

## REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

<b>Subject:</b> Student Association Update	<b>Purpose:</b> <b>For Approval</b> <b>For Discussion</b> <b>For Information X</b>	
<b>Prepared by:</b> David Elder	<b>Date:</b> 14/02/19	
<b>Purpose:</b> To update the Board with information on key projects and events.		
<b>Linked to Strategic Goal 3: Provide a high quality College experience.</b>		
<b>Executive Summary:</b>  This paper provides information of what the Students Association has been busy with in the last few months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students Elections</li> <li>• Student Experience Committee</li> <li>• HBHM/Mental health</li> <li>• Conferences and Awards</li> <li>• Activity's</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommendation</b>  Note this paper is for information only.		
<b>Previous Committee Approvals: No</b>		
For publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For publication with redactions <input type="checkbox"/>	Not for publication <input type="checkbox"/>

## **Introduction:**

The purpose of this paper is to update members of the Regional Board on what Borders College Students' Association (BCSA) has been up to since the turn of the year. The new Student Experience Committee model is going well, involving key members of staff and students gathering effective feedback and in turn making change where required throughout the college.

We have run several events, two of which have been in conjunction with Heriot-Watt Student Union, and have been a great success.

There has been healthy interest in the Student President Elections this year. At the time of writing this paper, three confirmed candidates are up for election. The results will be announced on March 8.

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## **Class Rep System**

### **Class Rep Conference**

BCSA met with students at Galashiels and Newtown campuses as an opportunity to speak informally with class reps. This increases the level of interaction BCSA has with reps, in turn promoting better engagement with the system.

### **Student Experience Committee (SEC)**

BCSA hosted the college's first SEC on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November as part of the newly re-structured class rep system. This was attended by 6 Lead Reps, Assistant Principals and various member of the Senior Leadership Team.

## **Events**

### **ReFreshers 2019**

Run in conjunction with Heriot-Watt Student Union. A total of 33 external organisations and businesses attended.

### **LGBT History Month**

Celebrated with 'Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People' display, transgender awareness training for staff and 'Walk Together' step challenge to raise awareness and funds for LGBT Youth. With the support of the Rural Skills Lead Rep, BCSA relaunched BCSA's LGBT group, now called 'Stand Out!'

### Student Pub Quiz

Run in conjunction with BaxterStorey and Herriot-Watt, the quiz was well attended by students. Going forward, BCSA will look to establish this as a regular BCSA event and will consider how we engage more Borders College students in the event.

### Open Day

Coordinated campus tours run by a team of student ambassadors and officers.

### **Healthy Body Healthy Mind/Mental Health Agreement**

#### Time to Talk

BCSA offered free breakfast, hosted on both campuses to encourage students to be open about mental health. Student Services staff were on hand to offer additional support to students if required.

#### Toast & Tea Club

Regular Wednesday morning breakfast club hosted at Galashiels. This group is regularly attended by students on supported programmes.

#### Mental Health First Aid Training

21 class reps signed up to attend 2-day mental health training session held in February 2019.

#### Transgender Awareness Training

With the support of the college's HR department, BCSA organised a transgender awareness training session for staff in Feb 2019. The session was delivered by LGBT Youth and encouraged staff to consider how we can build an environment that is inclusive and supportive of transgender students.

#### Smoking Cessation support

Building partnership with NHS smoking to ensure support is available for students wishing to give up smoking.

#### Partnerships with New Horizons and Victim Support

Investing opportunities top set up college drop-in/1-1 sessions to provide mental health support.

## **Student President Nominations**

Three candidates will run for Student President 2019-2020. The results will be announced on March 8 at an election reception, hosted in the college refectory in conjunction with Heriot-Watt Student Union.

## **Conferences and Awards**

BCSA will present at annual Sparqs conference in March – sharing best practice about our newly designed class rep system.

A Borders College Class Rep has been nominated by their peers for sparqs ‘Class Rep of the Year’ award.