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REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

Subject: Borders College Student Partnership Agreement 2018-19	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☒ **For Discussion** ☐ **For Information** ☐
Prepared by: Douglas Jardine	**Date:** 12 October 2018

Purpose:

To present the Student Partnership Agreement 2018-19.

Linked to Strategic Goal 3: Provide a high quality College experience.

Executive Summary:

The Student Partnership Agreement outlines ways in which the College and Students' Association can work together in order to improve the quality of the student experience.

Feedback is being sought and any significant changes will be discussed with the Board.

Recommendation:

Previous Committee Approvals:

For publication ☒	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☐

Student Partnership Agreement 2018-2019

Agreed between Borders College and
Borders College Students' Association

BORDERS
COLLEGE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Section A – The Agreement

Introduction
Borders College and Borders College Students' Association (BCSA) agree to work in partnership to promote their common values and to achieve their shared priorities for the academic year 2018-2019. Both parties will ensure that student can get involved in actively shaping and influencing their college experience. They commit to promoting the vision of Borders College as an environment in which 'all learners succeed and which inspires growth, creates opportunity, raises aspirations and enhances lives' (Towards 2020, Borders College Strategic Plan, 2016-2020) this aligns closely to BCSA's Vision of "An empowered and engaged student community; learning and growing together at Borders College" (Our Strategy 2018-2022, BCSA). The agreement has been developed through various feedback sessions with BCSA representatives, students and staff. It promotes an understanding of the developing relationship between the College and BCSA, and formalises both parties' commitment to developing a strong and effective Students' Association, as set out in the sector-agreed 'Framework for Development of Effective Student Associations' (Scottish Funding Council, 2015).

Why a Partnership?
The concept of 'partnership' reflects a mature and cooperative working relationship based on mutual respect between students and staff. By working together to achieve a number of shared goals, we can make sure the college experience is improved in a way that works well for everyone.
Our partnership working is based on the values of:

- Openness
- Trust and Honesty
- Shared goals and values
- effective communication between partners

The Role of BCSA
A key priority of BCSA is an ongoing commitment to being the primary champion of the student voice and to work with the college to enhance the student experience.
BCSA consists of:

- Its membership; all students enrolled at Borders College
- An Executive Team of elected officers
- The Student Experience Committees, chaired by the Student President and including Lead Representatives from each curricular area
- Class Representatives from across the college

The Role of Borders College
Borders College supports BCSA to represent students' views and make sure that students have an impact on how the college operates. In accordance with the Code of Good Governance (2016), the College commits fully to supporting the Students' Association in the following ways:

- Ensuring close regard to the student voice to ensure the student experience is central to all Board decisions
- Ensuring there is meaningful ongoing dialogue with the Students' Association in relation to the quality of the student experience, and where key decisions are made The College will ensure timely consultation with the student body takes place
- Ensuring the Students' Association is supported to be strong, autonomous and adequately resourced
- Ensuring the Students' Association continues to operate in a fair and democratic manner which fulfils its responsibilities
- Ensuring close regard to the 'Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations in Scotland' to support the growth of the Students' Association
- Ensuring robust partnership procedures between the College and Students' Association are put in place in order to achieve change

Opportunities for Students to Influence College Life
As a student, being involved in decision-making within the college is the most effective way to improve the student experience. The College and BCSA will work together to promote opportunities for students to get involved in shaping and influencing college life. These include:

- Giving honest and constructive feedback by taking part in surveys, focus groups and informal feedback processes
- Speaking to their course tutor or Curriculum Learning Manager (CLM) directly
- Sharing their views with the Class Representative or BCSA representative
- Standing to be a Class Representative, Lead Rep or BCSA Officer

Section B – Priorities for 2018-2019

The Student Partnership Agreement will be overseen and evaluated by a Partnership working group consisting of representatives from the Student Representative Council and Senior Management. The College and BCSA are agreeing to work together on three priority areas in 2017-2018 as outlined below:

Student Representation
Borders College and BCSA recognise the importance of students being involved in decision making regarding their learning and teaching, and the wider student experience. Both parties will make sure that students are encouraged to take an active role in shaping Borders College. Over the next year the College and BCSA will work together to:

- Promote and support the new Student Representative System to make student feedback a central part of the decision making process.
- Offer a broad range of opportunities to all students to feed back on their college experience.

Mental Health
Student Mental Health has been recognised by many agencies including the Scottish Government and the National Union of Students as a priority area for work in the present and immediate future. Over the next year BCSA and the college will work in partnership to:

- Develop the first Borders College/ BCSA Student Mental Health Agreement
- Develop meaningful relationships with external partners that can offer advice and support to students experiencing mental ill health.
- Promote and develop a culture of health and wellbeing in the college.

Student Community
Borders College and BCSA value the importance of creating a sense of belonging and inclusion amongst all students, where they feel valued and are part of the College. Borders College and BCSA will work to;

- Embed equalities and diversity into all areas of the college and the student community.
- Expand and promote the availability of extra-curricular activities available to students including sport and physical activity.
- Deliver a varied program of student and community events.
- Work with partners at Heriot Watt University and Heriot Watt Union to develop a student community at Scottish Borders Campus.

Signed

Douglas L Jardine	Angela Cox	Tony Jakimciw
Student President	**Principal**	**Chair of the Board**