

## Glasgow Clyde College merger

### Outline of Development

As with other colleges in Scotland, Anniesland, Cardonald and Langside Colleges decided to merge due to the regionalisation agenda as set by the Scottish Government. This process had begun in early 2012 and prior to the election of the three Student Presidents in the autumn of that year. Unfortunately there was minimal handover from our predecessors. However, we did have extensive, and I would say invaluable, support from Partnerships for Change (PFC) both through our consultant and through the resources produced centrally.

A large part of our year was focussed on developing a business case for a well-resourced, student led but staff supported student association. With support from our PFC Consultant, the Merger Project Manager and other staff we were successful in securing funding for 3 sabbaticals, 1 Development Officer and support from 1.5 FTE Student Engagement Officers. It was not all plain sailing getting to this point as we faced a number of challenges. As mentioned we received very little in handover from our predecessors so it was a very steep learning curve. The three student associations were also each poorly resourced with a historically high officer turnover throughout the year. There was also tension between the three presidents over the course of the year, however we kept this internal and always presented a united front at any meetings we attended.

In developing the business case we also faced a number of set-backs. We developed our initial plan in isolation and presented it to the board. It was rejected as it was seen to be unsustainable and unrealistic. It was only after seeking guidance from staff in the college that we were able to produce one that was ultimately accepted by the Principal's Merger Group. Ultimately the plan was and our presentation was complimented on its professionalism. Once the plan was accepted it we had a very short window in which to run the elections. Thankfully we had the largest amounts of candidates run in either of the associations history as well as the highest turnout with over 800 votes cast.

With the successful election of three sabbaticals Glasgow Clyde College Students' Association (GCCSA) has now, with further support from PFC, developed a statement that encapsulates what we are trying to achieve in our first year as a brand new association. It is; GCCSA will inspire and empower our students to:

- Build the Glasgow Clyde College community with students and staff.
- Develop themselves through exciting opportunities and activities.
- Shape their own learning experience.
- Become more employable.

# Creating the Future

## Students' Associations and College Partnerships



All of this will be underpinned by our values; equal opportunities, partnership, innovation and development, supportive environment and being student led. This is only the start though as we will develop a 5 year strategic plan to ensure our association not only delivers for our students but is also a sustainable well governed organisation.

### Contact

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