

Working with student representatives – the new Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations in Scotland”

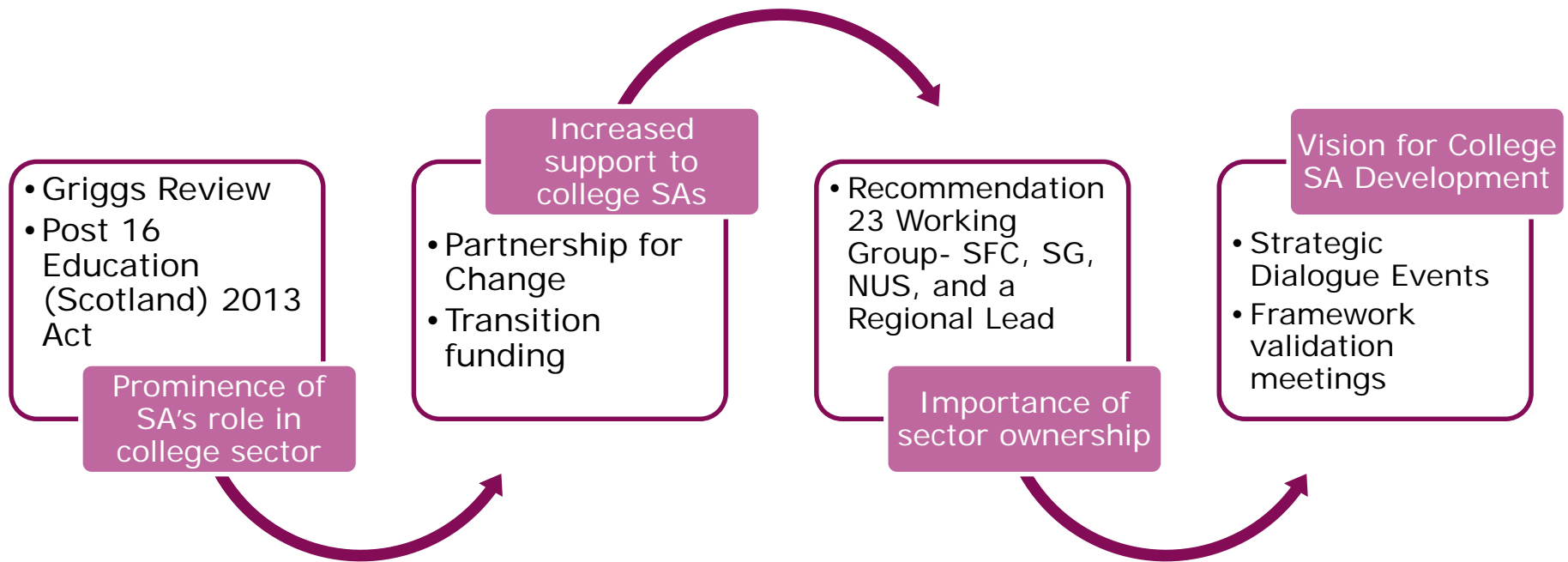
Charlotte Lawley, Development Manager, NUS

David Scott, Institutional Support Manager, sparqs

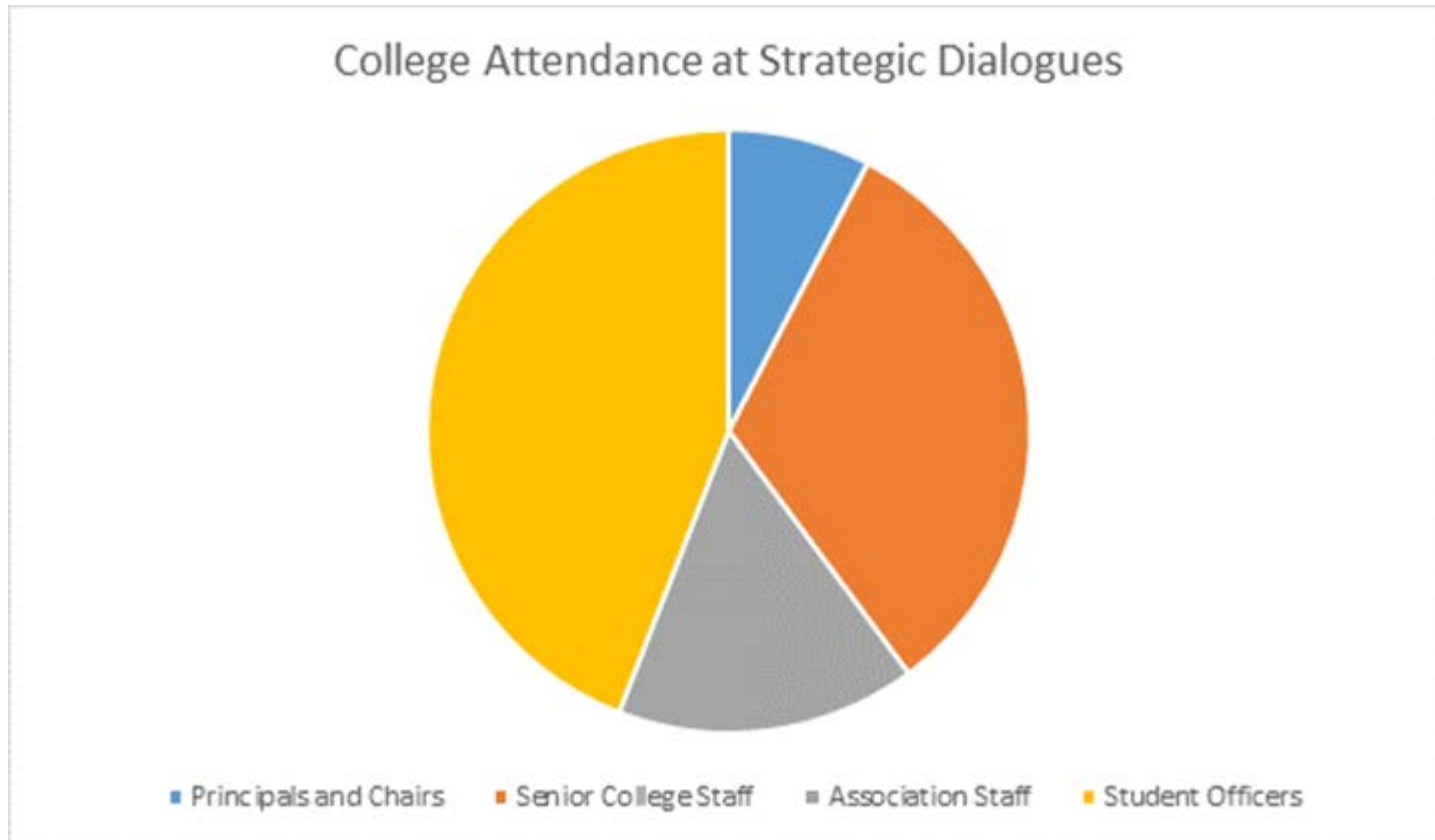
Session objectives

- Background to the development of the Framework
- Understanding how to use the Framework to create partnership between college and association
- The role of the Board in supporting the implementation of the framework
- Utilising the student board member to drive development, accountability and success

Journey to the Framework



Engagement in the Framework



Creation of the Framework

- Co-creation by the SFC, NUS Scotland and the Scottish Government
- Endorsement and validation by Colleges Scotland
- Oversight and Direction Group set up with membership from NUS Scotland, sparqs, SFC, Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Colleges Scotland, student representatives and senior college staff
- Framework was launched at Forth Valley College on 3rd June by the Cabinet Secretary.

Purpose of the Framework

- A shared vision for students' association development and a common understanding of its key concepts and qualities

There is an accompanying self-evaluation tool

- Establishes a set of standards and indicators/prompts which identify the resources and support a students' association needs to be effective.

Using the Framework

Principles

These underpin and drive the development of the students' associations and ensure the association operates effectively.

Themes

These are areas of development which the association and college will need to work on throughout the year in order to achieve and develop the key principles.

5 Principles

- Autonomous
- Partnered
- Accountable
- Representative
- Sustainable

5 Themes

- Shaping the life and work of the College
- Governance and Democracy
- Aware and Active students
- Sustainable resources
- Value and Impact

NUS Scotland's role

NUS Scotland and sparqs have been awarded project funding for two years to support the implementation of the Framework.

This support will be both local and national and we will work with both associations and college in partnership to achieve outcomes and impact.

Next steps

College and Association to carry out the self-evaluation to establish development priorities for the association looking forward. This is also an opportunity to explore where the association's strengths are and how these can be capitalised.

A working group should be set up with attendance from NUS Scotland to oversee the implementation of a development plan. We would recommend this is divided into 3 month blocks with evaluation embedded throughout the 12 month cycle.

The role of Boards and Chairs

- Success of the association and its developed relies on buy-in from the most senior level
- The development of the association should be seen as a priority which will overlap and feed into college wide strategic aims
- Students' Associations which do not have support and understanding from the Board have traditionally struggled to work in partnership with the college to achieve shared aims and common goals

Ways to support the Framework

- Assign a board member to sit on the working group
- Ask for updates at Board meetings from student board member and others – it can't just be their responsibility
- Read over the self-evaluation and be aware of the development plan that is produced

Over to you

In small groups please discuss how you could use your role to support the development of your associations and what you would like to see at Board level in terms of engagement with the framework and development plan.

Please also discuss any notes of interest or questions you have about the framework



Thank you for attending and taking part in this
workshop