

Board of Management

Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 17 September 2024
Paper No.	LTSEC1-C
Agenda Item	4.1
Subject of Paper	Student Association Update
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Ciara McCarthy / Valeria Ramos
Date of production	9 September 2024
Action	For Discussion

1. Recommendations

To update the Committee on the work of the Students' Association (SA) surrounding the SA representation systems that influence the Student Experience.

2. Purpose

3. Consultation

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 systems

Our Class Representative program has been essential in maintaining effective communication between students and their academic departments. To maintain success, we will continue to engage our representatives by implementing reward milestones for their work, similar to last year. This system will build on the positive engagement with meetings, training, check-ins and other representative events observed in the last academic year, eventually leading to representatives receiving a small thank-you treat.

As of 9th September, 10% of classes have an elected rep, and we hope to see this naturally increase as courses settle and elections occur within the classroom.

For Noting: Alongside [supporting the election of Class Reps](#) we would like to ask staff to share rep engagement opportunities with students where possible.

4.2. Faculty Ambassadors

The Faculty Ambassadors (FAs) are responsible for gathering feedback from students and Class Representatives within their faculty and relaying this information to Faculty Boards to improve the Student Experience. They also support the Vice President of Learning and Teaching in training and assisting the class reps. In addition, the Faculty Ambassadors have seats in the Student Parliament, which gives them a platform to communicate updates and information from Faculty Boards. Our Faculty Ambassador roles are paid positions this year, which we believe will allow for more consistent engagement at Faculty Board level alongside their other commitments.

For Noting: We request that staff encourage their class reps to communicate openly with Faculty Ambassadors and make themselves aware of which Faculty Ambassador is assigned to their faculty. This information can be found on the SA website.

4.3. Student Parliament

The Student Parliament operates as the governing body of the Students' Association. It represents the student voice through AGM motions and oversees decisions related to CitySA. This system is aimed at driving positive changes and enhancing the student experience. As mentioned, Faculty Ambassadors and the existing Presidential team will be part of the Student Parliament. The remaining seats are filled through elections from other representative student groups, with elections due to take place at the end of September 2024. This year, the representative student groups include:

- Disabled Officer
- LGBTQ+ Officer
- ESOL Officer
- Care Officer
- Refugee Officer
- Mature Officer

For Noting: We would like staff to encourage their students to nominate themselves for any of the above roles when nominations open.

Student Pantry

After the success of our student pantry last academic year, we have relocated to a new facility at City Campus. The Pantry is now located at the Café outlet in the SA space at City Campus and a newly installed counter at the Riverside campus. Our pantry aims to support the well-being of our students by providing access to essential food and resources. The pantry was launched at the start of the semester, and it will be open two days and one afternoon every day for students to access. Recruitment for student pantry volunteers is ongoing.

For Noting: We encourage staff to signpost appropriately to this resource

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 vote for the preferred work. Please see the appendixes for a full summary of what has been passed and been actioned in the last four years.

We Can Campaign

The 'We Can' campaign was developed after the 2023/24 AGM motion for the Student Association to lead campaigns that celebrate and support neurodivergent students. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of neurodiversity, which includes a variety of conditions such as ADHD, Autism, and other neurodivergences. A video campaign was launched featuring students and staff sharing their dream jobs to showcase the opportunities available to neurodiverse students.

This academic year, we are exploring various ways to further progress this work, including the potential to pursue accreditation and create newsletters that share student stories.

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 engage in representation actively and have an influence on their journey.

Having a diverse range of students within our representation systems, such as parliament roles, allows students to offer guidance to the Students' Association on how our work will impact minority groups at the College.

Appendices

Academic Year 2021/22		
Topic	Progress Notes	RAG
Constitution Updated	Completed in July 2021	Green
Green Impact	Green Impact Excellent Award Secured in 2021	Green
LGBT Charter	Achieved LGBT+ Gold Charter (Nov 2023)	Green
Sensory Room Established	Space has been approved for this use. This work is now passed over to the Learning Support team who are finalising the space for opening by October Break 2024.	Green

Academic Year 2022/23		
Topic	Progress Notes	RAG
White Ribbon Pledge	Completed in Nov 2022	Green
Improve SA Space	Completed Oct 2022. Continuous improvements made in 23.24 including introduction of laptop loan scheme at city campus and new signage.	Green
Student Pantry	Pantry established ahead of pilot year of 23.24. Moved into New Facilities July 2024.	Green

Academic Year 2023/24		
Topic	Progress Notes	RAG
Neurodivergent Campaigns	'We Can' Campaign launched last academic year and looking into potential avenues to support this work further.	Yellow
Inclusive Sports	New fitness clubs and two new partnerships established (Aug 2023 onwards).	Green

	<p>Worked alongside Active Campus Coordinator to provide opportunities for Student Accessibility Network.</p> <p>Supported sporting activities for Riverside students through funding of football tournament.</p>	
CitySA App	<p>App was developed over summer of 2023 and launched in academic year 23.24.</p> <p>Feedback from app users will be used for ongoing improvements to our digital presence in Academic year 24.25</p>	

Academic Year 2024/25		
Topic	Progress Notes	RAG
Further support for International/ESOL students	<p>ESOL Officer and Refugee Officer role in Student Parliament.</p> <p>Research phase on the needs of students.</p>	
Integration of Trans liberation work into SA operational activity	<p>Gender Affirming Grant first ran in 23/24 will be delivered again this year.</p> <p>LGBT Officer in Student Parliament.</p>	
More paid opportunities for students in the Association	Development of the Faculty Ambassador role.	
Campaign for a college community garden	Research phase planned, learning from experience of other institutions.	