



REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

Subject: BCSA Update Paper October 2019	Purpose: For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prepared by: Ann Letham	Date: 9 th Oct 2019
Purpose: To provide an update on Students' Association activity from July-Oct 2019.	
Linked to Strategic Goal 3: Provide a high quality College experience.	
Executive Summary: Overview of engagement activities based on BCSA's operational themes; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theme 1 – Education• Theme 2 – Health & Wellbeing• Theme 3 – Student Community	
Recommendation: 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 Not for publication 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"/>

Student Presidents Update

October 2019

Operational Theme 1: Education

- Trained 45/59 (76%) Class Reps at MacArts in Galashiels. The Chair of the Board met with reps to give background on work of the board, which they found very informative.
- Lead Reps in place for 7 of the 9 Curricular areas. Training has been completed with 7 lead Reps.
- 2 VPs in place - an Education Officer and an Activities Officer
- Students were consulted regarding the Student Partnership Agreement. Work is underway to have this completed by the next board meeting
- The Class Rep System has been reviewed and work is underway on further improvements around the communication network between Class Reps and Lead Reps.
- Scheduled focus groups for students to meet with Principal to discuss Student Experience are in place.
- BCSA completed a Welcome Café and Welcome Sessions during induction, communicating directly with over 800 students
- We ran a successful programme of welcome week events. These included a Welcome Fair, free breakfast, lunchtimes themed around sustainability, diversity and clubs, we held workshops on Money Matters, Identity Theft, IT for Mature Students
- VP elections are underway for Newtown, Tweedbank & ISEC. The result will be announced on 11th October.
- Newtown Committee – plans are underway to have a student committee dedicated to Newtown as their needs are slightly different to those studying at Galashiels.

Operational Theme 2: Health and Wellbeing

- Teabags – we have introduced an initiative on a Wednesday in which students on the main campus can take home the ingredients for a healthy meal for £1.
- Fareshare – from 25th October we will be collecting surplus ambient food from Asda to give away to students. Bread, fruit and vegetables will be available to students first (then staff) with the aim of reducing food sent to landfill and helping students access nutritious food.
- Think Positive – the Student President attended training in Edinburgh with NUS and SSS. The Healthy Body Healthy Mind awards now require compulsory membership of SSS. We have decided not to renew our SSS affiliation as a review showed it not to be the best use of our resources. Therefore we cannot take part in Healthy Body Healthy Mind.
- Student Mental Health Agreement – a consultation was completed during class rep training. We aim to have this document signed off and in place before Christmas.

- Health and wellbeing survey – a survey of students’ perception of their own physical and mental health was completed mid September. There were 160 responses. We will run the same questions in January and before the Easter break to review if there are any notable changes. This will give us data to work with in future years.
- Tiny Changes campaign – our nominated charity is Tiny Changes, a local charity focussing on young people’s mental health.
- Thought of the Day – a whiteboard has been installed outside the BCSA office door. It has been a great success with feedback in person and social media both very positive.
- Calendar of national awareness days – work has been completed around various national awareness days including World Mental Health Day, National Fitness Day, National Porridge Day, National Smile Day, Organ Donation Week and Sexual Health Week. More events are planned.
- Partnership working is with Student Services - fortnightly catch up meetings are ongoing.
- Walktober – a college wide step count challenge, raising money for Stonewall and Tiny Changes, as well as increasing physical activity in college.

Operational Theme 3: Student Community

- Regular clubs – Football, Jogging, Dungeons & Dragons, Anime & Manga
- Sign ups – a survey was completed at the beginning of the year. Now that VPs are in place, more clubs and societies are due to be formed.
- Welcome Fair – in addition to the events mentioned under Education, the Welcome Fair involved 35 stallholders, giveaways, a DJ and a photobooth.
- Tiny Changes – Fair to raise awareness on World Mental Health Day, involving stallholders and a live band. An LGBT workshop took place as part of the event.
- Baxter Storey roadshows – Meet the Team and Health and Wellbeing lunchtime roadshows with free food and drink have been well received.
- Access department – the Skills for Learning and Work class have helped with Teabags. Mainetti have generously provided the paper bags free of charge.
- Pub quiz – a quiz was held in the Library, coordinated by Jamie McIntyre, Library Manager, and in conjunction with Heriot Watt. This has laid the foundation for future quizzes and a programme is in place until Christmas. College staff are to be invited to future events.
- Car share – A Facebook page has been set up to match up drivers and passengers, with a view to saving money and reducing emissions.
- Register to vote – a campaign has been running to encourage students to register to vote in case a snap election occurs.
- Piano – a piano was sourced free of charge and is available in the canteen for anybody to play. It is well used and it is encouraging that there is a wealth of talent in the College. We are awaiting a tuner to make it sound more melodious!
- Inspirational speakers – Leven Brown, Record Breaking Ocean Rower came and spoke to around 70 students with tales of adventure on the Atlantic.

- Newtown held a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan and Borders Pet Rescue.
- The simulator racing car has been in place in the canteen during lunchtime. It is encouraging sign ups to the Green Power Racing Team. We hope build a car to race under the BCSA and Borders College names in the spring.

Looking Forward

- Staffing – capacity in BCSA has been reduced by 25% as Amy Brydon, BCSA Support Officer, has had hours reduced in BCSA from full time to half time. While there is a plan in place, it is recognised that the potential positive impact of BCSA will be significantly reduced and core activities of representation will take precedence over additional clubs, events, charities and health and wellbeing.
- Sleep out – Borders College is an approved charity for the Big Sleep Out on 7th November. The Sleep Out will be held in the Library. 50% of sponsorship raised by the college will go to a ring-fenced fund to help homeless and estranged students.
- Speakers - Jasmine Paris, record breaking hill runner, vet, research scientist and mum, is coming in November and we are hopeful of a good student turnout.
- Christmas Fair – Lynne Black, the new Enterprise Innovator is working with BCSA and the Access Department to coordinate a big Christmas Shopping Fair on 11th December.
- Working with Enterprise – Ties, mugs and hoodies are all for sale, as well as Wednesday Teabags. There are more opportunities arising through working with the Enterprise Innovator.
- We will have a Sustainability themed roadshow on 5th November which will include a swap shop for clothes, in conjunction with Baxter Storey and Heriot Watt.