

REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

Subject: BCSA Update Paper June 2020	Purpose: For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prepared by: Ann Letham	Date: 4 th June 2020
Purpose: To provide an update on Students' Association activity.	
Linked to Strategic Goal 3: Provide a high quality College experience.	
Executive Summary: <p>Overview of engagement activities based on BCSA's operational themes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 1 – Education Theme 2 – Health & Wellbeing Theme 3 – Student Community 	
Recommendation: <p>This paper is for information only</p>	
Previous Committee Approvals: <p>N/A</p>	
For publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For publication with redactions <input type="checkbox"/>
Not for publication <input type="checkbox"/>	

Student President's Update

June 2020

Operational Theme 1: Education

- Class rep feedback was collected and an alternative format for SEC has been proposed. We will continue consultation on a format that removes some pressure from Class reps and hopefully increases the volume and quality of feedback.
- Student engagement with the SA is decreasing due to both the effects of lockdown and because some students have completed their coursework. We continue to contact all students so they are aware we are available.
- Although class reps and lead reps have moved onto Teams, there is less engagement than in person. This has prompted us to look at whether our rep system is set up as efficiently as it could be and if it gives all students an equal voice.
- Some students were concerned that lecturers require all work to be completed by the end of May rather than the second week in June. This was passed on to Heather.
- Although some students have not found online learning favourable, others expressed their preference for online learning. This is evidenced by their improved assessment results. We would like to see a level of flexibility going forward to ensure that all students are able to study in the way that gives them the opportunity to achieve their potential.

Operational Theme 2: Health and Wellbeing

- We have had to make use of our status as an approved referring agency to local foodbanks. While this has been a lifeline for some students it is unfortunate that it is necessary.
- We have run several Big White Wall promotions through social media and our newsletter. Despite a large amount of marketing, student uptake remains low with a total of 11 users in the month of April, 8 of those new users and the main referral route being "colleague", suggesting it is more widely used by staff than students.
- April was Stress Awareness Month and we posted 30 days of online yoga for students to join in. May was Mental Health Awareness month and we ran a "Doodle a Day in May" on social media and in our Newsletter, asking students to take a few minutes to do a drawing each day.
- We worked with the Student Services team to develop a mental health awareness video for students
- We have reinforced the support available to students at risk of gender-based violence through the creation of various resources

Operational Theme 3: Student Community

- Regular Clubs – unfortunately Move-it-Mondays have not been able to continue but we are running a daily Breakfast Club on Teams.
- Student Nights – Thursday at 5pm is student night and we have run a Treasure Hunt and a quiz. We hope to continue this up to the holidays as it has an unforeseen benefit in students from different campuses getting to know one another.
- We are publishing a weekly newsletter for students with lots of information and contributions from students.
- We conducted "Question Time" on Teams with Angela, Heather Anderson and Hazel Robertson.

- We have made various videos and awareness raisers for social media.
- We developed a monitoring system to track support engagements. We have an average of 25 engagements per week of this nature.
- We organised the BCSA Awards and received nominations from students and staff in various different categories. The stories that were brought to light in this exercise were uplifting and have highlighted the amazing people who work and study at Borders College.