

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING OF 13 DECEMBER 2021

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE REPORT

REPORT BY PRINCIPAL

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of key activity and events considered by the Principal to be noteworthy or of particular interest to members which are not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

This report will cover the seven week period from the last Board of Management meeting held on Thursday 07 October 21 until Friday 03 December 21.

2. Key Activity - Management of COVID-19

Since my last update the situation has changed in relation to direction from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and skills Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP. This took the form of two direct letters to College Principals on the 08 and 15 November and an NS Teams conference event with all College and University Principals on 11 November 21. There has since been some amendment to the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework update for 16 November 21 and Coronavirus (COVID-19): universities, colleges, and community learning and development providers document as of 02 December 2021. The direction does not change any legislative requirements. It does however change the Cabinet Secretary's expectation of our actions as public bodies. In essence we have been instructed to maintain, and improve where possible, all existing controls. Something we intended to do. However, we have also been instructed not to increase the number of students attending campus for face to face teaching and learning. This changes our plans for term two over the winter period. We were planning to ramp up student on campus activity. This will not now happen as planned. This will not change our ability to deliver what is required but it will not be in the format we consider most appropriate. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the student experience.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework update – November 2021 (last Update 16 Nov 21). The College continues to be fully compliant.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): universities, colleges, and community learning and development providers (last Update 02 Dec 21). The College continues to be fully compliant.

At present the College continues to operate under “beyond level 0” guidance restrictions. The Glasgow region remains at “beyond level 0” alongside the rest of Scotland.

- Robust risk assessment processes in place
- Face coverings will continue to be worn in indoor public areas within the College.
- Lateral flow testing will continue.

- 1m social distancing will be maintained in classrooms in the initial period of transition with respect for personal space being promoted in all areas.
- Rigorous hygiene practices will continue.
- Suitable levels of ventilation will be managed and monitored.
- Transit control measures will remain in place in place. e.g., one-way systems.
- Home working, where possible, will continue, however, the return of staff to campus working will continue to be managed in line with staff wellbeing discussions and business need.
- Positive ongoing promotion of vaccination benefits to staff and students.

Therefore, for term 2 of AY 2021/22 most students will continue to experience a blended delivery format, however, essential practical activities and essential activities to support vulnerable groups will be face to face on campus.

The safety of our staff and students is paramount and continued caution is being exercised in strict adherence to SG guidance and in close consultation with union colleagues and Student Association representatives.

COVID-19: Information for the education sector, including related ministerial communications sent to the university and college sectors, can be accessed here at: <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/COVID-19/COVID-19-education.aspx>

3. Key Activity - National Awards Finalists

Green gown Awards:

The College was thrilled this year to be a finalist in the 2021 Green Gown Awards for its bio-diverse East End Community Garden. Unfortunately, we did not receive an award this year, however, it was a great achievement to be nominated for the final. The team did a fantastic job in presenting and promoting the project. Thanks and well done to all involved.

(Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards) (SHABA):

MADE, The Academy for Modern Barbering lifted a prestige SHABA award on Sunday 28 November 21, namely Best Training School. MADE is a collaboration between Kelvin and Rebel Rebel barbers, the College brings expertise in standards and qualification while Rebel bring their industry creativity and skills. The Academy was selected from a field of eight very impressive candidates as the Best Training School/Academy for its achievements in skilling and upskilling enthusiastic candidates introducing them to the world of barbering and creating a future workforce.

4. Key Activity - COP 26 Activity Update

On the 9th November 21 the College was delighted to host the COP26 seminar 'Achieving Climate Justice' a major event featuring some of the world's most eminent scientists and influencers. In addition, renowned director and cinematographer, Ali Tabrizi, presented his astonishing documentary - Seaspiracy - and led a 'fireside chat' during the event.

The event was organised by Shooka Bidarian, broadcaster and environmentalist and recent recipient of the Green Ring Award, who led the discussion on behalf of the

Climate Reality Project. The partly in-person event included eminent invited speakers from all over the globe, some engaging virtually, to present and debate Climate Justice and the differential impact of global warming and climate change. The focus was on the impact on sections of the world's population who are already disadvantaged and how efforts to combat this might address or exaggerate their problems.

Questions centred on how we can ensure a 'Just Transition' to net zero emissions which will benefit everyone.

The invited audience included Glasgow Kelvin College students, local elected members, staff and pupils from several of the College's partner schools in the community who posed some complex and probing questions to the panel of environmental experts.

The panel included Professor Katharine Hayhoe - Texas Tech University, Professor Mark Maslin - University College London (UCL), Professor Amir AghaKouchak - University of California. In addition, speakers from the Climate Reality Project included Ethan Spaner, Mark Chivers - UK Coordinator, Amanda Rodriguez - International programs coordinator, Natalia Lever - Mexico and Latin America Branch Manager, Gloria Bulbus - South African Coordinator and former Green Ring Award winner, and Rituraj Phukan - Climate Reality Leader and Mentor.

With its ethos and values firmly rooted in its communities, the College is acutely aware of the need for a 'Just Transition' and was honoured to host the Climate Reality Project seminar and the Climate Café Hub at this important time for Glasgow and the world.

5. Key Activity - Appointment of new Director of Digital Services

I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Jason Quinn as our Director of Digital Services.

Jason brings significant leadership experience both at an operational and strategic level. He has extensive knowledge, skills and experience in digital services including cyber security, systems integration, software development / programming, computer networking, database administration, server administration, Office 365 administration, statistical analysis and project management.

Jason holds a BSc in Computer Networking. He started his digital career as an ICT Technician 20 years ago with Cumbernauld College and quickly progressed to managerial roles with responsibility for ICT, MIS, Admissions, and Customer Services. In 2014 he was appointed to an executive leadership role as Assistant Principal within the management team at New College Lanarkshire responsible for ICT, Software Development, Information Systems, MIS and Admissions, and latterly held the position of Chief Transformation Officer which added responsibility for Estates, Brand and Communications.

His key achievements include the unification of student records systems; implementation of a Business Intelligence system (Power BI) to present a simplified and single view of complex data; development of bespoke business software solutions and the business transformation and improvements projects using LEAN methodologies to name but a few.

Jason will join our Senior Management Team early in January 2022.

6. Key Activity & Events - Other

Partnership meetings:

- College sector Strategic partnership Forum
- National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) meetings
- Sandy Begbie Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) College Sector Discussions
- Employers Association members meeting
- Colleges Scotland, College Principal's Group (CPG)
- Colleges Scotland Funding & Finance Committee
- Principal and Senior Team from Dumfries & Galloway visit and discussions
- Glasgow Colleges Group (GCG)
- Glasgow East Arts Company (GEAC) Board

Stakeholder engagement:

- Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and skills and Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, meeting with college and university Principals
- COP 26 'Achieving Climate Justice' seminar
- Staff, Student and stakeholder College Strategy consultation events
- Employers Association promoted posts appeal panellist
- GCRB Executive Director meeting
- GCRB new members induction meetings
- GCRB Board meeting

7. Resource Implications

There are no direct or immediate resource implications as a result of this paper.

8. Assurance and Risk

Strategic Risk Register Mapping:

Risk Ref No	Risk Title	Residual Assessment RR	Recommend Risk Review in light of this Paper? Y/N	Risk Recommendation / Note
3	People	4 Medium	N	Note risk relating to ongoing staff isolation
5	Curriculum Relevance	9 High	N	Note risk relating to appropriateness of L&T
7	Student Experience	9 High	N	Note risk relating to continued student isolation
10	Student Recruit' & Ret'	12 High	N	Note risk relating to growing student dissatisfaction

Members should note that there are no recommendations for Risk Register Update as the most recent update has already considered this information.

9. Equality

No negative impacts on people with protected characteristics have been identified as a consequence of this paper.

10. Data Protection

There are no direct data protection implications as a consequence of this paper.

11. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of this update report.

12. Further Information

Members can obtain further information on the contents of this report from Derek Smeall, Principal – dsmeall@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

DSm, December 2021