

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Learning & Teaching Committee – 8 March 2023

Student Association Priorities Update

Report by Students' Association Presidents

**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress and recent activity of the Student Association (SA) and give an overview of future priorities and plans.

During this college session, the Student Presidents have been busy raising awareness of various campaigns and equalities events and assuring that the Student Association is available to students in campus and online, helping to share college information, answering general student enquiries, and supporting students with any arising issues.

As a voice for the student body, the Presidents have fed back quickly to Management any concerns or issues raised.

2. Update on Activity

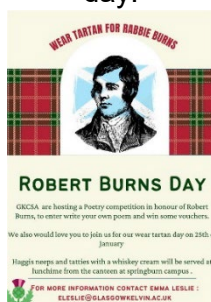
Progress to date includes:

Communication

The Student Association are actively using the GKC Student Microsoft Teams pages and social media channels to promote upcoming events. To prevent students being overloaded with information on the Teams page, the SA have also created a weekly newsletter where all upcoming events and information will be available in one place.

Campus Presence/awareness raising

During January and February, the SA have been promoting various events and campaigns including Robert Burns day. A competition was held for students to write their own poem in honour of the poet and students were asked to wear tartan and tag the SA in their social media. The SA also approached the canteen and asked if they could have a Burns lunch, and the usual haggis, neeps and tatties was arranged for the day.

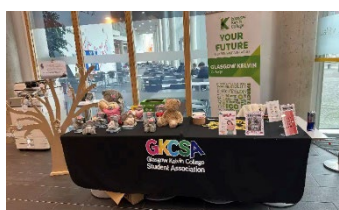


The SA have been fortunate enough to meet with the new Equality and Inclusion Lead and share ideas. We will also be having future discussions and training to better understand Equality issues to further enhance our support for all college students.



February is LGBTQ+ History Month and having discussed ideas with the Equality and Inclusion Lead, relevant documentaries were promoted and screened in the Lecture Theatre. We also sent out book and film recommendations to students and created a quiz, with a prize going to the winner. The SA were also working with City of Glasgow College to promote a talk with Ben Stinson who was booked to discuss the realities of being Trans in the UK.

One of the main focuses for the SA during February was Valentine's Day and the opportunity for students to "Spread the Love", not just to their partners but also with themselves and friends and family around them. Stalls were held at every campus, and we encouraged students to have a positive mindset and take away some inspirational and self-love quotes and contribute to our self-love tree. We promoted college support services available to the students, such as, Advice, Guidance & Learner Support and Counselling and Wellbeing. There were also raffles and the opportunity to win a pamper hamper and a tombola to win some 'tatty teddys'. The proceeds of money raised will be going towards a student foodbank, which will be discussed later on in this report. A movie night was also arranged in the Springburn Lecture Theatre.



Class Representatives and Student Executive

The SA has the responsibility for ensuring that all full-time courses organise Class Representatives and have the Student Executive in place, utilising their skills base to enhance the work of the SA.

- Class Rep meetings took place, week commencing Monday 23 January. One was held in each campus, with an online catch-up session held the following week. Numbers were not what we anticipated, but we will look at hybrid meetings in the future to try and encourage more participation.

- The Student Executive have met, and the Officers have ideas on what campaigns they would like to get involved in. These will be progressing soon.

Training

- Online Class Rep module available on Moodle as the first part of the training
- SPARQS (Student Partnership in Quality Scotland) training was delivered online on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 February.

Meet the Managers Event

The Meet the Managers event took place on Wednesday 22 February. All Class Reps were sent a link to the event, with additional promotion taking place up until the event itself.

Students were asked for feedback on college experiences. The feedback was used to help us plan the discussions for this meeting. Feedback was taken from:

- Student focus groups organised by our Learner Engagement Officer
- Class Rep feedback gathered from discussions with their class groups
- SA feedback obtained from speaking to students in-campus

The feedback we were looking for related to two main areas:

- What works well within the college?
- What could the college do to enhance student experience?

Some of the positive feedback gathered included:

- Easy to access college learning materials and college support services
- Students enjoy using the newly refurbished facilities in the library and common room areas
- Students are happy to be able to access exercise classes and gym facilities

Some feedback to improve their college experience included:

- Provide more lockers
- More quiet spaces are needed
- Bathroom facilities should be cleaned more regularly
- Better menus and prices should be considered in the canteen

Senior Management were available to answer questions proposed from the Class Representatives and any feedback will be compiled into a 'You Said, We Did' form and will be made available for Class Reps.

Priorities/Next Steps

Ongoing Awareness Raising

Pop up banners are being purchased to advertise the SA around campuses. Upcoming campaigns include:

- Eating Disorder Awareness Day 27 February
- International Women's Day 8 March
- Red Nose Day 17 March

During Red Nose Day we hope to raise funds by doing different activities including a dance off, a sponsored hula hoop and many more events to help raise money for this worthy cause.

Campaigns and Events

The SA are currently organising a food bank within the College. Due to the current cost of living crisis and students facing exceptional circumstances, we hope that this may support students to keep coming to college and attain their qualification. So far £125 has been raised to buy essential items. The SA will also tie this project into the Brit Challenge and request 23 different items of food/toiletries that can be donated.



Another Ukrainian Connection meeting has been organised for Wednesday 1 March by the ESOL and International Officer and will help bring together Ukrainian students who have been affected by the ongoing war and can help support each other. The first meeting which took place in December was well attended and we hope to encourage more students to participate.

The SA have been supporting the Environmental and Sustainability Manager with progress for the Earth Games. There are seven themes to choose from and the SA are supporting with promotion of the events and participating in a number of them.

Networking and Partnerships

SA will work to enhance partnership work with services and organisations which can impact positively on the student experience. Glasgow Clyde College Student Association visited Glasgow Kelvin College on Friday 17 February to discuss future collaborations and we will be building on relationship moving forward.



3. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report

4. Impact on Students

This report highlights the opportunities for better student engagement and the positive impacts on students by supporting them to improve their experience at college, creating opportunities to further develop and gain new skills and experiences.

5. Risk and Assurance

This report provides assurance that the College is supporting the Students' Association to engage with learners and participate in life and work of the College.

6. Equality

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report

7. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report

8. Environmental and Sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising directly from this report

9. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of the report.

10. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Noma Dube, President of Learning and Teaching or Emma Leslie, President of Welfare, Community and Sustainability.

Glasgow Kelvin College
EL / ND
28/02/2023