WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND

Board of Management
Monday 22 June 2026, 4pm, Abercorn 1 Paisley Campus
Agenda No: 4

Title of Paper	**Student Association Report – March 26 – May 26**
Presented by:	Freshta Qaderi, Summer McCafferty, Samantha Mason WCS Student Presidents
Recommendation:	To note
Status:	RESTRICTED
Linked to:	
KPI(s)	Student Retention, Support and Experience
Strategic Objective	All: Students, Sustainability, Partners, People and Future
Strategic Risk	Reputational risk, poor retention, falling student numbers

Purpose / Executive Summary:

This paper provides the Board with updates in relation to the West College Scotland Student Association. The paper also includes information relating to the Students Association Budget.

The paper has also been presented to SEQE Committee

Recommendations:

The Board is asked to note the review of the budget and updates provided in the report

Implications:	
Financial	No direct financial implications associated with this paper.
Student Experience	Student experience should be positively impacted by actions detailed in this paper.
People	No people implications directly associated with this paper.
Legal	No legal implications directly associated with this paper.
Reputational	Possible reputational impacts (positive and negative) associated with this paper.
Community/ Partnership impact	No community/partnership implications directly associated with this paper.
Environment	No direct environmental implications associated with this paper
Equalities	No equalities implications associated with this paper

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Contents

1. Main Headlines

- We have successfully launched our Student Association newsletter for students to keep updated on our initiatives and activities. This is also shared on our Teams channels and social media pages as well as the college's main pages.
- TQER Preparation: Student Partnership agreement finalised and signed by the SA Presidents and the Principal. This document has been vital in the Student Association's meetings during TQER West College Scotland Signs Student Partnership Agreement | West College Scotland.
- The Strategic Impact Analysis document also played an important role for the Student Association when meeting for TQER. The Presidents utilised this document to make notes about student engagement and initiatives since completing the document in December time.

2. Events and Initiatives

- The Student Association team attended the International Women's Day event in Greenock at the beginning of March, this gave the team an opportunity to network with the panel and college staff as well as showcasing student's work from the hospitality department. Clydebank Student Association also hosted a Women's Day Panel with questions for the college's SLT.
- Multicultural event was a success on the Greenock Finnart campus at the end of March – the Student Association is aiming to host a multicultural event in each campus (one campus per block).
- The Student Association continues to support Active Campus sports and other clubs and societies within the college with requests from students to support fundraising and courses such as ESOL wanting to work with the SA to promote their initiatives.
- The Student Association have also attended the campus open days and Care Career Events to promote SA visibility and be a friendly, familiar face for when students begin in August.
- ESOL IT classes have been set up for students to learn IT skills essential for their course and future studies to remove digital barriers to learning. The Student Association are aiming to have this available on each campus in the next academic year with student volunteers possibly running classes as well.
- Student Association is in regular contact with SLT, meeting the Prinicpal consistently each block this year and working with Wellbeing to enhance the Sensory Rooms ('Nooks') and creating an events calendar.

3. Student Representation and Training

- SALOs have engaged with class representatives and staff to arrange formal meetings on topics relevant to the QAA review such as meeting students with care experienced backgrounds and apprentices.
- The Student Association assisted Quality with a task to gather data from the Autumn survey as a 'You Said, We Did' for each department by meeting with CQLs.
- Meetings have been held with the SRC and Liberation Officers however, attendance from officers was limited. As a result, a focus group will be established to explore ways the Student Association can improve officer engagement across all campuses.

4. Student Voice

- The live Student Voice spreadsheet has enabled all engagement with the Student Association to be recorded and monitored. This has been a great opportunity to for each campus to identify recurring issues and pin point actions for the Student Association to improve upon.
- The Student Association over the course of the year has campaigned for free breakfast across each campus which is offered to students. The Student Association are working to promote this to all students by working with canteen to ensure free breakfast is visible to students and through posters, social media and word of mouth by talking to students.
- Students have asked if a designated space for student events can be established at Clydebank campus. SA are in consultation with Estates team to identify an area one possibility is the space below the canteen.
- The Student Association are making progress with the Estates team to get a door in place for the Cave on the Paisley campus before the start of the next academic term. The aim for this space is to be utilised for student forums and through a potential booking system for other departments to also host events in.

5. Visibility and Engagement

- Presidential posters are visible across all campuses and the SALOs are actively updating the SA social media content and MyWest with content.
- Campus Presidents continually hosting "Chat and chill" tables in canteens and communal areas during break and lunch periods. These sessions gather student feedback in an informal setting, identify areas of success and concern, and raise awareness of the Association and its services.
- Next year's candidates for Student President have all attended Candidate Briefing Sessions and are now campaigning this month with voting opening Monday 18th of May with the new Presidents being confirmed on Monday 25th of May.

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Financial Report

1. Introduction

This report outlines the budget and expenditure for various categories. The total spendable budget allocated for academic year 25/26 was £18,000 delivered in two block grants of £9,000. Total spent thus far is £17,224.86, leaving a budget remaining of **£775.14** which has been ringfenced to secure SA marketing materials for next academic session.

2. Breakdown

Category	Budget (£)	Spent (£)	Variance (£)
Campaign and Social Events	1,000.00	921.76	78.24
President Pledges	1,000.00	823.76	176.24
Freshers	8,500.00	8,328.50	171.50
Travel and Sustenance	4,000.00	3,829.44	170.56
Affiliation Fees	500	500	0.00
Training and Conference Fees	2,000.00	1800	200.00
Elections	50	50	0.00
Graduations	200.00	200	0.00
Hospitality	250	226.4	23.60
Clothing and Induction Materials	500.00	545	-45.00
Total	**£18,000.00**	**£17,224.86**	**£775.14**

3. If an allocated budget for any category were to overspend, we would seek the SRC's input and agreement to overspend on specific projects and items. This would ensure transparency and accountability towards the students.

4. Campaigns, Social events and President Pledges breakdown

Item	Spent (£)
SSS Competition Tennis Student Kit	98.00
BUCS Referee Fees	250.00
Resources for SA Halloween Event	26.46
Wellbeing day resources	25.20
Chat and Chill session	45.11
Snacks for movie night	10.95
Netball Club Equipment	280.00
Silent Disco Event	100.00
Care Experienced	13.98
Expenditure for multicultural day	73.42
RBS Credit card	-1.36

a) WCSSA collaborated with H&W on multiple occasions to fund and plan activities focusing on students' mental health and overall well-being.

5. Travel and Sustenance

The total expenditure for Travel and Sustenance is £3,829.44. The main area of this spend to date has been supporting the College's TQER activity, including covering student travel and subsistence costs to enable participation. The Students' Association was proud to work in partnership with the College throughout the TQER process to help ensure strong and meaningful student engagement.

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Title of Paper	**WCS Chair's Report**
Presented by:	Waiyin Hatton, Chair of the Board
Recommendation:	**To Note**
Status:	**PUBLIC**
Linked To:	
KPI(s)	n/a
Strategic Objective	People and Performance
Strategic Risk	Reputation

Purpose / Executive Summary:

The Chair of the Board of Management provides Board Members with an update of activities since the last meeting held in March 2026

Recommendations:

The Board is asked to note the update provided.

Implications:	
Financial	Not applicable for this report.
Student Experience	
People	
Legal	
Reputational	
Community/ Partnership impact	
Environment	
Equalities	

Chair's Report

Since our last meeting, you have all been extremely helpful in contributing to the Board and Committee Effectiveness Reviews, and the Chair and Board Member reviews. Your time and inputs have been immensely important and are truly appreciated in producing our next Development Action Plan.

We have also since the last meeting received the Budget Allocation for 2026. Although we have received a small increase, this does not enable financial sustainability. The College, therefore, requires concerted efforts to address budget shortfalls and transformation to ensure that we are a high performing College and the 'go-to' provider for learners, staff and employers. Board Members will be pleased see the positive progress of the Shaping Our Future Together (SOFT) programme in the agenda.

Thank you to those Board Members who were able to attend the Board Strategy Session on 1 June 2026. We re-enforced our commitment to the provision of learning and skills training in Greenock and exploring all options to do so.

Board members will be aware of the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Reviews undertaken on the College last month and feedback is being given under a separate agenda item. The Review has been an intense process requiring significant input from across the departments in both preparation and assessment meetings. I want to record huge appreciation to everyone – staff and students – for their contributions to the Review.

The Scottish Government and the college sector have recognised the need for transformation of the skills system through the *Withers Review* (2023) and the sector's own *Think the Unthinkable* work in 2022-23. Against this backdrop, Colleges Scotland, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council agreed to undertake fundamental work about the future of the sector and the sustainable funding required to deliver it. ***College Sector of the Future*** workstreams have been set up, in parallel with a similar process for universities in Scotland. The aim is to co-design and assess a small number of ambitious, feasible and fiscally sustainable options for the future of Scotland's college sector. The workstreams have commenced and planned to complete by early 2027. In my capacity as Colleges Chairs Group, I am a member of the Delivery Assurance Group which reports to the Minister with the final recommendations. I will also be participating in the Provocation session on 23 June 2026, where a small group of key stakeholders contribute ideas on future-thinking and develop a series of draft vision statements/provocations to inform design of subsequent workshops to develop options.

Interviews for the two Board Member vacancies will take place on Friday 26 June 2026 and your endorsement of the preferred recommendations to the Minister will be sought thereafter in accordance with the process agreed by the Board. Board approval will be sought at the same time for the newly elected Teaching Staff Board Member, Student President Board Members and changes to committee membership.

This past year has continued to be extreme challenging due to the severe financial pressures facing the College, whilst progressing transformation. In nearing the end of the current academic year, I want to take the opportunity of our final Board meeting to record my appreciation to:

- All Board members for their time and commitment, contributing advice, knowledge, scrutiny and constructive challenges at Board and Committee meetings, and additional strategy/development sessions. And to our Governance Manager for her advice, diligence and super-efficiency.

- The Principal and Executive Team for their leadership. A consistent comment, in both the Board Effectiveness Review and Chair-Board Member reviews, is their commitment, drive and professionalism in clarity of direction through the ***We Are West*** strategy, pace in being proactive and responsive to creating and seizing opportunities.

- All staff who work tirelessly in the best interest of our learners, embrace transformation and being exemplars in living the values of the College.

Dr Waiyin Hatton
Chair, Board of Management
10 June 2026

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Title of Paper	**Modern Slavery Annual Statement**
Presented by:	Joe Rafferty
Recommendation:	To Approve
Status:	**PUBLIC**
Linked To:	
KPI(s)	Staff and Student Satisfaction
Strategic Theme	People
Strategic Enabler	Strategic Plan
Risk Category	9

Purpose / Executive Summary:

This paper is offered in line with our duty under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to produce a Modern Slavery Statement. This paper represents a review of our statement which we undertake annually. Statement is attached. Once approved and signed it will be reformatted for external publication.

Recommendations:

The Board of Management is asked to **approve** the annual Modern Slavery Statement for publishing having been discussed at Corporate Development Committee.

Implications:	
Financial	Students can be confident that the work for an organisation which takes ethical and legal considerations seriously.
Student Experience	The College's employment checks help to ensure we do not employ staff who may have been part of a modern slavery scheme, or are being exploited in a similar way.
People	The statement complies with the Modern Savery Act 2015.
Legal	This is an element to the College's commitment to Fair Work and protects the College's reputation with regard to the Modern slavery issue.
Reputational	In publishing this statement the College is contributing to ensuring that modern slavery in the community is eliminated as far as possible.
Community/ Partnership impact	Not applicable.
Environment	Thid statement represents an important aspect of the College's commitment to equalities.
Equalities	Students can be confident that the work for an organisation which takes ethical and legal considerations seriously.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Financial Year Ending 31 July 2026
Issued Pursuant to Section 54(1), Modern Slavery Act 2015

Introduction

This statement is made in accordance with Section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and outlines the steps taken by West College Scotland (WCS) during the financial year ending 31 July 2026 to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking within our organisation and supply chains. It is reviewed and approved annually by the College's Board of Management.

Our Commitment

West College Scotland adopts a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking. We are committed to acting ethically, transparently, and responsibly in all our operations and supply relationships. We work only with partners and suppliers who share and uphold this commitment to human rights, dignity, and fair treatment.

Our Policies

To support our commitment, we operate several policies and procedures that mitigate the risk of modern slavery. These include:
- Sustainability and Social Responsibility Statement
- Equal Opportunities Procedure
- Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Safeguarding and Prevent Procedures

These policies are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain effective and aligned with evolving legislation and best practice.

Supply Chains and Procurement Controls

Our supply chains cover a diverse range of goods and services, including:
- ICT equipment and services
- Professional services
- Estates and facilities management
- Food and catering
- Books, teaching materials, and printing
- Furniture and stationery
- Waste and recycling services

We recognise that some supply chains, particularly those linked to global manufacturing and raw materials, may present higher risks of forced labour or human exploitation.

Risk Management and Due Diligence

To mitigate these risks, we have implemented the following controls:

- ***Membership of APUC***

We work closely with Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC), which requires suppliers to adhere to the Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct—prohibiting forced, involuntary, or underage labour and requiring safe, fair working conditions.

APUC is a founder member of Electronics Watch, which independently monitors working conditions in the electronics industry.

- ***Regulated Procurement Practices***

All regulated procurements require suppliers to declare any convictions under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 or related legislation. Where a conviction exists, suppliers must demonstrate evidence of 'self-cleansing' or they will be excluded from the process.

- ***High-Risk Categories***

We use the Sustainable Public Procurement Prioritisation Tool to assess risk in categories such as ICT, estates, catering, laboratories, and travel.

- ***Modern Slavery Certificate***

For procurements outside of framework agreements (above £50,000 for goods/services and £2 million for works), suppliers must complete a Modern Slavery Certificate outlining the steps they take to prevent human trafficking and forced labour.

- ***New Suppliers***

For any new supplier to be onboard our procurement systems, a New Supplier Request Form is required to be submitted (regardless of value). This form requires a Letterheaded statement wherein the supplier agrees to the Colleges Terms and Conditions or those set out in a Framework Agreement. Those terms and conditions set out the requirements relating to Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking, including the obligation to comply with modern slavery legislation.

Our People

- Recruitment and Vetting

All new staff undergo rigorous right-to-work checks, and where agency staff are used, we contract only with vetted agencies. All staff and contractors working with vulnerable individuals are required to be members of the Disclosure Scotland PVG Scheme, which discloses any relevant convictions or concerns.

- Pay and Working Conditions

WCS is a Living Wage Employer. We fully comply with UK employment and health and safety legislation. Our internal policies promote fair, safe, and supportive working environments, including wellbeing and family-friendly practices.

- Whistleblowing
Employees are encouraged to raise concerns without fear of reprisal. Reports are treated seriously and investigated under our Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

Training and Awareness

- All procurement and HR staff are required to complete modern slavery training which includes identifying risk, understanding College procedures, and knowing what to do if exploitation is suspected.

- Awareness is promoted across the organisation via internal communications and information shared on staff and student intranet platforms.

Breaches and Accountability

Allegations of human rights breaches by WCS staff will be investigated thoroughly and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. Where violations are found within supply chains, we will take corrective action, which may include contract termination for serious or unremedied breaches.

Monitoring Effectiveness

We are committed to continuously improving our processes. The College will monitor and review the effectiveness of its actions and update this statement annually to reflect progress and any changes in law, guidance, or organisational practice.

Approval

This statement was approved by the Board of Management of West College Scotland on [insert date once approved] and is published in accordance with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Anne Campbell
Principal and Chief Executive

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Title of Paper	Policies
Presented by:	Mark Doyle, Director of Finance & Estates
Action:	**Approve**
Status:	PUBLIC once approved
Linked To:	**Organisational Governance**
KPI(s)	n/a
Strategic Theme	All
Strategic Enabler	All
Risk Category	Finance / Staff / Students / Reputation / Infrastructure / Regulatory

Purpose / Executive Summary:

Three key policies have been reviewed and updated and are attached. These are:

- Fee Policy for 2026-2027
- Declaration & Management of Interests (This Policy has now been updated and combined to cover Board Members and Staff)
- Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy (This policy has been updated and replaces the previous separate Anti-Fraud and Anti-Bribery policies).

Recommendations:

Following recommendation from Audit & Risk and Corporate Development Committee, the Board is asked to **approve** the policies attached.

Implications:	
Financial	There are no direct financial implications associated with these policies.
Student Experience	There are no direct student experience implications associated with these policies.
People	There are no significant people implications associated with these policies.
Legal	Policies are designed to adhere to current legal instruments.
Reputational	Lack of governance could lead to reputational damage.
Community/ Partnership impact	There are no direct community / partnership implications associated with these policies.
Environment	There are no direct environment implications associated with these policies
Equalities	There are no significant equalities implications associated with these policies.