrating the impact of student feedback, the introduction of these facilities strengthens the presence and importance of the student voice within the college.

Student Pantry/clothing bank

The popularity of the student pantry and clothing bank is increasing. Staff and students have been generous with donations to both, and the college were kind enough to donate £250 to the pantry before the Christmas holidays. We also received a £105 donation from a staff member, who raised funds at a social event.

We currently have a number of students who are volunteering at the clothing bank and helping to sort out the donations we receive. Volunteers assist by sorting items by size and gender and preparing bags for distribution to the East End and Easterhouse campuses. Student volunteers also assist in managing the food bank, regularly checking for and removing outdated or soon-to-expire items and prioritising the distribution of food nearing its expiration date.

By addressing real needs and encouraging collaboration, this initiative promotes that the student voice is at the heart of the college's efforts to create a supportive and inclusive environment.

Meet the Managers events

A Block 2 'Meet the Managers' event took place on Monday 20 January. 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.

Panellist management included:

- Robin Ashton – Vice Principal, Curriculum and Quality Enhancement
- Jeanette Evans – Vice Principal, Operations
- Lisa Clark – Director for Estates and Corporate Services
- Alastair McGhee – Director of Student Experience and Business Development

- Michelle Harding – Head of Digital and ICT Operations
- Claire Reid – Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability

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. Any issues or concerns raised before or during the meeting will be passed to the relevant person to provide a response in the style of 'You Said, We did'.

Meet the Managers allows the college to strengthen student representation and build confidence in relation to student engagement amongst Class Reps and Executive Committee members. This event highlights the importance of student input and reinforces and promotes the student voice as a key part of college decision-making.

Student Association Assistants

Due to the departure of the full-time Sabbatical Officer, a decision was made that instead of going through the election process, which is not possible in this situation, that elected SA members would be more appropriate to cover the hours and some of the tasks of the full time Officer. We sent information to elected Class Reps and Executive Members, along with a Microsoft Form, stating our intentions to hire some students within this cohort. Seven applications were received through Microsoft Forms, and informal interviews took place on Thursday 30 January with five of the candidates.

The successful candidates have now been selected and authority to recruit forms have been approved, we will hopefully have the staff members in place at the end of February/beginning of March. Our new Assistants will allow the SA to be more time-committed in ensuring the student voice remains active and influential within the college.

Student Hub

The development of the Springburn student hub is underway, with an external company looking at sizes and what furniture would fit and work well within the space. Engagement with students has taken place, and their ideas and suggestions have been expressed during the development of the hub meetings with managers.

This project relies heavily on feedback from students and will, in turn, enhance the overall student experience at the college.

Continuing to Raise the Profile of the Student Association

The Student President continues to raise the profile of the Student Association, in various ways, mainly through the use of Microsoft Teams and social media platforms. Face to face events, including stalls at the different campuses, continue to be held in collaboration with the Holistic Working Group.

The Student Association will continue to encourage students to become more engaged with some of the above activities, especially the 'Meet the Managers' event. The Student Association will continue to encourage students to engage with college activities, such as the 'Stop and Check' survey, course team meetings and the Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey.

Through continuous engagement and promotion of activities and opportunities, the SA will keep raising the profile of the student voice, ensuring that it remains central to the student experience and that it has influence in the decision-making of the college.

3. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4. Impact on Students

There are no impacts on students arising directly from this report.

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 Chantell McCallum, President of Learning & Teaching.

Glasgow Kelvin College
CM
17 February 2025