

## Board of Management

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 4 October 2023</b>
<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>BoM1-G</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Subject of Paper</b>	<b>Students' Association Semester One Update</b>
<b>FOISA Status</b>	<b>Disclosable</b>
<b>Primary Contact</b>	<b>Leo Subido / Josh Taylor</b>
<b>Date of production</b>	<b>27 September 2023</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>

### 1. Recommendations

The Board is asked to discuss the Students' Association's (SA) updates on Semester One.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief overview and facilitate discussion on the progress that the Students' Association has made towards engaging with our wider student body and raising awareness of the campaign work we do in Semester One.

### 3. Context

Every year the Students' Association outlines their programme of work after consultations with student reps, during their induction and through the Annual General Meetings (AGM). We identify Presidential team manifesto aims that fit in the with Students' Association's Strategic Plan.

## 4. Key Insights

### 4.1 AGM

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.

In the 2022/23 Academic year our students put forward and approved the following motions:

- Neurodivergence campaigns
- Inclusive sport campaign
- Launch of the CitySA app

### 4.2 Presidential Team Ambitions

This year, our Presidential Team outlined the following as their key priorities for the year:

- To continue to develop our Transgender and Non-binary Awareness campaigns
- Creating inclusive societies and sports
- Campaign for inclusion and awareness of neurodivergence in education.
- Improving the value of and engagement with Class Rep systems
- Supporting students through the Cost-of-Living Crisis
- Engaging students with internal, regional, and national student-led campaigns

### 4.3 Freshers Fair

The Freshers Fair took place from August 15th to the 21st at City Campus, coinciding with Student Induction Week. We worked with City of Glasgow staff to ensure a seamless transition for students from their introductions to the Freshers Fair as we identified that this is a curtail time for building students' awareness of the SA. Furthermore, we strategically invited exhibitors whose offerings aligned with students' academic courses.

Additionally, we hosted our Riverside Freshers event on September 5th and 6<sup>th</sup>. This was a collaborate event with business managers, and we saw a turnout of over 3000 students participating in both events.

Notably, our social media presence experienced significant growth, with an increase on our social media following:

**Instagram** - up 12.5%

**TikTok** - up 38.2%

**Facebook** - up 1%

**Twitter** - up 4.1%

With an initial sign up of over 120 students to our SA App which we are launching after October break.

Freshers generated £800 from income from exhibitors' stalls, and we secured a £5,000 advertisement contract with Native.

## 4.4 Community Pantry

At our AGM 2021/22, 295 students voted on proposals submitted by students. Out of these students, 291 students (98%) voted in favour of creating a community pantry to support students tackle food insecurity.

[The Thriving Learners Report](#) indicated that 37% of students were facing food insecurity, while [NUS Cost of living Survey](#) indicated that more than 25% of students are living on less than £50 a month (£1.79 a day) after rent and bills.

The Students' Association were successful in acquiring £7000 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. We are currently reviewing our operational hours to extend available times for students and the food we provide.

## 4.5 Gender Affirming Grant

Last year the SA launched our Herald award-winning Trans Inclusion campaign which supported our students that identified as Trans, Non-Binary and Gender Non-conforming.

From working on our LGBT+ Gold Charter (set to achieve by December 2023) we saw the impact of mental health and student attainment [numbers in education](#). From these findings we have launched our new [Gender Affirming Grant](#).

The grant aims to reduce the physical, mental, and financial barriers caused by gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria can have a huge impact on an individual's well-being, health and comfort participating in college life. The launch of the grant aims to support students that cannot financially buy gender-affirming items that help to alleviate dysphoria.

## 5. Impact and Implication

While many operational pieces within the SA are continuous, failure to meet or progress with the operational objectives outlined each year could result in the reduction of positive student engagement and/or meaningful student representation. By supporting and engaging with our students that are disproportionately affected by economic and social barriers, we aim to engage with students most at risk of course withdrawal.

Our student members have also indicated that the work undertaken this year has been valuable, engaging, and inclusive, which has led to an increase in engagement across all SA groups.