City of Glasgow College

Board of Management

Date of Meeting	**Wednesday 11 December 2024**
Paper No.	**BoM2-G**
Agenda Item	**4.1**
Subject of Paper	**Students' Association Semester One Update**
FOISA Status	**Disclosable**
Primary Contact	**Ciara McCarthy / Polly Vaker**
Date of production	**3 December 2024**
Action	**For Discussion**

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

2. Purpose
The purpose of this paper is to offer a concise overview and promote discussion regarding the efforts made by the Students' Association to engage with the broader student body and to raise awareness of the campaign initiatives undertaken in the first semester.

3. Consultation
The Student Association outlines its work program annually after consulting with student representatives and during the Annual General Meetings (AGM) held in May. This process helps us identify the presidential team's manifesto goals that align with the strategic plan of the Student Association.

4. Key Insights
4.1 Representation: Class Reps
The Students' Association supports elected class representatives through induction, training, and providing in-person and digital spaces to gather and present feedback from their peers about the learning and teaching experience. We also guide the election process, ensuring it is

fair and transparent, with the primary responsibility for conducting the elections with the lecturing teams.

For Noting: The class rep statistics reported do not include part-time or evening students, as we do not expect these groups to recruit class representatives; however, they are encouraged to share any feedback with us.

Additionally, the Students' Association has established an opt-out system, allowing classes to choose not to elect a class representative for various reasons based on student feedback and input from lecturing teams regarding situations where appointing a class rep may not be necessary. In these cases, the lecturer must complete a form detailing the reasons for not having an elected class representative and explaining how they will ensure that the student's voices are still heard within the class.

4.1.1 Recruitment

Faculty	Number of Classes with an elected Rep	% of Classes with an elected Rep
Creative Industries	**114**	**94.21**
Education and Humanities	**105**	**92.11**
Hospitality and Leisure	**110**	**96.49**
Nautical and STEM	**55**	**70.51**
TOTAL	**384**	**89.92**

4.1.2 Induction and Training

- Total number of classes who have an inducted rep – 193.
- Total number of classes that have a trained rep – 300.
- 168 students attended meetings in October and November, covering the topics of Library and College Spaces

4.2 Representation: Student Parliament
Membership in our student parliament was completed following the Parliament Elections held in October. Executive Officers join the Faculty Ambassadors (FAs) and Presidential Team to make up the membership of the Student Parliament
- 5 Exec Officers elected (Care Officer, LGBTQ+ Officer, Disabled Student Officer, Refugee/Asylum Seeker Officer and Mature Student Officer)
- First Parliament meeting had an attendance of 75%

4.3 Student Pantry
The Student Pantry City has experienced increased engagement, with 858 interactions and 1486 items being taken. At Riverside Campus, we have had 26 students using the service, and this continues to grow.

Since opening, we have received three donations from the college garden, seven from Baxter Storey over the past six weeks, and four from City Market. To support the pantry's operations, we collaborated with Hospitality and Leisure to develop cooking-on-a-budget sessions aimed at helping students develop essential cooking skills. Niall delivered six sessions and donated fresh produce from these classes.

Additionally, since introducing mugs at the City Campus pantry, nearly 50% of all drinks are now served in these mugs. This change has significantly reduced the use of takeaway cups, lowered costs, and contributed to our sustainability initiatives. The Riverside Pantry will soon be open two days a week, and our Volunteer Ambassador is discussing potential donations to support that location with Baxter Storey.

The City Campus Pantry has one regular volunteer, with four more starting soon. Riverside has two volunteers who provide support on Thursdays. We are also collaborating with the transition classes to offer volunteering opportunities to eight students, which will be a recurring weekly commitment.

For noting: The pantry opening times are available on the CitySA website and we encourage staff to continue signposting their students.

We plan to open both pantries more regularly once we have a reliable team of volunteers who can commit their time alongside the staff teams at both campuses.

4.4 Sports and Networks
At the end of the previous academic year, Polly, the Vice President of Social and Activities, renamed societies to "Networks" following student feedback. All events and networks are now promoted as Social Activities on campus. This change aims to enhance approachability for today's students, as the term "network" is more contemporary and conveys an opportunity for making new connections rather than an obligation.

A new system has been introduced to streamline the process of joining networks. During the first semester, students were introduced to the Network Hub on Canvas, which currently has 127 students registered. Students can join a network by visiting Canvas and communicating with other members.

From September to December, 101 students attended 32 meetings across different networks. Several festive events are planned before the Christmas break, including the Art & Craft Christmas Edition and the Festive Fun events at the City and Riverside campuses.

After the festive break, new networks will be launched, including Digital Art & Animation, Creative & Feature Writing, Anime, and LGBTQ+ Networks.

4.5 Volunteering
During the summer, our Student Engagement team and Volunteer Ambassador redeveloped our volunteering platform, transferring it to Canvas. We set a KPI target of 115 active volunteers on the hub by the end of the academic year. Within just two months, we surpassed this target, reaching 123 volunteers.

We are collaborating with over 40 organisations to offer various volunteering opportunities. Since the hub operates on a self-enrolment basis, students can freely join and access volunteer opportunities if they wish to participate.

4.6 Gender Affirming Grant
The student association has reintroduced the Gender Affirming Grant as part of our commitment to trans liberation and supporting gender-diverse students. This initiative allows

trans and gender non-conforming students to access gender-affirming products through a voucher program.

The decision to relaunch the Grant was based on a motion passed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that directed the incorporation of trans liberation efforts into our operational plan. After the success of the previous two rounds, we relaunched the Grant in November to ensure that new students could also benefit from this support.

To celebrate the relaunch, we hosted a community-building coffee afternoon for trans and gender non-conforming students. This event aimed to foster connections among peers, offer guidance from student advisors and provide information about Grant's purpose and application process.

4.7 Neurodiversity Campaign
During the last academic year, we had an AGM motion to advocate for neurodiverse students and launched the "We Can" Campaign. To build on this initiative, we have decided to pursue Autism Inclusion Accreditation from the National Autistic Society. This accreditation will help us enhance our services to better engage with neurodiverse students, ensuring that we have the necessary skills to fully support the diverse range of students interacting with us throughout their time at college.

4.8 Communications
The Student's Association continues to grow its online presence; since July, we have seen 1.5k Website users with 7.1k views. Our most popular TikToks are Winter Graduation, International Day of Sign Language and Freshers. Since the start of the academic term, we have seen 131k views across our TikTok.

5. Impact and Implications
Although many operational aspects within the Student Association (SA) are continuous, failing to achieve or progress each year's operational objectives could negatively impact student engagement and meaningful representation. By actively supporting and engaging with students disproportionately affected by economic and social barriers, we aim to connect with those most at risk of withdrawing from their courses.

Additionally, our student members have expressed that this year's initiatives have been valuable, engaging, and inclusive, increasing participation across all SA groups.