The Student Partnership Agreement 2021 – 22

Introduction
The Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) outlines the shared priorities of Aberdeen University Students’ Association (AUSA) and the University of Aberdeen (UoA) for academic period 2021 – 2022. These agreed priorities have been informed by and support both AUSA and UoA strategies, with the overarching goal of enhancing the student experience.

The SPA reflects our joint commitment to the following goals and principles:

• fostering an environment for open and ongoing dialogue between students and staff
• embedding transparency and honesty throughout
• recognising and being respectful of different approaches to enhance the Aberdeen student experience

Priority 1 – Mental Health and Inclusion
In this academic year, as part of our joint commitment to create an inclusive environment and positive culture at our university, we will explore the range of mental health support required specifically by those who identify with equality protected characteristics. We will:

• Consider how existing service provision currently supports these groups
• Assess if current provision meets identified needs
• Consider if a different approach to support is required for these groups
• Drive forward the implementation of recommendations for service enhancement
• Improve communication to these groups about the support available

We will further develop a sense of belonging by improving inclusivity in University sports and physical exercise opportunities, with particular focus on students who may not be often involved in sports or physical activity – PGTs and PGRs, international students, disabled students etc. We will:

• create and promote a range of opportunities for students to embed wellbeing into all aspects of their lives including physical activity.

Actions and Performance Indicators:

• Diversity and level of students engaging in discussion
• Short and long term action plan addressing identified gaps
• Number of activities involving external agency support
• Number of clubs engaging with inclusivity training.
• No of clubs identify and implementing accessibility adjustments

Priority 2 – Community
Volunteering is a great way for students to develop and use skills and talents to help others whilst supporting the local community and enhancing their employability. We will:

• Promote the range of volunteering opportunities available
• Develop a plan to actively encourage students to undertake volunteering activities as part of their time in Aberdeen
• Increase our students’ knowledge on how the University can support their co-curricular activities through the Careers & Employability team’s Pathways to reward participation in volunteering.
• Collect student successes and achievements and highlight these through the Community Champion campaign and the Excellence Awards.

Actions and Performance Indicators:

• Increase in the number of volunteering opportunities
• Increase in the number of students who sign up to the volunteering portal
• Number of Excellence Award nominees
• Numbers of students completing pathway
**Priority 3 - Sustainability**

In addition to having a positive impact on our environment, active travel is a convenient and affordable way for people to be physically active. This year we will support our community to integrate active travel into their daily lives by rationalising and co-ordinating our various campus bicycle initiatives, as well as working with Aberdeen City to embed the University as an anchor participant in an anticipated City Bike scheme.

We are committed to improving our shared approach to the communication of sustainability events and issues. We will build on the engagement activity supporting COP26, by embedding a longer-term approach to the communication of sustainability initiatives. This may involve reinstating a calendar of ‘anchor events and looking to include the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) in our communications.

**Actions and Performance Indicators:**

- Agreement in principle with Aberdeen City regarding bicycle scheme
- Increased use of e-bike pool
- Calendar of sustainability events established
- Number of events citing the SDGs