

Item 07c
For Discussion and Noting

Glasgow Kelvin College

Board of Management Meeting of 12 March 2025

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.

2. Update on Activity

Class Representatives

Throughout the academic year, Class Reps have had the opportunity to participate in class representative training organised by Sparqs. Final catch-up sessions were organised by Sparqs in February to ensure Class Reps who missed the previous sessions had the opportunity to attend. The Learner Engagement Officer also delivered in house training sessions to Class Reps, which developed their understanding of their roles and activities specific to the college. The training was also adapted to be delivered to a small amount of ESOL Class Reps, to help with their understanding of the role.

Around 80 Reps have received training. We will increase this number next academic year by offering in house training earlier in the academic year, which will be designed to include college specific engagement activities.

Meet the Managers

A Block 2 'Meet the Managers' event was organised by the SA for Monday 20th January 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
- 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 Studies

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.

A 'You Said, We Did' information leaflet has been produced and sent to Class Reps to distribute to their classes. The Block 3 Meet the Managers will be organised in due course.

Student Association Assistants

Due to the departure of the full-time Sabbatical Officer in December, a decision was made that instead of going through the election process, which was not possible in this situation, that elected SA members would be more appropriate to cover some of the hours and tasks of the full time Officer. After completing an application and interview process, Jon Craig and Isabelle Price were the two successful candidates.



Both have commenced their roles and are working alongside the current President to help increase visibility of the Student Association, and engage and support students throughout the last block of the academic year. The Assistants have already had meetings and information sessions with e.g. the Health and Safety Manager and the Equality and Inclusion Lead. Both are also completing their online Workrite modules and will undertake any training to help with the development of their roles.

Having new staff members will bring fresh perspectives into the Student Association as, amongst other interests, Jon has a great awareness of LGBTQ+ and Isabelle is keen to help push the College Sustainability agenda.

Microwaves, hot water facilities & breakfast

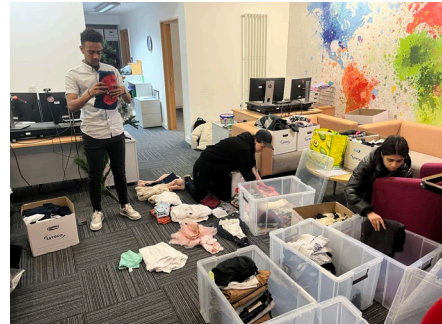
Having access to microwaves and kettles has been requested by students over the years. Health and safety and cleanliness were the main concerns which resulted in no offer available to students. However, these have now been overcome and all three campuses have access to these facilities. Students are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

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. We also received a £105 donation from a staff member, who raised funds at a social event they organised.

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.



Student Hub

The development of the Springburn Student Hub is well underway, with an external company providing options and quotes for furniture options that would fit and work well within the space. Engagement with students took place, and their ideas and suggestions have been expressed during the development of the Hub meetings with managers. This project will also benefit our East End and Easterhouse campuses as they will be provided with gaming activities for their student common room areas.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

The SA have been promoting SDS Career Advisor services through its channels. This includes advertising the monthly drop-in sessions at the East End campus and providing a QR code and contact number for students to use outside of the drop-in session time. These services help our student to be supported with:

- Getting into work or further learning
- Exploring your skills
- Creating CVs
- Prepping for interviews

From April, the monthly drop-in sessions will also be offered in our Springburn and Easterhouse campuses. These will also be on the first Tuesday of each month as a pilot with evaluation over the summer break before planning more of this activity for session 25/26.

White Ribbon

The College has a long-standing partnership with White Ribbon Scotland. We will be reigniting the campaign within the college and have attended an event at Queen Street train station to promote the campaign. We organised a training session for students and staff members, delivered by White Ribbon Scotland, to become White Ribbon national speakers. Around 10 students and 2 staff members went through the training on Thursday 20th February. We are in the process of developing training materials, which will be delivered to our students, with a focus on predominately male courses.

Priorities/Next Steps

Class Representatives

During block 3, the Student Association will gather feedback from Class Representatives to allow us to better support future Class Reps and also assist the college to improve the overall student experience. A Student Association Class Representative meeting will be arranged before the Easter break, which will allow any concerns or issues to be addressed, where possible, during the break.

Equality and awareness days

The President, along with the new Assistants, have begun planning for activities over Block 3, which tie in with equality, diversity and inclusion, awareness raising and World International days.

Some of these events include Autism Awareness Day, International Women's Day and Trans Day of Visibility. We have approached Therapets about the possibility of coming into the college on International Guide Dog Day, this could also help students alleviate stress during exam times.

Pop Up stands

Throughout Block 3 the Student Association, alongside the Holistic Development Team, will be holding pop up stalls in the various campuses. This will increase the visibility of the Student Association and allow us to promote our initiatives, e.g. the clothing bank and food bank, as well as allowing us to promote the upcoming elections for 25/26 Student Presidents.

Student President Elections

Glasgow Kelvin College Students' Association will soon begin the recruitment process for new Student Presidents for academic year 2025-26. Marketing have been supporting the recruitment campaign by creating promotional materials that will help entice students to run for election. By promoting earlier in the year, we hope to attract a higher number of good quality candidates. These roles attract a good salary and are a fantastic opportunity to get high-level experience in leading an organisation, representing students' voices at the highest level of the college and making a real difference to the lives and experiences of students. Nominations for these posts will open on Monday 28th April for a two-week period. With the elections being held from Tuesday 27th – Friday 30th May.

The SA and college management are keen to ensure that future Presidents are successful in their role and have been discussing how the college can ensure we get the right candidates to represent the student views. Please see 'Appendix A' attached to this paper for agreed plans for improving the effectiveness of Student Association President recruitment.

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 Chantell McCallum, President of Learning and Teaching.

Glasgow Kelvin College
CMcC
04 March 2025

2025-26 Students' Association Election Approach

To support recruitment and encourage wider participation the following approaches have been agreed. Discussions included a review of the promotion of election and the process, ways to encourage those already engaged with the SA to stand as presidents and ensuring induction and support is in place for successful candidate. The agreed actions to improve this for session 25/26 elections are outlined below.

Glasgow Kelvin College Students' Association will soon begin the promotion and recruitment process for new Student Presidents for academic year 2025-26. Nominations for these posts will open on Monday 28th April for a two-week period. With the elections being held from Tuesday 27th – Friday 30th May.

We will progress three broad approaches to the Student Association President elections and recruitment process:

1. Promoting the role/opportunity

We will undertake a range of promotional activities to increase students' understanding of the opportunity. This will include face to face presentations to existing classes, use of social media and organising and promoting hustling events.

Proper marketing and awareness raising will start earlier in the session to allow people to consider becoming a SA President and all that it will involve, we will be clear on what the job involves including responsibilities of the post and being a Board Member.

Marketing team will help with promotion and defining the Student President role clearly, where it fits in college structures and how it supports other activities to encourage Learner engagement.

2. Nurturing internal candidates

We will support succession planning by nurturing our existing Class Representatives and Student Association Executive members. We will do this by supporting them to develop their skills in experience in activities related to the responsibilities of the Student President role, and encouraging them to see their current activity as preparation for potentially progressing to be a President in the following year.

We will develop and provide briefing sessions for candidates to ensure they understand the role and how they can play a part in representing students, learner engagement and gathering the student voice i.e. surveys, focus groups, Meet the Managers.

3. Induction Programme

In the past new candidates have been given limited time to settle into role before session starts and often have lots of ideas to introduce.

The development induction programme would ensure they are given support and information to allow them to carry out role better, induction could include: Introduction to college, HR input on staff policies, role and expectations of Board members and how to prioritise actions.