

Board of Management

| Date of Meeting | 18 June 2025 |
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| Paper No. | BoM4-I |
| Agenda Item | 3.1 |
| Subject of Paper | Students' Association Report |
| FOISA Status | Disclosable |
| Primary Contact | Ciara McCarthy, Student President; Polly Vaker, Vice President Socials and Activities |
| Date of production | 6 June 2025 |
| Action | For Discussion |

1. Recommendations

- 1.1.** To discuss the Students' Association report to the Board on work and activities undertaken since the last Board meeting.

2. Consultation

The Students' Association (SA) annually outlines its work after consulting student representatives during their induction and through Annual General Meetings. Our work is evaluated through various student feedback methods, including surveys, focus groups and digital analysis.

3. Key Insights

3.1. The SA [Strategic Plan 2023-28](#) outlines our vision to work with students to influence change and add value to the student experience. Our work this academic year is guided by this strategy, shaped by the Presidential team's manifestos and informed by feedback from students. This report provides the Board with an update on the following work:

- Representation
- Annual General Meeting
- Volunteering
- Events and Networks
- Campaigns
- Communication and Engagement Strategies
- Staff Recruitment

Our Impact Report offers a more detailed overview of the complete operational and strategic activity of the Students' Association across the full 2024-25 academic year.

4. Impact and Implications

- 4.1.** The SA's work directly aligns with the College's priorities to be an inspirational place of learning and to enable individuals to excel and realise their full potential, as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2021-30.
- 4.2.** While many aspects of the SA operate continuously, failing to meet the yearly operational objectives could reduce positive student engagement and meaningful student representation.
- 4.3.** We aim to support and engage with students disproportionately affected by economic and social barriers, reaching out to those most at risk of withdrawing from their courses.

Appendix 1: Students' Association Report

Students' Association Report: June 2025

1. Representation

1.1 Class Rep Meetings

In March and April of this year, we had a series of meetings around our final two Class Rep feedback themes of the year.

1.1.1 Artificial Intelligence

In March, we collaborated with the Learning and Teaching Academy to gather student feedback on their current use of Artificial Intelligence, as well as their suggestions for what should be included in the upcoming AI Guidance document.

This session was attended by 33 Class Reps from across all four faculties. We held 7 meetings across both Riverside and City Campus, and noticed an increase in the attendees from Riverside Campus.

1.1.2 Progression and Achievement

Across the last week of April and first week of May, we held Class Rep Meetings themed around progression and achievement. These focused on students' experiences before, during, and after their courses, and explored whether they felt prepared for their next steps. A total of 30 Class Reps from all four faculties attended these sessions.

1.2 Class Rep Rewards

By April, we had 5 Class Representatives achieve their Gold Award and were delighted with the level of engagement from our Reps. As this is only the second year of our Class Rep Awards, we noticed that the award system did not have the same level of support for January start courses or Class Reps elected after January.

To ensure that these Representatives received the same level of recognition, we created a one-off 'Special Recognition Award.' This award was also delivered to Class Reps who had achieved their Gold Award and continued to go beyond to engage, as well as students who had made a noticeable effort to engage with extra opportunities in the Students' Association.

In total, we were able to deliver 10 Special Recognition Awards to Class Reps from across all four faculties, including Nautical and STEM.

Next year, we will be developing a potential Platinum Award to recognise those Class Reps who continue to go the extra mile to engage, as well as a separate criterion for Class Reps who are elected later in the year.

2. Annual General Meeting

2.1 2024-25 Results

This year, we held our Annual General Meeting on 21st of May. Students were able to submit ideas between the 28th of April and 5th of May, with voting initially planned to be held between the 12th and 16th of May. Unfortunately, we did not receive any engagement with this process.

This was raised at our most recent Student Parliament meeting, where members discussed potential reasons for the lack of engagement and explored initial ideas for how the process could be improved.

We will continue to reflect on this and consider ways to encourage more meaningful student participation in future opportunities for input.

3. Volunteering

3.1 Recognition Events

This year, to recognise the contributions of our student volunteers who took part in a range of opportunities through both the Students' Association and external partners, we organised two recognition events.

The first event took place on 5th June in collaboration with the City Works course, celebrating over 1,600 hours of volunteering. Our Volunteer Ambassador hosted the event in the SA space, which included games, quizzes, and snacks provided by the Students' Association. As part of this, all volunteers from the Supported Education class were also gifted a £10 Love2Shop voucher in recognition of their commitment and contribution.

The second recognition event is scheduled for July and will focus on our two dedicated Student Pantry volunteers. To thank them for their continued support throughout the year, they are attending a Zookeeper Experience at Edinburgh Zoo.

4. Events and Networks

4.1 Dr Who Quiz

On May 7th, we held a Dr Who themed Quiz which was open to all students. The event was very well attended with 32 students joining the Students' Association for the afternoon. During this event, we received positive feedback and future development ideas from our students. Students had fed back that they enjoyed themed events as it allowed them to meet new people with similar interests.

5. Campaigns

5.1 Deaf Awareness

The Students' Association worked alongside Learning Support to deliver a range of activities for Deaf Awareness Week. Together, we developed new materials for lecturers to support deaf students in the next academic year. These include guidance on working with sign language interpreters and a Deaf Awareness Checklist.

We also produced a series of short videos featuring deaf students sharing their experiences of college life, designed to support a smoother transition for deaf students joining the college in August.

On 14th May, we ran a Deaf Awareness Stall at City Campus, which engaged 56 students. Activities included learning to sign the alphabet or name in BSL, a Deaf Awareness True or False quiz, and decorated cupcakes featuring the BSL alphabet. Students were also able to speak with Deaf Staff Members and Sign Language Interpreters about their experiences of being deaf. There was encouraging interest from students in having more BSL-related activities, and this feedback has been passed on to Learning Support for consideration in future planning.

5.2 Accessibility

This has been an ongoing project initiated by our Student President during the last academic year. It was brought to Ciara's attention that the barriers were becoming increasingly difficult for disabled students to navigate. In response, the Students' Association has worked closely with the Estates team to ensure the accessible barriers remain open long enough to accommodate disabled students and their support persons.

This important work will continue in collaboration with Learning Support and the EDI team to ensure sustained accessibility improvement.

6. Communications and Engagement Strategies

6.1 Student Engagement Survey

In March, we opened our Student Engagement survey to gather more information about how the Students' Association could better provide additional opportunities for students to engage in the wider college community. Our survey was initially intended to be open for one month and close on the 24th of April. However, due to staff absence and sickness, we extended the opening date until the end of May to ensure that we could better promote the survey.

In total, we had 83 students respond to our engagement survey, 3 of which were from Riverside Campus and the remaining 80 from City Campus. We are currently analysing the feedback from our students and working with our Digital Officer to create an accessible format to highlight responses to our students. Feedback will also be collated to support development ideas for next academic year.

7. Staff Recruitment

7.1 Students' Association Coordinator

In March, we began recruiting for a new Students' Association Coordinator. We had over 70 applications, with 8 successfully moving on to the interview stage. In April, we offered the position to our Student Engagement Officer, Megan McClellan who started in her post on the 5th of May.