

Board of Management

Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 12 November 2024
Paper No.	LTSEC2-B
Agenda Item	4.2
Subject of Paper	Students' Association Update on Class Reps
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Valeria Ramos
Date of production	4/11/2024
Action	For Discussion and Decision

1. Recommendations

To update the Committee on the work of the Students' Association (SA) surrounding the SA representation systems that influence the Student Experience and discuss the recently introduced "opt-out" system.

2. Purpose

3. Consultation

The Students' Association is the recognised representative channel between students, the City of Glasgow College and other education sector partners. The representation systems discussed in this paper are part of the broader symbolic 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 to enhance the Student Learning Experience.

Our [Student Partnership Agreement](#) helps ensure that our systems work effectively and outlines how the Students' Association works in partnership with the College.

4. Key Insights

4.1 Class Reps- Elections

Our Class Representatives are crucial in facilitating effective communication between students and their academic departments. We have seen positive engagement among faculties during the Class Rep elections, resulting in 83% of classes having an elected Rep. A detailed breakdown of this engagement can be found in the appendices.

We have also introduced an opt-out system for classes, allowing them to decide not to elect a class representative for various reasons, following feedback from both students and lecturing teams regarding cases where electing a designated Class Rep does not feel necessary. In such cases, the lecturer must complete a form outlining the reasons for the absence of an elected Class Rep and a description of how they will still ensure the student's voice is heard within their class.

Communications have been sent to Associate Deans (ADs) and Curriculum Heads (CHs) regarding this opt-out process. We encourage any classes that do not have representatives to use this opportunity to either elect or choose to opt out.

4.2 Class Reps- Training Engagement

In addition to having a positive number of class representatives, 46% of elected Reps have completed their training. We have also scheduled training sessions to accommodate students' timetables and ensure that all class representatives can participate, averaging 8 different training sessions per week for students to choose from. To increase this training percentage, more training sessions will continue to be delivered and communicated to Class Reps and teaching staff.

Additionally, 96 Class Reps have achieved a Bronze Rep Reward by completing induction and training and are now progressing towards the Silver Reward.

4.3 Class Reps- Meetings Engagement

Our Class Rep meetings have begun for this academic year, with November's topic being Learning Environments. We have been gathering feedback from students regarding what elements of learning spaces support positive learning and engagement. We have seen positive engagement so far, with 102 students attending and will be sharing our data with college partners shortly.

Please note: We request that lecturing teams encourage Class Reps to attend future meetings, which take place at the end of each month and are themed around topics of

key interest to students and informed by the SPARQs Student Learning Experience Model.

4.4 Faculty Ambassadors

Our Faculty Ambassadors have played a crucial role in delivering high-quality engaging training to our class representatives, ensuring that all are prepared to advocate for their respective classes: in our training evaluation, 98% of participants have expressed that following their training, they feel ready to be a class rep. Faculty Ambassadors have also been actively preparing for their responsibilities on the faculty boards, working diligently to ensure the student voice is effectively represented and heard.

5. Impact and Implications

Our class representative training programme ensures that Class Reps are well-equipped to provide constructive feedback to the teaching staff and feel confident in receiving feedback themselves. Class representatives may become uncertain in their roles without proper training and struggle to deliver high-quality feedback.

Introducing the opt-out system will encourage greater autonomy among teaching staff and students during Class Rep elections whilst ensuring accountability via a formalised process where reassurances need to be made that the student voice will still be heard. This system will also help engage more students in the class representative process, which is essential for maintaining support for classes.

Appendices

Creative Industries - 83% of classes have Reps / 46% of reps are trained.

Education and Humanities - 84% of classes have Reps / 49% of reps are trained.

Hospitality and Leisure - 86% of classes have reps, and 28% of reps are trained.

Nautical and STEM - 75% of classes have Reps / 38% of reps are trained.