

## Board of Management

Date of Meeting	18 June 2025
Paper No.	BoM4-J
Agenda Item	3.2
Subject of Paper	Chair's Report
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Dave Anderson Chair of the Board of Management
Date of production	5 June 2025
Action	For Discussion

### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1. To discuss the Chair's quarterly report to the Board of Management.

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1.** In progressing the matters outlined in the Chair's report, colleagues in the College and across the sector have been engaged.

## **3. Key Insights**

- 3.1.** The Chair is responsible for the leadership of the Board of Management as the College's governing body. The Chair works in partnership with the Board and the Principal to set the strategic direction of the College, monitor performance and ensure high-quality learning and outcomes are delivered for students. The Chair also has an ambassadorial role for the Board within the College, and also for the College with external stakeholders.

## **4. Impact and Implications**

- 4.1.** The Chair's report ensures that Board members remain informed of the Chair's recent activities and other key developments and activities of interest to members.

### **Appendix 1: Chair's Report**

## **Chair's Report to the Board of Management: June 2025**

### **Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board (GCRB) Meeting, 31 March 2025**

1. At this meeting, we discussed the transition to new governance arrangements, which will see each of the three Glasgow colleges designated as regional colleges, accountable directly to the Minister.
2. A key issue remains the Scottish Funding Council's (SFC) retention of funds for potential Glasgow Colleges Regional Board wind-up costs. Ian Patrick, Chair of Glasgow Kelvin College, has formally requested assurances from SFC to ensure these costs are minimised, allowing the balance of retained funds to be distributed directly to the three Glasgow colleges.

### **Glasgow Leadership Group, 4 April 2025**

3. The newly formed Glasgow Leadership Group (GLG) – comprised of Chairs and Principals from Kelvin, Clyde, and City of Glasgow Colleges – held its second meeting, confirming its terms of reference, meeting schedule and its relationship with the Principals' Group. Two subgroups – on financial sustainability and learning and teaching – have been established.
4. Additionally, we explored findings from a recent OECD study on the city-region labour market, examining its implications for the planning of tertiary education provision.

### **Colleges Scotland Governance Review, 22 April 2025**

5. Following a review conducted by interim CEO Graeme Jackson, Colleges Scotland approved a revised constitutional structure. A small board will oversee operational matters, while a Council of Members, comprising participating colleges, will provide strategic direction and meet 3–4 times a year. These changes will be implemented ahead of the 2025/26 academic year.
6. Additionally, Gavin Donoghue has been appointed as the permanent Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland. Formerly employed by College Employers Scotland, Gavin brings deep sector knowledge and is widely respected by Chairs and Principals.

### **Board Development Day, 23 April 2025**

7. We held an insightful Board Development Day at our Riverside campus, covering key topics such as trauma-informed practice, governance, neurodiversity, and inclusion. The session provided valuable perspectives on the challenges that College staff navigate daily. Feedback from fellow Board members suggests it was a highly impactful and engaging event.

### **Conveners' Committee, 28 April 2025**

8. The Conveners Committee met to discuss various matters, including the annual review of the Principal's performance and remuneration. I reported that, under the Principal's effective leadership, the College had made significant progress in 2024/25 and is now in a stronger, more stable position than in previous years. The Committee

agreed that a 3% salary increase was fair, reasonable, and consistent with Public Sector Pay Policy. I have since informed the Chair of the GCRB of the Committee's decision.

#### **Chairs and Principals Meeting, 29 April 2025**

9. College chairs and principals met to discuss the forthcoming Holyrood election next year, financial challenges affecting the sector, the future vision for tertiary education and the implementation of the Withers Review recommendations.
10. A Scottish Parliament reception, hosted by Willie Rennie MSP, followed, showcasing innovative learning practices by several Colleges. City of Glasgow College students provided photography coverage for the event. Speakers included Graeme Jackson, Minister Graeme Dey MSP, and Megan Simpson, a care-experienced student from Fife College, who delivered a powerful speech on the transformational impact of further education on her life.

#### **Pakistan Day, 6 May**

11. Courtesy of Manira Ahmad, I attended a parliamentary reception hosted by Willie Rennie MSP at the Scottish Parliament celebrating Scotland's Pakistani community. It was a pleasure to meet business leaders, civic leaders and politicians – including Anas Sarwar, Leader of the Scottish Labour Party, who addressed the audience.

#### **Board Interviews, 7 and 20 May**

12. In May, I participated in Board member interviews chaired by Paul Hillard, alongside Megan McClellan and Candy Munro from the College Development Network, with support from Drew McGowan. We interviewed a strong shortlist of candidates and expect the GCRB to confirm appointments ahead of the June Board meeting. I am confident the new members will bring valuable expertise when they take up their roles in the new academic year.

#### **Development Committee, 29 May**

13. At this meeting, the Committee received a presentation from consultant Donal O'Herlihy on the Riverside Innovation Centre business case, which is expected to be finalised by the end of the summer and presented for approval at our Board meeting in October. Our discussions also included:
  - Mitigating the costs of the Charles Oakley Building through advertising wraps
  - Exploring development opportunities for the building and adjacent site (though demolition now appears unlikely to be feasible)
  - Recruitment update for a Business Development Manager at City of Glasgow International, the College's subsidiary company

#### **Vice Principal Recruitment, 3 June**

14. I have participated in candidate shortlisting for the Vice Principal Student Experience and Vice Principal Corporate Development & Innovation roles the College is currently

recruiting for. I am pleased to say that we have an exceptionally strong field of internal and external candidates, reflecting the College's strong reputation.

### **College Chairs Manifesto 'Asks', 20 May**

15. At a virtual College Chairs meeting, Colleges Scotland agreed to develop a set of policy asks for political parties ahead of next year's Holyrood Elections, which aim to improve the sector's prospects amid potential coalition arrangements.
16. Separately, Tertiary Education Leaders from across the UK have written to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, urging increased funding for professional and technological skills development to support economic growth and tackle challenges such as net zero transition, digital transformation, and AI.

### **Summer Graduation, 19 June**

17. This year's Summer Graduation ceremonies will take place at Glasgow Cathedral on 19 June, the day after our final Board meeting of the academic year. I look forward to seeing many of you there to celebrate the achievements of our students. Graduation remains the highlight of the College calendar, and a reminder of the impact our work has on students, their families and the wider community.

### **Fond Farewells**

18. Ronnie Quinn and Paul Hillard will step down following our June meeting. Ronnie joined the Board in 2019 and Paul in 2021. Since joining the Board and becoming Chair, I have greatly valued their insight, professionalism, and commitment to the College. Their leadership and contribution have been instrumental in guiding the College through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the unprecedented financial/funding challenges of recent years. Thanks in part to their stewardship, the College is now in a stronger and more stable position. They leave with the respect and appreciation of Board members and staff alike.
19. We also say goodbye to our student Board members, Ciara McCarthy and Polly Vaker. Over the past year, Ciara and Polly have been exceptional in their roles, bringing energy and an unwavering focus on the student experience. The Board has benefited enormously from their contributions, and they have helped ensure our discussions and decisions remain firmly student-centred. I have no doubt they will continue to achieve great things in the future.
20. And finally, Drew McGowan, our Associate Director of Governance and Risk, will be leaving the College in August, marking this as his final Board meeting. Since joining the College in 2022, Drew has significantly contributed to both the College and the wider sector by enhancing governance, strengthening risk management, ensuring regulatory compliance, and embedding best practices. He has provided invaluable support to me since I joined the Board, particularly since I became Chair. While we will formally thank him in due course, I want to acknowledge now that his departure is a great loss to Team City, and I wish him every success as he advances his career in the National Health Service.