

Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | |
| Date of Meeting | 16 September 2025 |
| Paper No. | LTSEC1-C |
| Agenda Item | 4.2 |
| Subject of Paper | Students' Association Update |
| FOISA Status | Disclosable |
| Primary Contact | Flora Irvine-Hall, Student President; Megan McClellan, Students' Association Coordinator |
| Date of production | 8 September 2025 |
| Action | For Discussion |

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. To discuss the work of the Students' Association (SA) surrounding the Students' Associations representation systems that influence the student experience.

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.
- 2.2 Our [Student Partnership Agreement](#) helps ensure that our systems are working effectively and provides an outline of how the Students' Association works in partnership with the College.

3. Key Insights

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 Committee with an update on the following work:

- **Class Representation Systems**
- **Faculty Ambassadors**
- **Student Parliament**
- **Accreditations**
- **Student Feedback**

4. Impact and Implications

Having wider college staff support for our representative systems is important for ensuring the continuous improvement of the Student Experience. Staff support ensures that students throughout the College have the opportunity to engage in representation actively and have an influence on their journey.

Having a diverse range of students within our representation systems, such as parliament roles, allows students to offer guidance to the Students' Association on how our work will impact minority groups at the College.

Appendix 1: Students' Association Report

1. Class Representation

1.1 Elections

Elections for Class Representatives officially launched on the 1st of September. As of the 8th of September 87 Class Reps have been elected across the four faculties.

| Faculty | Total Classes | Classes With Reps | Classes with Reps as % |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nautical and STEM | 64 | 6 | 9.38% |
| Education and Humanities | 99 | 9 | 14.52% |
| Hospitality and Leisure | 115 | 12 | 10.43% |
| Creative Industries | 124 | 18 | 14.52% |
| Overall | 402 | 45 | 11.18% |

The deadline for electing Class Reps this academic year is the 10th of October, and the Students' Association are facilitating introductory workshops to support classes who would like more information to help elect Class Reps.

This year, we will be continuing to promote our Opt Out system to classes who:

- Do not have students who would like to stand
- Do not have enough students for the system to be valuable
- Have their own independent system which stand in place of Class Reps.

1.2 Class Rep Journey

This year, we will be updating the Class Rep journey to reflect the new capacity of the Students' Association.

As a result, we'll also be updating the criteria for our Class Rep Rewards to ensure that students are still able to achieve their representation milestones.

1.3 Class Rep Rewards

Last year, we had several highly engaged student representatives across all four faculties who had achieved their gold reward. To show appreciation for their continued engagement and going above and beyond what was expected of them, we offered an additional Special Recognition Award. This year, in anticipation of those completing their gold award and continuing to engage, we're exploring the possibility of expanding our reward tier system to include a platinum award.

2. Faculty Ambassadors

As of September 8th, we have 2 Faculty Ambassadors to support our faculties. Our Faculty Ambassadors, Euan Buchanan and Valeria Ramos, will continue to deliver our Class Rep Training and work closely with their assigned faculties to gather feedback and report back to Faculty Boards.

3. Student Parliament

Last year, we had highlighted that engagement with Student Parliament was a priority for us in the upcoming 2025-26 academic year. Our goal this year is to increase engagement across each meeting and support Student Parliament Members to feel more integrated into the work of the Students' Association.

For Student Parliament this year, we have kept all the roles the same apart from ESOL officer, which we have changed to an international student officer. This was due to no one running for the ESOL officer last year as well wanting to reach out to more international students.

We are also going to work on making our meetings for accessible, so that all officers can attend.

Our timeline for elections this year is:

- **29th of September – 10th of October:** Roles will open and candidates can apply
- **20th – 24th of October:** Elections will take place
- **Friday 25th of October:** Election results will be announced

4. Autism Accreditation

In the 2024-25 academic year, the Students' Association committed to undertaking the National Autistic Society's Autism Accreditation. In March – April of 2025, the Students' Association undertook a review of its services alongside a focus group of neurodiverse students, and surveyed key student and operational staff.

The results of the survey and focus group allowed the Students' Association to identify key areas to build on to support a more neuroinclusive Students' Association, representation system and events.

To support a fully embedded programme of neuroinclusive training and resources in line with the aims of the National Autistic Societies Autism Accreditation programme, the Students' Association have agreed to push back the deadline for submission until June 2026.

This extension of the training will allow the new Presidential Team and new operational staff time to undertake a meaningful evaluation of our services and achieve the aims of the action plan created by our short life working group.

5. Student Feedback

5.1 Laptop Loan Scheme

In the first few weeks of the academic term, we've had some challenges with students needing to access specific software on the laptops they borrow.

Some students who study creative or STEM courses require laptops to have specific software like Adobe Creative Suite, Premier Pro or AutoCAD. At present, not all of the laptops currently have this software, and students are having to find help at the IT desk to install the software before taking the laptop home and completing their coursework. One of the challenges is that not all of the laptops have a high enough specification, so students are having to continuously try the laptop locker until they find another laptop with the correct appropriate hardware. We're currently working alongside the library to resolve this.

The other challenge we have come across is related to licensing. IT have stated to students that they are unable to add software due to the licensing limits, though this shouldn't be a challenge as licenses are attached to the individual's account and not to the software itself.

We've flagged this issue with the Director of Student Experience and the Library Manager, and what we're looking to do is gather more specific information about what software needs to be downloaded so that this can be installed on all of the laptops.