

Board of Management

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 1 October 2025
Paper No.	BoM1-E
Agenda Item	3.1
Subject of Paper	Students' Association Report
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Flora Irvine-Hall - Student President
Date of production	22 September 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

- 2.1.** 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:

- Presidential Team Ambitions
- Freshers' Fayre
- Student Pantry
- Faculty Ambassadors
- Network Taster Sessions

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: Month 2025

1. Presidential Team Ambitions

The presidential team each have three main goals for the year. These are:

1.1 Flora Irvine-Hall-Student President

- Campaign for a wider variety of food options in college so that students with varying dietary requirements have access to satisfying meals
- Strengthen student-lecturer relationships
- Support activities and campaigns designed to boost student mental wellbeing

1.2 Samantha Campbell-Vice President Learning & Teaching

- To promote transparency between students and faculty to ensure open communication and feedback.
- To foster a culture of inclusivity where every student feels valued, respected and supported.
- To campaign for students to have the resources they need to thrive, from academic support to mental health services.

1.3 Rebecca Ivers- Vice President Social & Activities

- Provide more events that enhance the student experience
- Increase awareness and participation in student societies
- Ensure Riverside students have equal access to opportunities and events as those at City Campus

1.4 Mairi McWilliams- Vice President Diversity and Wellbeing

- To promote chronic pain awareness for those students living with pain everyday & those who care for them
- Advocate for students who feel they are not being heard
- Promote respect for different belief and increase services for marginalised students

2. Freshers'

2.1 Freshers Stalls

The SA hosted two freshers' events this academic year, both of which were tropical beach themes. One took place at our City Campus from the 13th to the 15th of August, and

the other took place at our Riverside Campus and took place on the 9th of September. Across both events, we had around 43 exhibitors in attendance. For our City Campus Freshers, we also had a DJ who provided music and hosted games. In terms of students, 223 in total attended the Riverside Freshers event while 2500 attended the City Campus event.



We had two Students' Association stalls: one for representation and one for opportunities. At the representation stall, we had information on College Parliament and Class Reps as well as a spinning wheel where students could win small prizes. At the opportunities stall, we had information and signup sheets for on volunteering, networks and the college pantry. In addition, we collected information from students about what sort of networks they'd be interested in joining. To draw more students in, we also had a "Guess how many seashells are in the Jar" competition in which the winners received a £30 Love2Shop Voucher.



2.2 Student Feedback

After Freshers, we sent out a survey to students to gather their feedback for the event.

2.2.1. Student Enjoyment

Most of our students enjoyed the fresher's event, with a survey showing that out of the 68 responses, 54.4% of students rated the event at a four (the highest score) and 36.8% rating it a three.

Some of the main praises were:

- They enjoyed picking up freebies and student discounts from stalls
- They enjoyed the fun games (such as Limbo) that we had on offer
- They enjoyed meeting students from other classes

Moreover, 97.1% of the 61 participants who answered agreed that college staff present at Freshers were all helpful.

3. Student Pantry

This year, we will be running our student pantry again. It has proved to be very popular with students in the past, and we expect it to be very successful this year.

3.1 Pantry Taster Sessions

To get an idea of student demand, we will be/have been running taster sessions with our student volunteers.

On Thursday the 18th of September, we ran our first student pantry taster session at City Campus from 10am-11am. We had two student volunteers for the session, and they were very helpful.

For Riverside, we'll be having two taster sessions. One is scheduled to run on Tuesday the 23rd of September (time TBC, either 10am-11am or 1pm-2pm) and the other will take place on Wednesday the 24th of September from 10am-11am.

After the taster sessions, we will set up times and days with our volunteers to help run the pantry.

3.2 Interest from other departments

Some of the gardening students have also expressed interest in the Student Pantry and would like to donate some of the fruit and vegetables grown in their garden.

3.3 The importance of the pantry

A report from NUS Scotland shows that in 2024, 52% of students had skipped a meal due to lack of money and that 11% had to use foodbanks, showing that the student pantry is still very much essential.

4. Faculty Ambassadors

We have 2 dedicated faculty ambassadors to support our faculties. Our faculty ambassadors Euan Buchanan and Valaria Ramos will continue to deliver our class rep training and collaborate closely with their assigned faculties to gather feedback and report back to their faculty boards.

- Euan will be supporting the Hospitality and Leisure faculty and Education and Humanities faculty.
- Valaria will be supporting the Creative Industries and Nautical and STEM faculty.

This year we have reduced from four to two Faculty Ambassadors. This reduction is to allow for a better experience for our Faculty Ambassadors and a more substantial impact as previously we were only able to offer 1-2 hours a week of paid work. This is due to only having 180 hours allocated to our Faculty Ambassador roles, which we found wasn't a meaningful opportunity when split amongst four people.

5. Network Taster Sessions

We have been running taster for our networks and have more dates and networks planned. This information can be found below:

On Tuesday the 16th of September, we ran our first network taster session of the year. The taster session was for the arts and crafts network and ran from 4pm to 6pm. The event was a great success, with around sixteen students in attendance.

5.2 Dates for other network taster sessions

Below are the dates for all our network taster sessions that we have planned.

- We will be running our Reading network on Tuesday the 23rd of September from 12-1pm.
- Our Tabletop Gaming network will run on the same date from 4-6pm.
- On Monday the 22nd of September, we will be running a new network called the multicultural and anti-racism society (MARS) from 4pm-5pm.

5.3 New Networks

We are also in the process of setting up five other new networks, which are:

- The Disabled Students Network
- The ESOL Language Cafe
- The Nautical Music Society

- The Care Experienced Network
- The E-Sports Network

5.4 Spots Clubs

In terms of sports, we're currently recruiting for our volleyball and basketball coaches. All the other sports clubs are up and running, with basketball and volleyball to be up and running once we have confirmed the club's coaches.