

EC Students' Association

Class Rep Report

June 2025

Progression Routes & Evaluation

For our final Class Rep meeting of the year, held on Wednesday 21st May, we decided to hold an online meeting only. This late in the year, it can be tricky to gain engagement from Reps, however we had an active session that resulted in some useful discussions. The session was attended by 13 reps. If we take each rep to represent the views of 15 students, 195 student views were represented.

Overview of the year

Following feedback we received from reps in previous meetings, we decided to take the opportunity to update reps on the different projects and work we have been progressing with over the course of the year. This is a positive change as it creates more accountability for the Students' Association and helps to close the feedback loop: Class Reps can see how the feedback they are contributing drives change at college. We gave updates on the following areas:

- Maps and signage
- Cleanliness on campus
- Social spaces on campus
- Community building through events and activities
- Student voice and feedback
- Behind the scenes (casework; sector engagement; reverse shadowing; national campaigns; a new strategic plan for the Students' Association)

Progression Routes

The overarching theme for the meeting was that of progression. When we asked our attendees what they were doing next year, the majority (72%) said they were continuing at Edinburgh College. One person said they were going into employment, while another said they were off to university. No one answered that they didn't know yet,

When asked if they felt prepared for their next steps, 45% said they felt ready and prepared, while the other 55% said they were "feeling OK about it, but still need to prepare more." Diving further into this, when we asked how well the college had prepared them for their next steps, reaction was slightly mixed. Some students responded that they have been supported and motivated by both lecturers and LDTs. One student who didn't have an LDT felt more confused about the progression options and cited feeling "a bit lost with UCAS and all of that".

Unfortunately, one rep responded that classmates were feeling demotivated about the year ahead at college: *"I think my lecturers have not really given an explanation about what our next year will look like. Most of my classmates are pretty unmotivated due to the lack of communication this year."* This feedback is a useful reminder that students still want to receive communication from staff, even late on in the academic year.

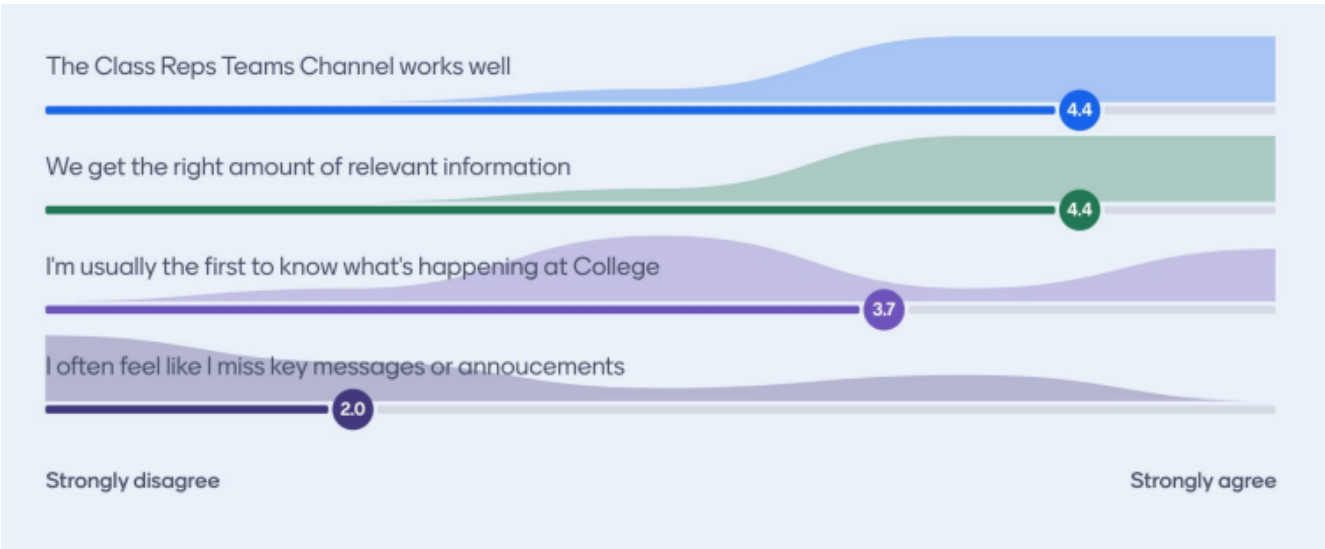
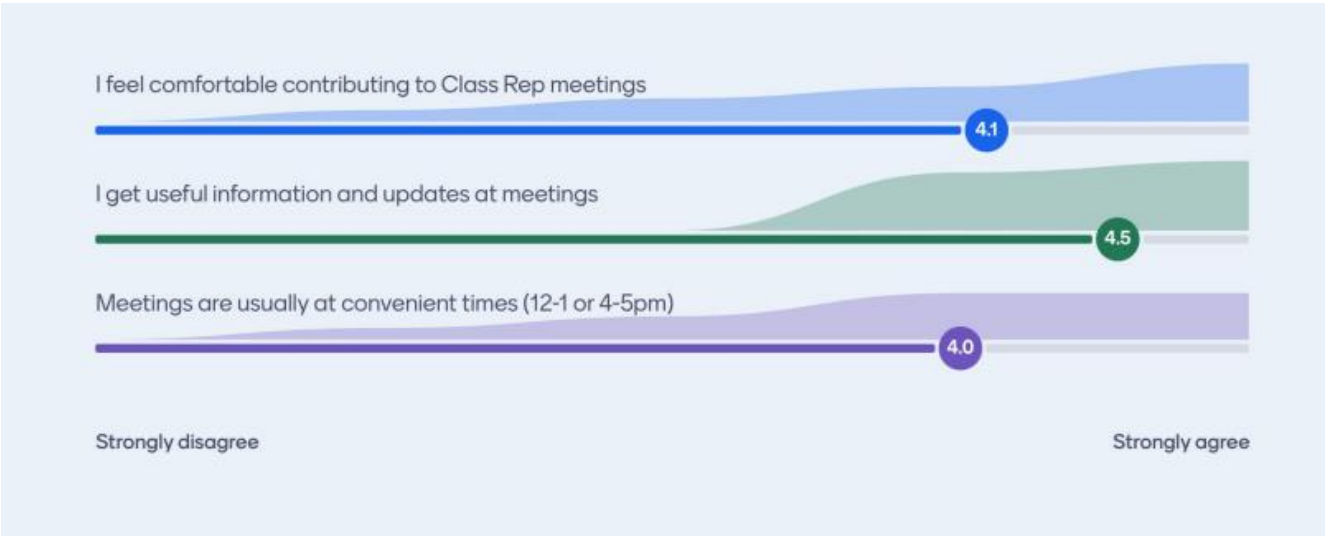
Evaluation of the Class Rep Experience

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to collecting feedback on the Class Rep experience. When asked if they had enjoyed being a Class Rep, 61% said 'Yes, always', and the remaining 27% said 'Yes, mostly'. These are encouraging results, but it is worth bearing in mind that this is a small, self-selecting group of highly engaged Class Reps attending the last meeting of the year.

When asked whether these Class Reps had met with their curriculum staff during their time as reps, over half (54%) responded that they hadn't, which is quite surprising. By May, we would have hoped and expected that Class Reps had attended at least two meetings run by their curriculum teams. This is an area where we intend to work with curriculum teams going forward to ensure consistency across different departments.

We asked if any of the Reps had examples of working with Curriculum to solve issues. While there were a couple of positive responses, including meeting with learning support, and changing the time of their LDT timeslot, the responses were broadly more negative. One rep responded *"We met for an apology meeting due to a complaint being made, other than that could not get a meeting as a Class Rep."* This is understandably a disappointing situation for the Class Rep in question, and it feeds into our theory that in the next academic year it will be more important than ever to emphasise to curriculum teams the importance of being available to meet with their Class Reps. In recent weeks, we have also heard from some staff that they had trouble engaging their Class Reps this year, so it is perhaps an issue from both sides and needs to be explored further.

We then asked a series of questions on the theme of Class Rep Meetings, Communications and Feeling Valued. The participants were asked to drag a slider between 'Strongly disagree' and 'Strongly agree'.





These results are encouraging, with Reps broadly agreeing with each all the positive statements. The highest average score was 'I'm glad I became a Class Rep' with 4.7. The only low scoring statement was "I often feel like I miss key messages or announcements" which suggests that Reps feel relatively well informed of what is happening at college and at the Students' Association. One potential area of improvement is to make Class Reps feel heard. The statement "I feel listened to as a Class Rep" scored an average of 3.9 which suggests an area to build on.

Further training and skills development

We asked Reps what further training and skills development they thought should be provided to Class Reps in future, and they came up with some great suggestions including the following:

- Communication skills, including how to introduce yourself as Class Rep for the group, and how to encourage the class to suggest feedback and improvements for the next meeting.
- Introducing a queries referral – a list which has FAQ's and/or a list of issues, with the names, emails and departments of specific people to contact about these issues. We could incorporate this into the Class Rep Handbook next year.
- How to emphasise the importance of the Class Rep system to other students.

Advice for new Class Reps

We asked Reps what piece of advice they would give to Class Reps who are starting next year. The advice ranged from encouraging to practical:

- "Go for it! Great fun"
- "ECSA is really nice, don't be afraid to ask them for help"
- "This role is very flexible, with not a lot of pressure. Be open because you really can make a difference!"
- "Don't miss meetings"
- "Be confident to challenge stuff (in a positive way), push for changes that help you and your classmates, along with that; talk with your classmates, communication is key."
- "Don't forget to post the forms in your outer class teams group"
- "Try to engage and make it to every meeting cause it's a wonderful opportunity to make a change to student life"
- "It seems stressful at first but really, there's loads of nice people here who make you feel valued, plus it'll look great on the CV, do it's definitely worth it!"
- "Be proud of why you decided to be a class rep and be your class voice!"

Overall, this was a useful meeting, particularly for gathering rich feedback on what is working for Class Reps and how they would like to see things evolve in the future. Our key areas of focus in the next year will be to ensure that Class Reps have the opportunity to meet within their curriculum areas

and feel confident to introduce themselves to the class and work with fellow students to resolve issues as they arise. Due to the lower number of attendees at this meeting, our plan for the academic year 2025-26 will be to schedule the last meeting of the year earlier in May. Meeting dates will be made available on a Class Rep calendar at the start of the year.