

Board of Management

Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee

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| Date of Meeting | 20 September 2023 |
| Paper No. | LTSEC1-D |
| Agenda Item | 4.1 |
| Subject of Paper | Students' Association Representation Update |
| FOISA Status | Disclosable |
| Primary Contact | Leo Subido |
| Date of production | 8 September 2023 |
| Action | For Discussion |

1. Recommendations

To discuss and note the “asks” from the Students’ Association (SA) surrounding the SA representation systems that influence the Student Experience.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of progress across the Students’ Association representation systems. The overview includes information on this year’s Class Rep system, Faculty Rep Roles, Student Parliament Election and an update to on CitySA AGM motions.

The Students’ Association has some “asks” of staff teams around encouraging engagement of students with our representation systems that they hope will be agreeable to teams.

3. Context

The Students' Association is the recognised representative channel between students, City of Glasgow College and other education sector partners. The representation systems discussed in this paper are part of the wider representational role of the SA.

One of our strategic aims in our new [Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#) is to ensure that staff, students and stakeholders are aware of and actively promote student-led democracy in enhancing the Student Learning Experience.

Our [Student Partnership Agreement](#) helps ensure that our systems are working effectively and provides an outline of how the Students' Association works in partnership with the College.

4. Key Insights

4.1 Class Rep System

Our Class Representative program has been vital in maintaining effective communication between students and their academic departments. So much so, it is currently shortlisted for a SPARQS Student Engagement Award. To continue this success, we wish to expand on the engagement of our Reps by introducing reward milestones for their work this year. This system would see consecutive positive engagement with meetings, training, etc., leading to reps securing a small thank you treat.

For noting – In addition to [supporting the election of Class Reps](#) (8.8% elected as of 11th Sept) we would like to ask staff to share rep engagement opportunities with students where possible.

4.2 Faculty Reps

Faculty Reps are responsible for gathering information from students and Class Reps in their faculty to feedback to Faculty Boards throughout their term, aiming to improve the Student Experience. The SA support the College in electing these Faculty Reps every October as part of the Student Parliament elections, where Faculty Reps also have a seat.

For noting - For faculty staff to encourage suitable candidates to consider these roles and signpost them to the SA for election support/information.

4.3 Student Parliament

Student Parliament acts as the governing body of the Students' Association, driving the asks of students (via AGM motions) as well as managing decisions, in term of requests for action of CitySA. This system is designed to drive positive changes and enhance the overall student experience. As mentioned above, Faculty Reps will make up a proportion of Student Parliament alongside the existing Presidential team. Remaining seats are elected from other representative student groups. This year they are:

- Accessibility Officer
- LGBT+ Officer
- Mature Student Officer
- New to Glasgow Officer
- BIPOC Officer
- Cadets Officer

For noting - For faculty staff to encourage students to consider these roles and signpost them to the SA for election support/information.

4.4 AGM Overview

Every year in May we ask students to submit areas of work they would like the SA to work on in the following year and then go on to vote for the preferred work area. Please see appendixes for a full summary of what has passed and been actioned in the last three years.

Student Pantry

The Students' Association were successful in acquiring £7000 of funding from GSVC to support this AGM motion. The pantry aims to support the wellbeing of our students by providing access to essential food and resources. The SA held a 'soft launch' of the pantry at the start of the semester, opening three days a week for students to access.

For noting - As the SA seeks additional support through funding and partnerships, resources are limited. To ensure that our service is supporting those who need it most, whilst avoiding means-testing, we are asking that staff use discretion when signposting students to the pantry.

Sensory room

During the 2021/22 AGM, students voted in favour for the SA to set up a sensory room. The sensory room aims to support students that struggle with the over stimulation of the College environment, which disproportionately affects our students with additional support needs. In our attempts to obtain a space, we were faced by the challenge of limited spaces within the College.

For noting - The SA have provision and funding to set up a sensory space. We are seeking support in finding a space to repurpose at City Campus and Riverside.

5. Impact and Implications

Having wider college staff support for our representative systems is important for ensuring the continuous improvement of the Student Experience. Staff support ensures that students throughout the College have the opportunity to actively engage in representation and have influence on their learning journey.

Having a diverse range of students within our representation system, parliament roles give students the opportunity to give guidance to the Students' Association on how our work will impact minority groups at the College.

There are no financial, regulatory or other implications of these asks.

Appendixes

| Academic Year 2021/22 | | |
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| Topic | Progress Notes | RAG |
| Constitution Updated | Completed in July 2021 | Green |
| Green Impact | Green Impact Excellent Award Secured in 2021 | Green |
| LGBT Charter | Gold Charter Mark to be signed off by LGBT Youth Scotland in Sept 2023 | Yellow |
| Sensory Room Established | Following last year's success of the Student Space Review group, we would look to re-introduce this year (see below). | Red |

| Academic Year 2022/23 | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------|
| Topic | Progress Notes | RAG |
| White Ribbon Pledge | Completed in Nov 2022 | Green |
| Improve SA Space | Completed Oct 2022 | Green |
| Student Pantry Set Up | Soft Launch Aug 2023 (see below), following securing of £7000 GCVS funds in Mar 2023. | Yellow |

| Academic Year 2023/24 | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------|
| Topic | Progress Notes | RAG |
| Neurodivergent Campaigns | Raised as part of the City Partnership Forum, plans to include thread at Learning and Teaching Conference Jan 2024. | Yellow |
| Inclusive Sports | New fitness clubs and two new partnerships established (Aug 2023 onwards). Funding application submitted to Weir Charitable Trusts to secure further resources, outcome expected in Dec 2023. | Yellow |
| CitySA App | App has been developed over summer. Soft launch planned following September weekend 2023. | Yellow |