



South  
Lanarkshire  
College  

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East Kilbride



South Lanarkshire College

Students' Association

Board Report

August 2018

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## Overview

The Student President and Vice President both produced winning election campaigns focused on building relationships with students and engaging with them on a one to one basis and as a collective group. These relationships will continue to be developed in the forthcoming academic year.

SLCSA have shown a keen willingness to engage in the role by starting to attend board meetings and events prior to their start date. The President was pleased to attend College Expo 2018 and present on behalf of sparqs. This event also provided a networking opportunity with President's from West Lothian, Edinburgh and New College Lanarkshire.

## Handover

The new SLCSA executives appreciated an engaging, informative and well-structured handover period from the outgoing SA President and college staff. Meetings were arranged with various key people around the College including Marketing, HR, Finance, Quality, Facilities and many others. Student Services contributed to the handover period and continue to work in close partnership with the SA on all levels.

Further to internal connections being made, visits were arranged during the handover for NUS and Scottish Student Sport to come to meet the new SA team.



## Events and Training

### Lead and Change



In addition to all necessary in house training the SLCSA have already attended a number of work related training days and events. The President and Vice President both attended NUS Lead and Change, which was two days of officer training and development at West Lothian College in Livingston.



### Glasgow Pride & Expo

The SA Vice, and staff from across the college along with SLC student volunteers enjoyed attending Glasgow Pride & Expo on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. This event is the College's opportunity to publicly display their inclusivity and passion for LGBTI Equality.



## Mental Health Training

On the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> July SA President attended *safeTALK* Suicide Alertness training which was delivered free of charge at charity Chris's House by one of the trainers from Richmond Fellowship. This developed into an excellent networking opportunity and the trainer invited the SA President to attend *Scottish Mental Health First Aid* training free for two days the following week, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. Training days such as these are essential if the SA President is to live up to their manifesto and the work plan outlined in the SA Operational Plan.



## **That's Quality! Colleges 2018**

SLCSA look forward to attending this sparqs event in Dundee. This is going to be a two-day event for the first time as a pilot. SLCSA look forward to learning about national arrangements and procedures that help colleges ensure the best possible learning experience for their students.



## **NUS The Gathering**

SLCSA will attend NUS The Gathering which is a networking event for officers and SA staff from all over Scotland. At The Gathering, NUS launch their plans for the year ahead and students had the opportunity to present in a TED Talk inspired forum.



## **Information Evening and Evening Student Representation**

SLCSA will be present at the South Lanarkshire College Information Evening.

This will be an opportunity for prospective students to familiarise themselves with SLCSA and allow the SA to discuss their experience as students as well as what the SA can do for students this year.

SLCSA will use this time to raise awareness of the Vice President's intention to work evenings and gain interaction from the evening students. This is a completely new initiative and SLCSA anticipate gauging the success of having a presence representing students' at all times throughout the College day.



## Operational Plan

SLCSA compiled a draft operational plan for the coming year with the help of last year's operation plan, SLCSA's 5 year strategic plan and NUS plan of work visit. The plan was sent to NUS for review, where helpful feedback was received for completing the plan for moving forward.

The operation plan contains the SA's 3 priorities;

- Improving student physical wellbeing and mental health
- Improving the student experience outside of the classroom.
- Student progression and employability.

Each task on the plan can be categorised under one of the strategic aims;

- Awareness
- Engagement
- Representation
- Sustainability



## Learner Inductions

The SA look forward to meeting as many students as possible and will be once again visiting classes to welcome everyone to the College. In addition to this, we have produced a short video which forms part of the Learner Induction Process to promote student representation through the Students' Association, class representative process and officer roles.

Lecturers from across faculties appreciate the value of our introductory meetings, this has been demonstrated by some lecturers booking a date and time for the SA to visit their class in week 2.

The SA are looking into holding a welcoming table during the first week to present themselves as a friendly face to any students looking or feeling lost, uneasy or nervous as they walk through the College doors as the first time as a student. During these times students will be encouraged to engage with the social media pages which will be used throughout the year as a means of communications with the students.

## College Hoodies

Following on from last year's success of college hoody sales to staff and students in the college, an initial order has been placed for the College hoodies.

SLCSA have made some changes that they feel would benefit the SA and the students with increased representation and awareness. SLC hoodies will now include SLCSA embroidery on the arm and the colours chosen are fresh for the new academic year and are up to date with this year's fashion and trends. The hoodies will continue to be available in the full range of sizes from S-XXL. These are hugely popular and are significantly subsidised by the College and only cost students £5, which is widely appreciated.

In addition, selling the SLC SA hoodies gives us a great opportunity to engage with our fellow students and find out how they have been enjoying their course. In July the SA created a new promotional poster for the hoody sales which will be viewed across the social media channels prior to the start of term. Printed posters will be displayed in prominent positions around the College. SLCSA are in the process of sourcing a rail to display the hoodies in a neat and appealing retail style environment and will bring a full length mirror in to aid the sale for the students.





## Healthy Body Health Mind Award

Further to the successful two star achievement of SLCSA during 17/18, a meeting has been arranged with Think Positive to discuss this year's criteria. The SA are looking to work towards at least two stars again but would like to improve year after year, implementing sustainable healthy body, healthy mind changes. This is an excellent opportunity to work with staff across the College whilst promoting health and wellbeing.



## No Period Poverty

South Lanarkshire College continue to offer free sanitary products to all students and staff. Over 70 holiday packs have been taken from the Students' Association for use over the summer in addition to what has been distributed through the dispensing vending machines. The College's initiative has attracted media attention with the Scottish Government approaching the SA to request a radio interview with Bauer Radio Network.



Free sanitary product vending machines are now available in toilets throughout the College.

**Ground Floor: G06 Accessible**  
**Ground Floor: G02**  
**First Floor: 151**  
**Second Floor: 208**  
**Third Floor: 319**

**Annex Building: Ground Floor Accessible**

Products are also available on request from Student Services;  
Annex Building Reception; Hair & Beauty Salon Reception;  
Student Association Office

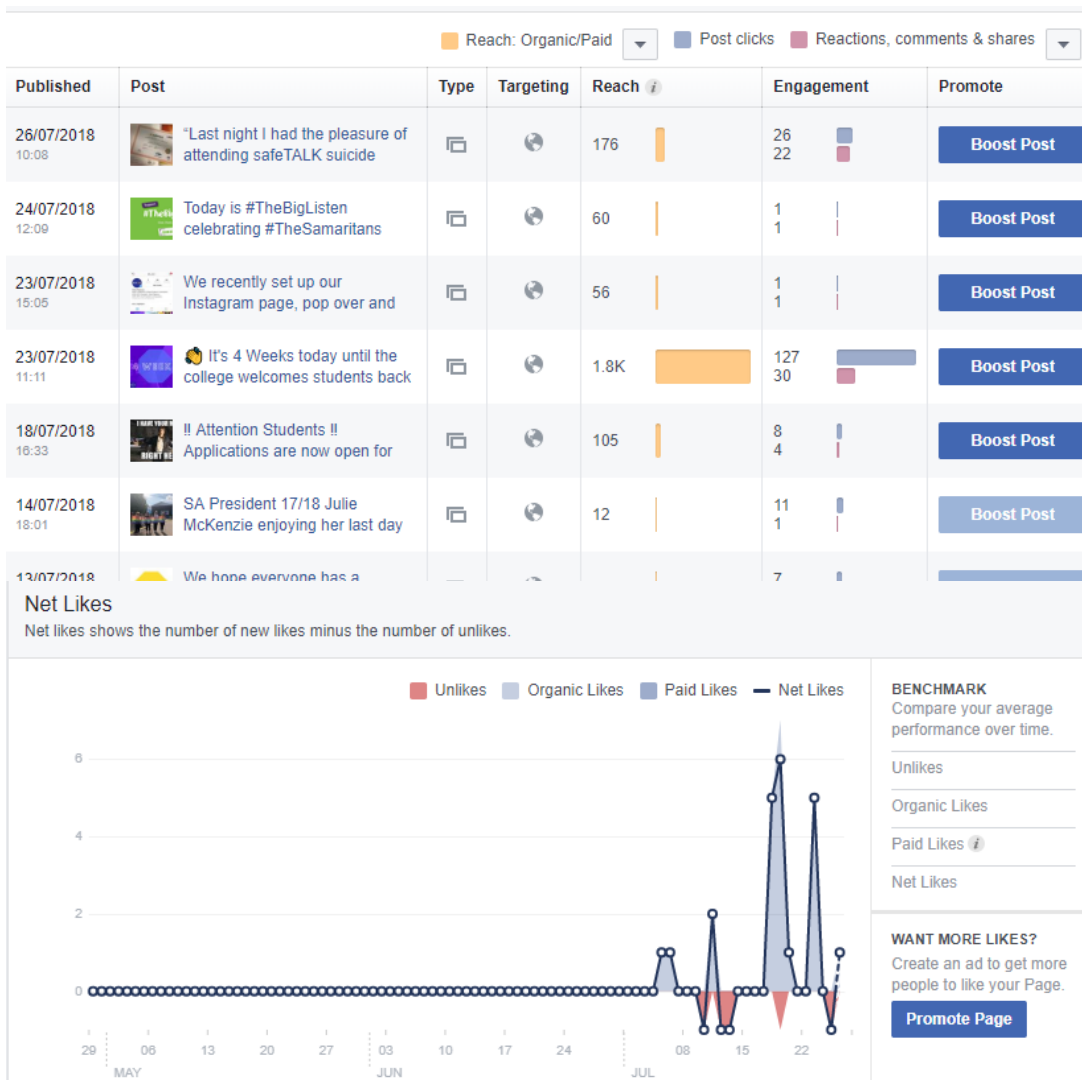
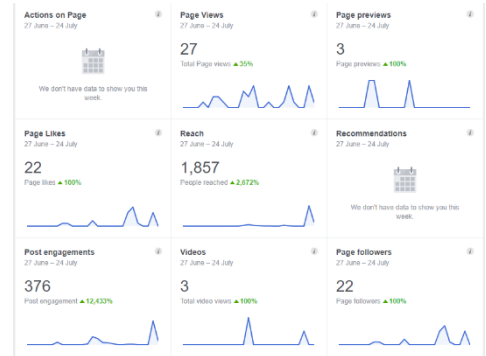


## Hygiene Bins

We are delighted that the College has introduced hygiene bins in all toilets. This is an important step to ensure all our students have the same access to essential hygiene facilities if necessary whilst in college.

# Social Media Engagement

Point 7/7 on SA President’s manifesto was to have “Well supported and maintained social media management with valuable content when you need it and where you want it.” In the first few weeks valuable content was created with planned content in the diary to maintain engagement throughout the year. Facebook analytics display increases in page likes and post engagements and already we have secured the most successful social media post in the SA pages history with a reach of 1.8k. All of this engagement has been organic with no paid advertisement been taken on social media yet.



## **Scottish Student Sport Leadership Programme**

The SA will work closely with SSS throughout the year with the aim of opening up more sport and leisure opportunities to students. SSS have a Leadership Programme in place and will be recruiting students from across the member network to take part in this excellent opportunity. The SA will look for help from staff from the Sport and Fitness Faculty to help identify suitable candidates. Applications for this open at the end of August.



## **SLC Students' Association Welcome Newsletter**

During the summer a welcome newsletter was produced and sent to all prospective students. The newsletter contained a welcome introductory note from the SA President and Vice President. The newsletter highlighted SLC's LGBT Youth Scotland Charter Mark Award and listed forthcoming events for the year. An appeal was made for Student Officers at the end of the newsletter with a call to action for students who are interested to email the SA or pop into the Office. This has had an excellent response with one student expressing a keen interest via email and a number of students visiting the Office whilst they were in the College on other business.

## **Forthcoming Events 2018/2019**

- Freshers' Week 10-14 September
- World Mental Health Day 10 October
- Health and Wellbeing Week 23-25 October
- Pink Friday 26 October
- Higher Education Event 7 November
- Action Against Gender Based Violence 25 November – 10 December
- Volunteering Event 29-31 January
- Sustainability Event 12 February
- LGBT Purple Friday 22 February

The SA look forward to working in close partnership with Student Services, HR, Quality and Marketing to facilitate health and wellbeing initiatives for students which will involve "Weigh to Go" programmes and "Clean Air College" amongst others throughout the year to improve student health and wellbeing.