Board of Management

Date of Meeting	**23 September 2026**
Paper No.	**BoM1-K**
Agenda Item	**4.2**
Subject of Paper	**Students' Association Report**
FOISA Status	**Disclosable**
Primary Contact	**Rebecca Ivers, Student President** **Megan McClellan, Students' Association Coordinator**
Date of production	**15 September 2026**
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

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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 for the Year Ahead
- Events and Opportunities
- Representation
- Students' Association Developments.

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 (September 2026)

Students' Association Report: September 2026

1. Presidential Team: Ambitions for the Year Ahead

The Presidential Team have identified a number of priorities for 2026/27, reflecting their individual portfolios alongside shared ambitions to improve the wider student experience.

Rebecca Ivers: Student President

- Explore a collaboration with the University of Strathclyde to expand the range of societies available to City of Glasgow College students.
- Continue the Students' Association's campaign to address the cost of student travel.
- Support the wider Presidential Team and represent students within College decision-making.

Euan Buchanan: Student Vice President - Learning and Teaching

- Strengthen the Class Rep system and better demonstrate the difference Class Reps make within their classes and across the wider College.
- Develop the Faculty Ambassador role and increase their visibility among students.
- Ensure students better understand how their representatives can support them and influence their College experience.

Mairi McWilliams: Student Vice President - Diversity and Wellbeing

- Promote greater discussion around men's mental health and develop opportunities for male students to shape this work through co-production.
- Develop an interfaith group bringing together students from different faith, belief and non-belief backgrounds.
- Deliver awareness activity throughout the year around topics including menopause, endometriosis and stress management.
- Champion the experiences of underrepresented students and work with College services to identify and reduce barriers.

Kaylee Houston: Student Vice President - Social and Activities

- Develop clubs, societies, events and activities that strengthen the student community and wider College experience.
- Increase engagement opportunities for students across both City and Riverside campuses.
- Support the exploration of a collaboration with the University of Strathclyde to give students access to a wider range of societies.

2. Events and Opportunities

2.1 Freshers'

The Students' Association welcomed students to the new academic year with five days of Freshers' activity at City Campus, coinciding with the College's Welcome Week. With approximately 1,000 students on campus each day, introducing the Presidential Team and promoting opportunities including societies, sports, representation and student networks.

Freshers' also provided an early opportunity to involve students in shaping our work. Following the introduction of the £2 cap on single bus journeys, students voted on the future direction of our transport campaign: whether to conclude the campaign, advocate for improved student rail discounts, or continue campaigning for an extension of free bus travel for students. Students voted to continue the campaign, with support for both improved student rail discounts and an extension of free bus travel for students. Further information on the next stages of the campaign is outlined in Section 3.3.

A dedicated Quiet Hour was held from 1pm–2pm each day, providing a calmer and more accessible opportunity for students to engage with Freshers' activities.

2.2 Riverside Freshers'

The Students' Association maintained a presence at Riverside Campus on 1 September, with a larger dedicated Riverside Freshers' event planned for 6 October. Building on learning from last year, we are looking to work more closely with the Faculty to develop activity specifically for the Riverside student community, rather than simply replicating initiatives delivered at City Campus. This will include exploring more regular social and engagement opportunities, with a Riverside Quiz Night currently being planned for the end of October.

2.3 Societies & Sports

Our sports programme is now up and running for the new academic year, alongside work to support the development of student-led societies. Building on learning from last year, we are delivering a series of society taster sessions, giving students the opportunity to experience what a society could look like before committing to running one themselves. This approach worked particularly well last year in helping students build the confidence and interest needed to establish their own groups.

Over the coming months, we will continue supporting students to turn these initial activities into sustainable, student-led societies and opportunities.

2.4 Diversity and Wellbeing Initiatives

The Students' Association is currently exploring a partnership with Men's Minds, building on their men's mental health research at the University of Strathclyde and subsequent work across Glasgow. City of Glasgow College would be the first college to participate in the initiative.

The proposed £1,300 project would involve establishing a focus group of male students, developing a wider student survey, analysing the findings and using these to develop an action plan for the College. We are currently exploring how the Students' Association could resource the project while seeking to develop it collaboratively with The Support and Wellbeing Team.

We believe the project would have greater impact as a collaborative College initiative rather than an isolated Students' Association project. Once the proposed approach is further developed, we will look to engage wider College teams and senior colleagues to build support for the work.

3. Representation

3.1 Representation Review

As outlined in our Strategic Plan 2023–28, we want to ensure that our representation structures remain inclusive, robust and meet the needs of both students and staff. With our Constitution due for review this academic year, our Strategic Plan the following year, and the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review also approaching, we will begin a wider review of student representation during 2026/27.

Over the next 18 months, this will include:

- Student Presidential Team roles
- Student Parliament
- Class Representation System
- Faculty Ambassadors
- Constitution
- Student Partnership Agreement.

These areas are closely connected, and beginning the work now will allow sufficient time to gather meaningful feedback and evidence from students and staff. The review will also consider how the different elements of student representation connect, from classroom-level representation through to College governance and decision-making.

We would welcome engagement from the Board of Management as this work develops, particularly in considering how student representation connects with the College's wider governance structures.

3.2 Class Rep Developments

Class Rep recruitment is now underway for 2026/27. Alongside supporting staff and students to elect their representatives, we have developed a new suite of resources for staff, including election materials, a session plan, presentation, guidance and FAQs to support the process within classes.

This year we are also beginning a wider review of the Class Rep system and training offer. Staff and students will be invited to share their experiences of the current model, helping us identify what works well, where barriers exist and what could be improved. This evidence will feed into the wider Representation Review outlined above.

3.3 Campaigns - Transport Campaign

Students voted to continue campaigning on both improved access to student rail discounts and an extension of free bus travel for students.

The Presidential Team is now working with NUS to identify related local and national activity and opportunities to strengthen the campaign through a collective student voice. We are also

looking to work alongside other local colleges to agree a shared approach and identify opportunities for joint campaigning.

Once this approach has been agreed, we plan to launch a student petition and wider campaign activity. A new campaigns area is also being developed on the CitySA website, which will provide students with a clearer way to understand our current campaigns, the evidence behind them and how they can get involved.

4. Students' Association Developments

4.1 Students' Association Website Migration

During the summer, the Students' Association completed a website migration from MSL to Rubric and launched the new CitySA.co.uk website. The new platform provides greater flexibility for the Association to develop its digital presence and improve how students access information, opportunities and support.

Development will continue throughout the year, with further work planned around areas including campaigns, student voice and accessibility. Following initial support from our retained website developer, ongoing development and maintenance will increasingly be led by our new Digital Officer.

4.2 Students' Association Staff update

Following the departure of our previous Students' Association Digital Officer earlier this year, we are pleased to have successfully recruited to the vacant post. Our new Digital Officer will join the team during the week commencing 21 September and will support the development of our website, communications and wider digital engagement.

4.3 You Said, We Did Development

The Presidential Team is developing a new approach to better communicate the impact of student voice and demonstrate how student feedback leads to change. As a first step, we will launch a Class Rep-focused campaign in early October, highlighting successes achieved by Class Reps last year and encouraging students to consider what they could help influence by becoming a representative this year.

Alongside this, we are developing a dedicated area of the CitySA website and a wider communications approach to routinely update students on key successes, ongoing work, challenges and opportunities to get involved. Once our new Digital Officer is in post, we will develop a more consistent schedule and process for these updates throughout the academic year.