Item 08
For Discussion and Noting

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Academic Board - 30 August 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.

2. Update on Activity

New Student Presidents Taken Office

The new Student Presidents have taken office on the 1st of July 2024. They are:
- Ryan Donachie – Student President of Welfare, Community & Sustainability (Full-Time)
- Chantell McCallum – Student President of Learning & Teaching (Part-Time)

Freshers Festival

Both Presidents have spent the first month of their terms planning for our Freshers Festival events. These events ran across all three campuses across the week beginning 12th of August.

Each of these events were attended by a mix of organisations whose service is of importance to students. Some of the activities which were booked for students include arcade machines, a photo booth magic mirror, alpacas & gaming competitions.

Feedback from the event has been excellent, with positive feedback from students, staff and stallholders.

Some issues with the format of the event, and the time management of the SA Presidents have been identified throughout this year's planning, with both Presidents being unable to progress any of the priorities of the SA within the first six weeks of their commencement of office. The SA Presidents will work with the pre-course planning group, and other relevant departments to explore options on ensuring the SA Presidents are able to spend time working on priorities other than Freshers/Meet your Classmates, at the start of their terms.

Partnership with Baxter Storey

The Student Association have met with Baxter Storey managers, who were invited to have a presence at our Freshers' events. We were pleased that they confirmed that they wanted to be involved.

They arranged a selection of free samples for students, as well as running competitions for free food and drink, giving away free slushies and making significant improvements to the service provision in both Springburn and the East End campus.

Baxter Storey will be invited to have a presence at all SA events within the East End and Springburn campuses, with new signage and menu boards, and a new salad bar at Springburn, as well as a new kitchen and additional options at the East End Campus, including improvements to the breakfast options to offer healthier alternatives to cooked breakfast rolls.

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. We have agreed to the SA sponsorship of the College football team and will soon be placing an order for a new set of college football strips.

Student Mental Health Agreement

Last terms presidents worked closely with the College's Advice, Guidance and Wellbeing teams to produce a Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA) with NUS Think Positive.

Both SA Presidents will progress this work across the year.

Ryan has met with Advice Guidance & Learner Support and Wellbeing colleagues to discuss the work on-going. Several mental health and wellbeing specific events will be held throughout the year by both college departments and the SA. These events will include space for external organisations who provide specialist services, widening access to community services for our students.

'Kelvin Student Association' Rebrand

The SA Presidents have been working closely with the college marketing department on planning for our upcoming re-brand.

The SA Presidents felt that the current name of the SA (Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association) is too long, and that the logo is both outdated and childish. As a result, the decision was made to move forward with a rebrand immediately after Freshers' week.

The rebrand will see the name of the SA changing to 'Kelvin Student Association' or 'KSA', in addition to a new logo and branding, which has been developed in partnership between the SA presidents and the marketing team.

An additional part of this re-brand includes the re-decoration of the SA office, making it more comfortable and inviting for students, as well as the creation of 'Student Information Walls' in all three campuses, filled with information on both internal and external services available to students.

We want to thank the marketing team for their support on this, including the re-decoration of our office, which we now feel is much more accessible for students.

The Re-brand will be complete no later than 1st September 2024.

Industrial Action Impact on Students

The SA Presidents have continued to monitor the industrial dispute between EIS-Fela and College Employers Scotland.

Meetings between EIS-Fela and the SA Presidents will continue across the length of the dispute, which the SA Presidents are very appreciative of. As a representative organisation for our students, we will continue to work with any staff union to find ways in which we can work together to build a strong, rewarding and enjoyable student experience for our students. We thank EIS-Fela and Unison for both their professionalism and their friendship.

We remain hopeful that the dispute can be settled early in the academic year. We will continue to monitor the situation and the impact on students.

Priorities/Next Steps

Partnership Agreement

Work on the partnership agreement is ongoing. The Learner Engagement Officer is due to return to post soon and this will help to ensure the agreement's continuity and development between the College and the SA.

Ongoing Student Association Awareness Raising

In response to Education Scotland feedback, the Presidents will be 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. With a commitment from each president to work at each campus 1 day per week, or even more where this is possible.

We have also started to develop new promotional material, as well as the addition of more SA information on the campus TV screens. A new screen has been added outside the SA office which will feature only information about the SA and the work we are doing. This will be updated regularly and will include digitized leaflets, job & volunteering opportunities, images and videos.

The addition of a 'Media & Communications Officer' to the SA Executive will help with the raising of the SA social media profile.

Learning Styles & Learning Resources

Chantell will continue to work hard on her priority of improving access to learning resources to students, with an additional focus on neurodivergent learning. We will produce new learning resources for students, on a peer-made basis. We will also continue to build our network of external resources and accessible services. Chantell will reach out to Nicki Campbell, Team Leader – Advice, Guidance & Learner Support to have related discussions.

Pantry/Swapshop

The SA Presidents will continue the work to open our own pantry/swapshop.

In the coming weeks we will be forming our joint student/staff steering group. Anyone interested in being part of this should contact either of the SA Presidents.

External funding applications will be submitted in the coming months.

SA Executive Committee Recruitment

The SA Presidents spent freshers week engaging with students about our SA Executive Committee. We will continue this work over the coming weeks and aim to have them in place as soon as possible.

We hope to be able to form smaller 'working groups' whose focus will be leading on areas of interest for those groups.

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 Ryan Donachie, President of Welfare, Community & Sustainability or Chantell McCallum, President of Learning & Teaching.

Glasgow Kelvin College
RD/CM
19 August 2024