N

REGIONAL BOARD

14/12/23

BCSA Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF PAPER
For discussion

1.1 This BCSA Update uses our Operational Plan to highlight the activity of the BCSA.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Our Operational Plan is broken down into sections which determine how our areas of work align with the values and goals set out in our Strategic Plan. The BCSA team meet regularly to review and update the Operational Plan to track our activity and ensure we are working together to achieve our strategic mission.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTION(S) REQUIRED

3.1 I recommend that the Regional Board -

3.1.1 Discuss the BCSA Operational Plan and decide if this format provides an appropriate insight into BCSA activity.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 BCSA Operational Plans have been used previously to provide updates to the Regional Board.

5.0 BCSA Operational Plan

5.1

Not Started		In Progress		Complete		Some slippage but on track for deadline		Not Complete	

Project	Action	Deadline	Status	Progress Report
Shaping the Life & Work of the College - Steering				
Student voices will be at the heart of decision making at Borders College.	Student Officers and BCSA Staff sit on all relevant Committees.	December 2023.		Student President, Student Officers and Support Officer sit on relevant committees.
	BCSA team involved in the College's recruitment process.	June 2024.		BCSA team have participated in a range of recruitment activities to assist the college.
	Assistant Principals, Vice Principals and Principal all invited to attend the Student Experience Committee.	October 2023.		All invited to attend.
	Regular meetings between the Chair of the Regional Board and Student Officers.	November 2023.		Meetings between Chair of Regional Board and Student Officers taking place.
Staff and students are aware of the valuable representative work carried out by BCSA.	Students are aware of the Class Representative system and other ways BCSA represents student voices.	June 2024.		Student President visited 24+ classes to promote the Class Rep system and Big Student Survey. 62% of students knew their Student President after Induction. Regular monthly meetings held with Class Reps.

	Provide students with a range of ways to share views/opinions with BCSA on a range of important issues.	June 2024.		Focus group held with students from a range of classes to participate in UHI Definitions Toolkit activity. Student Support Forum scheduled. For students to provide feedback on the support available at College. Social Media Focus Group to be held for student to feedback to marketing.
	Increase staff understanding of BCSA.	June 2024.		BCSA involved in recruitment process. Support Officer to discuss opportunity to introduce BCSA to staff during College Induction. Increase presence in Staff Newsletter
Governance & Democracy - Democracy				
Our work will be determined by the wants and needs of our student population.	Elect and train Class Representatives.	September 2023.		47 Class Reps elected. Training scheduled for 26th, 28th and 29th of September. Training module accessible to all Class Reps.
	Organise Student President and Student Officer initiatives to hear from students and understand their needs and views.	June 2024.		VP for Education & Wellbeing arranging pulse survey to hear

				from students about what issues are most important to them. Regular visits scheduled for Tweedbank and Newtown to meet students and represent them.
Our democratic processes will be representative of our students and provide all students with a fair opportunity to influence change.	Elect Student President.	March 2024.		
	Elect two Vice President for Education & Wellbeing.	October 2023.		Two VPs have been elected: • MH – VP for Education & Wellbeing • MC – VP for Education & Wellbeing A Newtown representative was not elected due to lack of interest but BCSA team will have a regular presence at NSB to ensure representation is provided.
	Work with students to create our Strategic Plan 2023-2027.	September 2023.		Worked with 32 students during their Induction to create our Strategic Plan. Strategic Plan now shared.
	Work with students to create our Student Partnership Agreement.	December 2023.		Used student voices to guide our priorities for the current year.

Aware and Active Students - Engaged				
Voluntary opportunities and activities will be accessible to all students.	Provide students with opportunities to hold Ambassador roles within BCSA so they can champion matters and issues important to them.	June 2024.		Student Support Forum scheduled to hear from students to improve the support available to them.
	Work with external organisations to provide students with opportunities to volunteer.	June 2024.		Currently working with Borders Citizen's Advice Bureau to share voluntary roles with students. Develop contact and engagement with Galashiels Town Team to represent student voice in the wider community.
Students will feel confident bringing issues to our attention.	BCSA team regularly visit all campuses.	June 2024.		Tweedbank and Newtown campuses visited every Wednesday.
	See increased engagement from students in BCSA activity.	June 2024.		198 responses from students in Big Student Survey 1 (+8% on previous year's survey). Class Rep engagement has increased from last year with monthly meetings now taking place. Currently 3 student led clubs in place: • Dungeons & Dragons • Board Game Club • Herbalist Club

	Students involved in shaping the Student Mental Health Agreement.	June 2024.		Staff mapping exercise scheduled. We will then consult with students to hear their views and build stronger communication with students about mental health related issues.
	Increase visibility of BCSA with students to build stronger relationships.	June 2024.		Higher number of students raising individual issues/concerns with BCSA team.
Sustainable Resources - Sustainability				
Annually review the roles available to students within BCSA to ensure they meet the needs of our student community and reflect the diversity that makes up our student population.	Student President reviewed Vice President roles.	August 2023.		Student President and Support Officer reviewed the roles available to students. Vice President for Education & Wellbeing roles available this year to reflect the needs of students.
	Support Officer meets with Student Officers at the end of their time in office to review their roles, review the support they received, and work to improve the experience of future Student Officers.	June 2024.		
Student Officers and the BCSA team are equipped with the skills and knowledge to be effective leaders and student representatives.	Newly elected Vice Presidents supported through Staff Induction, and Induction to BCSA and their role.	November 2023.		Complete.
	Support Officer creates and shares 'Knowledge to Succeed: BCSA Team Reading and Viewing Lists' to support Student Officers and Student President to engage with relevant, external work for personal development.	June 2024.		Reading and viewing lists created weekly.
	BCSA team receive appropriate training for their roles.	June 2024.		Student President attended That's Quality! in July 2023.

				Student President attended an Induction for Student Board Members delivered by CDN. Second student representative on the Board arranging Induction for Student Board Members. Support Officer, Student President, and VP for Education & Wellbeing to receive Suicide Awareness training.
Value & Impact - Growth				
The services and activities offered by the Students' Association fit the needs of our students and allow them to engage in new experiences.	Organise events and activities for students to feel supported and have fun.	June 2023.		Therapet sessions organised for students with BCSA attending to offer advice and guidance to students. BCSA Campus Pantry has supported 12 students to access free food during difficult periods of time. Warm clothing has been provided to 2 students from BCSA clothing collection. Forza Gaming Tournament hosted to promote Cahonas Scotland Self Check Reminder Sign Up – 8 students participated.

				17 students sign up throughout November to Cahonas Scotland Self Check Reminder Sign Up.
	Big Student Surveys used to assess the needs of students and better understand what they would like from their College and BCSA.	June 2024.		Big Student Survey 1 (September 2023) used to assess the recent Student Induction, improve the student experience and understand what students want. 198 responses collected.
	BCSA collect student feedback and share with College.	June 2024.		BCSA collected feedback on Quiet Introduction & Supported Enrolment events from 40 out of 42 attendees. BCSA surveyed 48 students to understand what respect meant to them to support the College's respect campaign.
The achievements and impact of BCSA will be visible to students, staff and stakeholders.	Student Newsletter created by Student President.	August 2023.		Student President currently recruiting student volunteers to manage Newsletter.
	BCSA share monthly Staff Newsletter articles.	June 2024.		BCSA collaborate on articles to update staff on the activity of the Students' Association.
	Weekly Student President updates on activity shared with students.	September 2024		Updates shared weekly.

	Student Officers and staff attend NUS, sparqs and other relevant external events.	June 2024.		Student President attended 'That's Quality!' event August 2023. Support Officer sits on Student Engagement Staff Network. BCSA regularly engage with Heriot Watt Union team.
	Host annual BCSA Staff and Student awards.	May 2024.		
	Create and share annual 'You Said, We Did' video.	June 2024.		

6.0 IMPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 No direct implications.

6.2 Learner Implications

6.2.1 No direct implications.

6.3 Staff Implications

6.3.1 No direct implications.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications/Equality Impact Assessment

6.4.1 No direct implications.

6.5 Sustainability/Environmental Implications

6.5.1 No direct implications.

7.0 RISK COMMENTARY

7.1 No risk.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 All further BCSA updates to the Regional Board will contain updates to the Operational Plan.

Eilidh Forrest and Chris Alder

Students' Association Support Officer and Borders College Student President

06/12/23

Previous Board or College Committee Approvals:

Alternative formats

If you need access to a college document in an alternative format, for example, accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording and braille:

- Complete an accessibility request form by **clicking on this link**.
- Call **01896 66 26 00** and ask to speak with the Marketing Team.

We will consider your request and get back to you within 5 working days.

Translate documents from this website into other languages

You can download any of our published documents and translate them into many languages. Please click this link to use **Google Translate**

For publication ☒	**Not for publication** ☐ **If not, why not?**