

# The SLCSA Report

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**MAY 2018**

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## **Long Term Objectives of SLCSA Executive Committee**

Long-term operational objectives of SLCSA have been identified at the request of the Students' Association Advisory Group. Since the creation of the Group in November 2017, clear and consistent planning has been a key area of focus for its members. Planning activities, such as; prioritising goals, allocating tasks to committee members, setting deadlines and monitoring progress will likely remain an area of high interest to the Group beyond the end of academic year, 2017/18. This is a positive outcome for every future SA leader as the Advisory Group can empower them all through professional guidance.

The SA President has been working with the Depute Head of Student Services to merge the two existing strategy documents into one. The finished structure will resemble a roof atop four pillars, each of which depicts one of the strategic themes, passed by the SLCSA Executive Committee, throughout the year.

SA Officers have been asked to share their thoughts on SA and college values. The SA President will seek members' approval to share the College Values at the next SLCSA Executive Committee meeting on Friday 1 June, 2018.

## **The Responsible Futures Audit**

On Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 May, SLC was audited by NUS and five of its students on our efforts to embed sustainability and social responsibility into the life and work of the College. The Responsible Futures (RF) Working Group, comprises individuals from the departments; SLCSA, Quality, Facilities, Student Services, HR and, is led by two Depute Head of Faculty. The Group have met fortnightly to discuss the criteria to be met in order to achieve re-accreditation and upload evidence of our actions. The RF Group are confident that we'll achieve our goal of re-accreditation and the audit process was thrilling. Having students question the SA directly was very empowering and made it worth all the effort of the year to be able to answer when, put on the spot.



Volunteer Student Auditors collaborating with NUS Responsible Futures (May, 2018).

## Healthy Body Healthy Mind Report

As part of our commitment to ensure the health and wellbeing of our college population, SLCSA has collaborated with classes, departments and support staff to submit a report for the Think Positive, Healthy Body Healthy Mind Awards. A report format is NUS' preferred method for submitting evidence of the steps taken to support and educate students through a healthy and happy, learning journey. The ninety-page document was submitted on Tuesday 1 May and the SA is aiming to achieve one 'Star' out of a possible five with our first attempt at taking part.



Above Images: Evidence of good practice in supporting strong physical and mental health.

## The Last Straw Campaign

The Students' Association's Sustainability Event, was a huge success. The campaign to ban plastic straws in the canteen was an effective way to encourage sustainable behaviours, starting with one small and achievable change. Catering partners, Inspire, were enthusiastic about collaborating with the SA and immediately introduced new biodegradable straws in the SLC canteen. The Principal was encouraging from the outset and there are ongoing discussions taking place to look at other sustainable alternatives.



Above: Packed with good practice. Images from the SLCSA Sustainability Event.

Eighty-nine people learned about the negative impacts of plastic waste under the sea while entering the free SA raffle to win tickets to Sea Life Centre, Loch Lomond. Also in attendance were several recognisable organisations offering students free information, tools, food samples and merchandise.



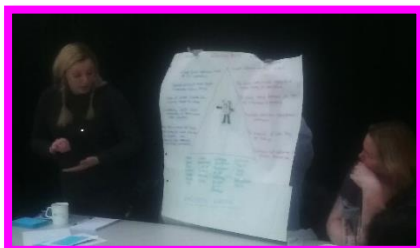
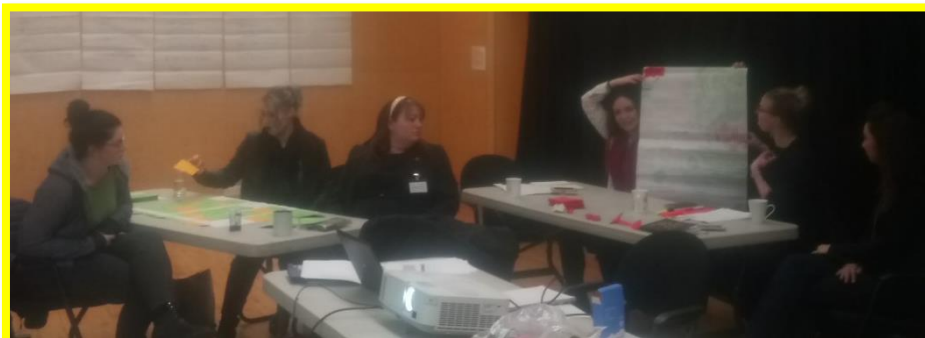
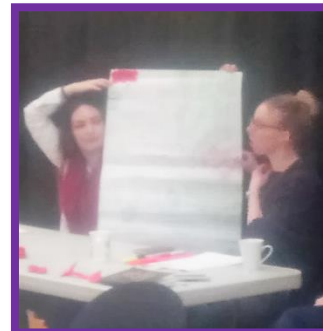
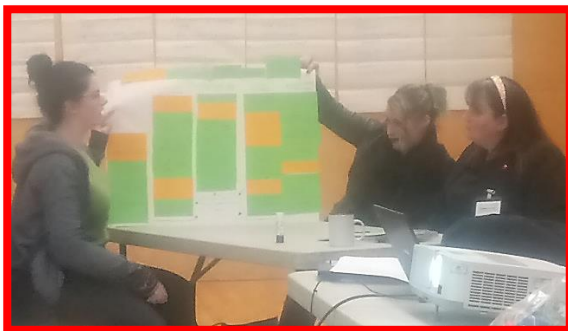
SLCSA celebrated equality and inclusiveness for LGBTI people on Friday 26 February, through our Purple Friday event. Exhibitors were friendly, informative and very supportive. They offered our college population a very positive approach to inclusion, mental and sexual health and wellbeing. Many photos were captured on the day using an Instax camera and the equipment became a fun talking point and a great way to share souvenirs with visitors to the event. The SA had support from a volunteer HND Events student who helped to distribute questionnaires and give away SA merchandise.



Above: A few snaps from SLC's annual Purple Friday event.

## Reviewing the Professional Standards for Lecturers in Scotland's Colleges

The SA worked with Class Reps to review the Professional Standards for Lecturers in Scotland's Colleges, in Edinburgh on Thursday 27 February. The sparqs-led workshop event welcomed student representatives to, work in collaboration and shape this policy for the future. Attendees identified key areas of importance to them, regarding the role of Lecturers, such as; technology resources and staff CPD to ensure the effective use of it. Other areas such as; classroom discipline, flexibility in approach to teaching and relevant work experience were also considered.

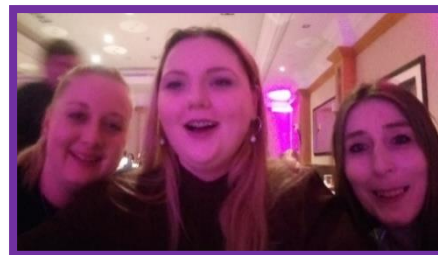
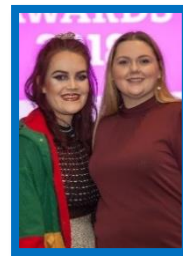
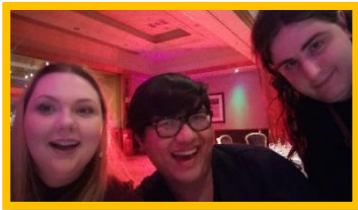


Above: Student Representatives work in teams at sparqs' workshop event.

Access to the Quality Unit's 'text tools' helped the SA raise awareness of the event and sparqs had to be contacted to provide SLC with additional spaces to meet interest. sparqs will feed back data from the event to CDN who will review research from other key stakeholder groups to inform the evidence-base that will underpin the revised standards. One of our attending Reps has since stepped forward as a candidate for SA President, 2018/19.

## **NUS Scotland Conference 2018**

The NUS Scotland Conference was held on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 March, 2018. The two-day event included the elections of NUS' next President (Liam McCabe) and Vice President (Gemma Jones) and motions regarding access, funding and, support for students. Outside of the conference hall, students were free to visit exhibitors, attend the awards ceremony in the evening and spend the night in a five-star hotel, the Doubletree by Hilton, Dunblane. The NUS Scotland Conference 2018 offered the nation's SA Officers insight into the work and personal experiences of their peers. Different points of view were appreciated and developed in comfort and enjoyment, through union.



Top Middle: NUS Scotland's Elected President and Vice President for 2018/19.

## **NUS UK Conference 2018**

For the first time ever, the annual NUS UK Conference took place in Glasgow. The three-day event took place from Tuesday 27 to Thursday 29 March and brought together NUS delegates from the four nations.

Improved access to support in other institutions was supported by SLCSA delegates, even though student mental health support and funding is already better at SLC than what was being asked for. Sharing best practice and helping others is a part of what SA come together to achieve.



## Regional Outcome Agreement

SLCSA has been working in partnership with our Depute Principal and Regional peers at NCLSA to develop our contribution to the Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA). SLCSA have been involved in the process since November 2018 when, an initial meeting was set up with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to discuss and develop Presidents' understanding of student needs in the Region and, areas where the SFC think our commitment could be appreciated (e.g. GAP, STEM, DYW, etc.). SLCSA has been working to define our own commitments, while being careful not to infringe on our successors right to choose their approach.

## Student Elections 2018

Since returning from the Easter break, students have been visiting the SA Office to express their interest in our paid Officer roles for 2018/19. Most said they would prefer a part-time role as the Vice President, for one year, before campaigning for the role of President, the following year. The main reason given is that most interested parties have a desire to return to SLC as a student in 2018/19. Potential candidates also felt it would benefit them as a Lead President to have a year's experience as a part-time Vice President before taking on the full-time role. The College has five candidates running in total. Three students have put themselves forward for the role of President and two for Vice President. Current student members of the SA Executive Committee are excited and hopeful for the future of the SA, with the imminent elections for successors. Elections results will be announced on Thursday 24 May.

Issue #500

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# STUDENT ELECTIONS 2018

Could it be you?

Exciting, dynamic & paid roles...

Full-time	Part-time
<b>Student President</b> Paid post	<b>Vice Student President</b> Paid post

**NOMINATE YOURSELF**  
Nominations open Monday 16th April & close Monday 30th April at 4.30pm.  
For more information, visit the Advice Centre to pick up a nomination pack.

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
We'll be announcing the candidates - voting opens Tuesday 8th May.

Issue #502

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# STUDENT ELECTIONS 2018

VOTING OPEN

**NOW IS YOUR TIME TO VOTE**  
**Student President & Vice President**

**MANIFESTOS ONLINE**  
Log onto Moodle to read candidate manifestos and cast your vote.  
Voting closes Tuesday 22nd May 2018.

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
We'll be announcing your chosen candidates on Thursday 24th May.

Above: Poster campaign encouraging students to become leaders

## SLCSA Diary

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
14/05/18	Mental Health Awareness Week
14/05/18	SLC Course Information Evening
15/05/18	CAG Meeting
15/05/18	ODG Meeting
24/05/18	Student Elections Results Announced
30/05/18	Student Question Time
01/06/18	Executive Committee Group Meeting / SLCSA AGM
06/06/18	CDN Expo '18