

Glasgow Kelvin College

Board of Management Meeting of 30 September 2026

Student Association Priorities Update

Report by Student Association Presidents

1. Introduction

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



2. Update on Activity

Personal and professional development

Over the summer months the Presidents attended the NUS 'Lead and Change' training, getting the chance to meet with fellow sabbatical officers, learn more about the role, network and share ideas on future campaigns.

The Student Association Presidents participated in sparqs 'That's Quality' training, which combined an online self-study module with a 2 ½ day residential event at Queen Margaret University. The programme provided an overview of quality in Scotland, explored the student learning experience, and gave the Presidents opportunities to apply their learning and network with student officers from across the tertiary sector.

Freshers

Freshers Week took place during the week of 17 August, alongside the 'Meet Your Classmates' event, and saw strong student engagement across all campuses. A wide range of external organisations attended, including The Wise Group, SAMH, Flight Club, Spike Aware UK, Police Scotland and Glasgow Life, as well as internal support services.

The Student Presidents used the events to engage with students, raise awareness of the role of the Student Association and build relationships with external organisations. They also promoted opportunities for students to become Class Representatives and take up voluntary positions on the Student Executive Committee.

Class Representatives

226 Class Representatives are currently in place. Ahead of recruitment, a new interactive Kahoot! was developed to raise awareness of the Class Representative role and help students understand what being a Rep involves and how they can contribute to the student voice.

Following recruitment, Class Reps have been encouraged to introduce themselves to their classmates and establish themselves as a point of contact for feedback. The Student Presidents have also created a dedicated Teams channel and promoted the Class Rep Handbook to help Reps feel informed, supported and confident in their role.

The main Class Representative training is again being delivered in-house by the Learner Engagement Officer, supported by the Student Association. The training has been tailored to the needs of Glasgow Kelvin College students, with a focus on the role of the Class Rep, effectively gathering and representing student views, and the different mechanisms available within the College for raising feedback and influencing change. Six training sessions have been arranged and are currently being delivered across the three campuses, with an additional online session available to maximise participation. Uptake will be reviewed and further sessions offered where required.

Class Reps also have access to sparqs resources to complement the College training and provide further development around effective student representation.

Regular Class Representative meetings will take place throughout the academic year, providing opportunities for Reps to share feedback, raise emerging issues, identify potential solutions and receive ongoing support from the Student Association. The first meeting took place on 18 September and was well attended.

Student Executive Committee

The Student Association is recruiting student volunteers to its Student Executive Committee, with 40 expressions of interest received across 18 roles. The Committee is designed to reflect the diversity of the student community, with opportunities covering areas including equality and diversity, LGBTQIA+, ESOL students, care experience, sustainability, wellbeing, communications, campaigns and sport, alongside campus-based Vice President roles. Several Executive roles also have campus-specific post-holders, supporting the Student Association's priority of increasing its visibility and representation across all three campuses.

Working alongside the Student Presidents, Executive Officers will help ensure a broad range of student perspectives are represented and will have opportunities to influence developments across the College.

Once recruited and inducted, Officers will be linked with relevant College staff to support their areas of interest and will meet regularly with the Student Association throughout the year. Further development opportunities are also being arranged, including training through sparqs and exploration of additional mental health-focused training through the Haliday Foundation.

Student Association Awareness Raising

The Student Association has continued to strengthen its visibility across the College. More than 100 classes have been visited to introduce students to the Student Association, explain how they can get involved and raise awareness of Class Representatives and the support available to them from various college services.

Closer links have also been established with the Marketing team to ensure Student Association activities and opportunities are promoted regularly through College communication channels. A campus rota has been introduced to provide a more consistent

and visible Student Association presence across all three campuses, with positive feedback already being received from students.

The Campus Wardrobe

The Campus Wardrobe, established during session 2024/25, continues to grow, with increasing numbers of students making use of the service and a steady flow of donations from across the College community. The initiative provides students with free access to clothing and other essential items, helping to reduce some of the financial pressures associated with the cost of living.

As well as providing practical support, the Campus Wardrobe promotes reuse and sustainability and offers students a discreet and accessible way to obtain items they may need. Its continued growth demonstrates the value of practical, student-led initiatives which respond directly to the everyday challenges facing students.

Clubs and societies

The Student Association continues to support student-led clubs and societies, providing opportunities for students to meet others, develop skills and build connections beyond their course. Current activity includes an ESOL Computer Club at East End Campus and the Believers Loveworld student society.

Freshers Week was also used to gather student views on the types of clubs and societies they would like to see developed, followed by a College-wide poll to better understand student interests.

Promoting awareness days

The Student Association has continued to deliver and support awareness campaigns linked to health, wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Activity to date has included National Foodbank Day, supported by a promotional video developed with the Marketing team to encourage donations to the Campus Foodbank, and Sexual Health Week, with activity across all campuses providing information, resources and signposting to appropriate support services.

Student Mental Health Agreement

The 2025–27 Student Mental Health Agreement continues to be progressed in partnership with relevant college staff. The group are currently reviewing progress against the agreed commitments, helping to ensure that planned actions remain on track and continue to reflect the needs and experiences of students.

Priorities/Next Steps

Meet the Managers

The first 'Meet the Managers' event of the academic year is being organised for Block 1. These sessions provide Class Representatives with a direct opportunity to discuss the student experience with senior College managers, raise issues on behalf of their classmates and hear directly how the College is responding.

The management panel has been refreshed to reflect current areas of responsibility across the College, ensuring that a broad range of student issues can be addressed. Importantly, the sessions provide a visible route from student feedback to College decision-making, with managers able to respond directly, clarify issues and agree actions where appropriate.

Panelist management include:

- Peter Brown – Assistant Principal, Apprenticeships, Skills and Curriculum
- Tracy Leavy – Assistant Principal, Community Engagement and Curriculum
- John Clarke – Assistant Principal, Planning, Performance and Student Experience
- Michelle Harding – Head of Digital and ICT Operations
- Claire Reid – Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability
- Susan Bunton – Head of Enhancement and Assurance

Meet the Managers forms an important part of the College's wider approach to student engagement, helping to demonstrate to Class Reps and the wider student body that their feedback is heard, considered and can contribute to improvements across the College.

Fundraising

The Student Association was delighted to receive a £1,000 donation from the College to support the Campus Foodbank. This contribution will help maintain essential food supplies and ensure that practical support remains available to students experiencing financial pressures.

Alongside this contribution, the Student Association will continue to explore fundraising opportunities, including raffles, external funding applications and other activities involving students and staff. This will help sustain the Foodbank throughout the year and ensure it can continue to respond to student need.

Clubs and societies

Priorities for the coming period include expanding student-led clubs and societies in response to feedback gathered through Freshers Week and the College-wide student poll, including supporting the development of a further student-led Computer Club at Easterhouse Campus.

Promoting awareness days

The Student Association will also continue its programme of awareness and engagement activity, with forthcoming campaigns including Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Black History Month and Movember. Wherever possible, activity will be developed collaboratively with relevant College teams and external partners, with a focus on raising awareness, encouraging participation and connecting students with appropriate information and support.

Ongoing Student Association Awareness Raising

Raising the visibility and profile of the Student Association will remain a priority throughout the academic year, building on the increased classroom and campus presence established at the start of the session. New promotional materials and College communication channels, including campus TV screens, will continue to be used to ensure students understand the role of the Student Association, how they can get involved and how their views can be represented.

The Student Association will also continue to strengthen its visibility through wider student activities and College life. This includes ongoing sponsorship of the College football team, with Student Association branding displayed on the teams' kits. Supporting this activity provides another opportunity to promote the Student Association while encouraging student participation, belonging and a stronger sense of College community.

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 Student 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 Jon Craig, President of Welfare, Community & Sustainability or Nicole Filip, President of Learning & Teaching.

Glasgow Kelvin College
JC/NF/AF/RG/GS
22 September 2026