

REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

Subject: Students Association Update	Purpose: For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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Purpose: To update the Regional Board of key projects and events of Borders College Students Association		
Linked to Strategic Goal 2: Deliver successful outcomes for all our learners.		
Executive Summary: This paper provides information of what the Students Association has been busy with since the Board last met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student President Elect for 2019-20 • Student Experience Committee • HBHM/Mental Health • Ongoing BCSA Activity 		
Recommendation: Note the paper is for information only.		
Previous Committee Approvals: n/a		
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	Not for publication 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 last reporting in March of this year. Our new Student Experience Committee model continues to work well with the most important and relevant feedback now going to the Learning and Teaching Committee within the College.

Our new Student President has now been elected, and is Ann Letham. Ann will take up her term as President in mid June of this year. We are delighted to have Ann with us here for her first Board Meeting this evening.

The office is, as always busy on a daily basis supporting and sign-posting students where we can. The headings below detail some of the main activities, which BCSA have been involved in within the relatively short period of the last Board meeting.

Class Rep System

Student Experience Committee (SEC)

In the time of writing this paper, we are in the last stages of preparing for the last of our SEC's for the academic year. Although feedback returned is not of the volume we would have hoped for but, does follow the annual pattern, what the students have provided seems to be very positive. We now aim to debrief and see what needs to be improved on or changed for the next academic year.

Class Rep Conferences

BCSA continues to engage with our class reps in both campuses, this give them a chance to speak with BCSA Staff and Officers informally on things that they are finding challenging in class.

College Committees

The most relevant and common themes coming from the SEC around learning and teaching are now being reported back to the Colleges Learning and Teaching Committee of which both the Student President and Vice-President (for Education) are now members.

Student President

Ann is currently studying to gain her NVQ Level 3 Diploma in Professional Cookery; this year she won the Field to Fork National Final for Borders College and just a few weeks ago was selected to go to Gleneagles Hotel for a two-week placement in order to gain valuable experience in a 5 star setting. In addition Ann has a Degree in Business graduating from Heriot Watt University and was the first student ever to go on the "Say Aye to Dubai" Project. BCSA is looking forward to having Ann at the helm with a very exciting year ahead as she is already a member of the Executive team of BCSA being VP for Activities, as she has a great insight into how the Student Association works

Mental Health

Tea & Toast Club

This club has now been extended to 3 days a week, Tuesday to Thursday mornings in the canteen from 8am. BCSA Officers or College Welfare staff support the club across the 3 mornings if students need to discuss any issues or just need a chat. This service has also been introduced at our Newtown Campus in a “Grab & Go” format, to which staff oversee and students know to come and help themselves when required.

Mental Health Focus Group

A small group of students met with Clare Nairn, Head of Student Services to consult on the proposed Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan. These students were among the group that was trained by See ME Scotland in First Aid Mental Health Training back in February of this year.

Healthy Body Healthy Mind (HBHM)

In the time of writing this report, we are in the process of pulling all the information together for our HBHM Annual Report, which is submitted to NUS Scotland. This report shows our progress over the last year, celebrates our achievements, and identifies the ways in which we can continue to increase our delivery of positive support for mental health. We hope to improve on the one start award that we achieved last year.

BCSA Activity

Sparqs Annual Conference

BCSA attended the sparqs annual conference on the 28th March within Surgeons Hall in Edinburgh. We presented our model of the Student Experience Committee, talking about why we made the change, reasons for making the change, how we made the change and the impact we have found in the changes made in the system. This was a great experience and created a good discussion with other colleges across the sector.

EIS- FELA

BCSA are continuing to communicate between EIS-FELA representatives here in the College and nationally with NUS Scotland, Colleges Scotland and EIS National Officer Anne Keenan. Keeping Students informed of the current situation is key for us and working in partnership with the SMT in the College, we hope to see the best outcome from all of this going forward.