

College Boards of Management and Student Engagement

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Agenda

1. As a Board what can you do to ensure that you have high quality input from the student board members and how do you enhance further your knowledge and understanding of the student experience?
2. The Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations and the Student Engagement Framework.
3. Using the two Frameworks as a reference point, how as a Board would you ensure that student engagement is embedded throughout your college?



What is NUS?

- Voluntary membership organisation
- We are a confederation of over 600 students' unions, amounting to more than 95 per cent of all higher and further education students' associations in the UK.
- Through our member students' associations, we represent the interests of more than seven million students.



What is NUS?

Two strategic aims:

- Promote, defend and extend the rights of students.
- Develop & champion strong students' unions.

To achieve this, the core values of **democracy**, **equality** and **collectivism** guide our work.



Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland



Mission

Students are able to make a positive difference to the educational experience in Scotland's colleges and universities and benefit from this, helping shape the nature of learning and contributing to the success of Scotland's tertiary education sector.



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About sparqs

sparqs (**S**tudent **P**artnerships in **Q**uality **S**cotland) was created in 2003 and is funded by the Scottish Funding Council.

We work with:

- All colleges and HE institutions throughout Scotland
- Students' Associations
- Individual students
- Other sector agencies





What sparqs does

Training and support for student reps institutionally and nationally.

Support for individual institutions to enable them to develop effective structures and support.

Work with sector agencies to involve students and to support students at this level.

Input into the development of student engagement through **policy development and sharing practice**





sparqs_scot
#sparqs15



Welcome to the website of student partnerships in quality Scotland. We are a publicly-funded agency for Scotland's university and college sectors which aims to support student engagement in the quality of the learning experience. We hope you find our website informative, but please [contact us](#) if we can help in any way.

Headlines

Talking student engagement

Interview with Iain Maitland and Mary Young, University of the West of Scotland

In this interview we talk to Iain Maitland and Mary Young, who work in the Students' Office at the University of the West of Scotland. They are responsible for a range of work relating to student life, including surveys, induction...

[Read More...](#)

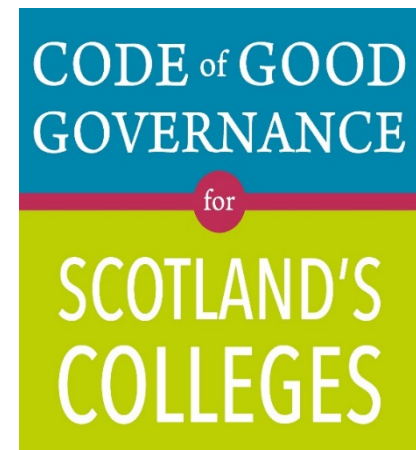




B.1 The board must have close regard to the voice of its students and the quality of the student experience should be central to all board decisions.

B.2 The board must lead by example in relation to openness, by ensuring that there is meaningful on-going engagement and dialogue with students and the students' association in relation to the quality of the student experience.

- Code of Good Governance for Scotland's Colleges





The view from some student board members

“Sometimes board members use complicated language which makes fairly simple ideas more difficult to understand.”

“Board members will ask me ‘what do students think about this?’ It’s not like I can just go out and ask them!”

“Being a board member is a valuable experience. I genuinely do feel like board members consider me an equal.”

“The paperwork is really difficult to understand, especially the financial figures. It could be made a lot more accessible.”



Questions for you:

How does the college board ensure that student board members can maximise their contribution to college decision-making at meetings and in the wider work of the board?

How does the board ensure that there is meaningful on-going engagement and dialogue with students and the students' association and that it maximises the opportunities to hear the “student voice”?



Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations in Scotland



What is the Framework, and where did it come from?



Legislation concerning college students' associations

- Requirement to have a students' association which is run democratically (1992 & 1994 Acts)
- Two student members of a college board and Regional Board, nominated by the students' association. (2013 Act)
- Regional colleges and regional strategic bodies must seek to secure the **collaboration** of students' associations. (2013 Act)
- Regional colleges, regional strategic bodies, Scottish Ministers and the SFC have duties to **consult** students' associations. (2013 Act)



Putting Learners at the Centre, 2011

A Scottish government paper on its intentions for post-16 education in Scotland. It included:

- Outcome Agreements
- A focus on 'efficient learner journeys' (articulation)
- Student Partnership Agreements
- Reviews of college and university governance
- College regionalisation



Griggs Review

Recommendation 23 of the Griggs Review of college governance said that students' associations should be:

- Strong
- Autonomous
- Sustainable
- Appropriately funded

Working group set up to explore this more fully.



Development of the Framework

- Working group established by the Scottish Funding Council tasked with creating best practice guidance on creating strong students' associations
- The Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council, and NUS Scotland led on the development of the Framework with the support of sparqs
- Four Strategic Dialogue Events were held in May 2014 with over 150 delegates from the sector
- Feedback on the final draft was sought from 70 stakeholders at Validation Events in January 2015.

Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations in Scotland



A STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND



A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

There are five key elements:

1. Students feeling part of a supportive institution.
2. Students engaging in their own learning.
- 3. Students working with their institution in shaping the direction of learning.**
- 4. Formal mechanisms for quality and governance.**
- 5. Influencing the student experience at national level.**

The use of the term 'learning' throughout the framework can apply to learning, teaching and assessment.



A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

There are six features of effective student engagement:

1. A culture of engagement.
2. Students as partners.
3. Responding to diversity.
4. Valuing the student contribution.
5. Focus on enhancement and change.
6. Appropriate resources and support.



Questions

- A question which has been taken from the SA Framework has been allocated to each table.
- Could you appoint someone at the table to note any relevant and agreed points on the paper supplied.
- If we have time we can feedback to the whole group, and if not we will collect the notes and create a collective account of views at the end of all the sessions and feedback to all the attendees.