

## **Students' Association Report March/April 2020**

### **Class Reps Update**

New College Lanarkshire Learner Engagement Team & Students Association implemented a new a 3 tier structure for the start of the current academic year, with varying forms of responsibility and involvement available. Through learner feedback we established that students felt the previous system was ineffective and didn't provide the best experience for our students in terms of representation. The three tiers are made up of Class Rep, Faculty Reps & Curriculum Reps.

Due to Covid 19 some development of this has been put on hold. The Learner Engagement team and the Student Association are working with our Development officer from sparqs to make sure we are still support the student experience and we have been working alongside the NCL Brand team to development student communications and feedback platforms.

Regular Zoom meeting with SPARQS will support the Student Association and Learner Engagement on making sure class reps continue to be supported during this time – SPARQS have a Covid 19 support page for class reps.

### **Scottish Mental Health Agreement**

The NCL Students' Association are currently working alongside NUS Think Positive campaign to launch our new and revised Student Mental Health Agreement. A student mental health survey was launched online at the start of semester 2 and will run until the 28<sup>th</sup> of February to allow students to voice their opinion on mental health related issues within college. There are 12 steps in order to complete the process, which we have currently completed and awaiting confirmation on the launch from Think Positive. Once this has been confirmed NCL Principal and CEO Professor Christopher Moore & Students' Association President Calum Smith are required to sign it off ready for launch.

After discussions with Chair of the Mental Health Committee and Think Positive Officer due to Covid 19 we decided it better to put the launch on hold. The work that has been put into the project has been great from all involved and waiting until a physical launch is possible will provide a better experience for students.

A meeting with Think positive lead 13/05/20 for an update on the project.

## **Supporting Sports Students**

Through raising awareness of the support available, The Students Association has funded one of our sports students to compete in a UK wide BUCS event. Alexander Thomson will be competing in the 400m & 800m races in Sheffield in May 2020. The Students Association has funded his full entry including travel, stay and new sports equipment for him to compete with, as well as ongoing support prior to the event. He will be sponsored by NCL SA on the day and is currently ranked second highest Paralympian in the UK at his age group. The Students' Association regularly make all students aware of the support that is available to them throughout their time at the college.

## **Bronze at Bucs**

Alexander Thomson was third in the men's 60m dash ambulatory race, finishing behind students representing Loughborough and East London universities. Alexander, who normally competes in 200m and 400m distances, is hopeful of securing a place in the GB Paralympic team for the Tokyo Paralympic Games, now due to take place in August 2021.

Full story

<https://www.nclanarkshire.ac.uk/news/student-athlete-spurred-on-by-bronze-at-bucs>

## **Elections**

The Students' Association are working alongside Learner Engagement and NUS to create the new round of elections ready for 2020/2021 officers. The elections will be advertised from March onwards and will be finalised by April & May with the new officers in post from June. There is a full handover process in development to ensure continuity within the SA.

New College Lanarkshire Student Election processes are usually coordinated by the Learner Engagement team, with support from marketing and NUS Scotland. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, it is now necessary that elections, including the nomination, campaigning and voting processes are now conducted entirely online.

Papers attached.

## **Students' Association Rebrand**

Through on-going discussions with members of the SA and Learner Engagement team the decision was made in March to start the rebranding process of NCL Students Association. Whilst the awareness surrounding the Students Association has raised considerably this year, we feel it would ultimately be beneficial for the new brand to be in place for the end

of this academic year. Work is currently on going between both teams and meetings have been set up with the Brand team to aid this process.

Due to Covid 19 the work of this has been put on hold the SA feel until the College has committed to what their brand would look like we would wait.

This will be included in the hand over for the new Presidents in July.

### **Student Experience Group**

The Student Experience Group is the new name given to the Learner Engagement Committee. To accompany the change of name, a revised remit was developed and membership expanded in order to support the Student Association the achievement of key goals and develop cross-college initiatives to enhance the student experience. The revised remit includes:

- Analysis of student feedback including survey results
- Analysis of course review feedback
- Be Heard Feedback
- Analysis of complaints and subsequent action taken
- Analysis of quarterly complaints/feedback/suggestions
- Development of a Student Experience Group action plan
- Capture information on current co-curricular programmes
- Develop cross college co-curricular programmes in support of the student
- Facilitate a unified and responsive system of support for the curriculum across campuses.
- Facilitate links with external agencies and individuals to support our students or potential
- students to access to high quality, and relevant information
- Supporting the Student Association in the achievement of operational plan goals
- Review E&D Action plan

Due to the Covid19 lockdown and home-working the group has moved to Microsoft teams so we can continue the development of the group's action plan.

### **Student Support Hub**

There is now a dedicated Student Support Hub within the NCL website to help guide students through these turbulent times and answer their queries. The hub provides information on internal support services, qualifications updates from awarding bodies, and mental health and wellbeing support, including the Big White Wall.

The Student Association and Learner Engagement have joined in the hub to provide support to students:

<https://www.nclanarkshire.ac.uk/coronavirus/student-support-hub>

## **Student Association and Learner Engagement Social Media Platforms**

The Student Association and the Learner Engagement team have joined together on social media and renamed their platforms “The Student Voice”. New software (hootsuite) allows for more regular updates, advance scheduling of posts and adherence of Brand Team guidance on social media content. In addition, more comprehensive data can be collected with regards viewing of content.