SRUC and SRUC students are ambitious for each other. Working together the college and its students aim to develop a supportive and inclusive learning environment which enables students to achieve their potential and deliver the skilled, knowledgeable and enterprising workforce required in the 21st Century.

SRUC understands that the student voice is an explicit and central feature of curriculum delivery and quality enhancement and this is set out in our Learner Engagement Strategy. Activities and processes requiring input from both students and the college will therefore be in place to ensure students reflect and participate in their learning; that employability is improved; that the Curriculum for Excellence capabilities and SRUC graduate attributes are developed as appropriate by each student; and that the contribution by students to the quality enhancement of SRUC’s services and curriculum is valued.

This Student Partnership Agreement embraces and articulates this commitment and identifies how students and the college will interact with each other to achieve mutual benefit.

To lead on the fulfilment of the Student Partnership Agreement, the students will organise its collective voice through its association, SRUCSA, and will elect a President of SRUCSA to represent its views at Board level. A member of senior staff will likewise be identified to act as a formal point of liaison between the SRUCSA and the college, and SRUC will provide financial and staff support to SRUCSA.

The term partnership is used to articulate the commitment to joint working between students and staff. SRUC has a diverse group of staff and students who bring with them a range of aspirations and experiences. We recognise that working together brings strength and that differences of views are not necessarily obstacles but provide objectivity, balance and a means to explore other possibilities.

This working relationship between staff and students is based on the values of openness, trust and honesty. The use of partnership reflects a mature relationship based on mutual respect between students and staff and agreed shared goals fostered by open and informed communication. The agreement is therefore not one of responsibilities and liabilities but one where common goals are jointly addressed.

Through formal and informal engagement, monitoring, review, and evaluation, the college and the student body will seek ongoing enhancement of the student experience and identify specific activities to prioritise each academic year.

Engagement is the term given to the range of the opportunities available to students to actively participate in shaping their student experience. The intention of these opportunities is to encourage students to be proactive and enable them to make a positive contribution to their education. Through the sharing of opinions and ideas with the college and other students each student has the opportunity to contribute to the enhancement the student experience at SRUC.
Student Partnership Agreement - Part B

1. Communication
The valued working relationship between SRUC and its student body as referred to in Part A relies upon timely and accessible communication. The collective bodies of SRUC – the institution and SRUCSA – the student representative voice – are responsible for identifying, initiating and reflecting on communication issued. Individual staff and students play their part by remaining engaged with established methods of communication and also accepting their own responsibilities to keep themselves informed of, and also informing, SRUC and SRUCSA developments.

SRUCSA will therefore work together with SRUC to ensure students are advised and have the opportunity to input to SRUC business.

SRUC and SRUCSA will ensure that communication channels are fit for purpose providing feedback on activity along with a commitment regularly reviewed and updated.

With all communication channels in place it is then the responsibility of students and staff to ensure they are kept up-to-date.

**Action:**

- **During 2014/2015** a communication committee will be convened to review and implement effective communication. There will be representatives on the committee from SRUCSA and SRUC. This committee will explore the effectiveness of engagement opportunities identified in the SPA mind map and recommend other short-term and permanent activities.

2. Careers
SRUC is a specialist educational institution with a responsibility to the Land-based sector to prepare its future employees. SRUC seeks to deliver clear learning and skill pathways designed to maximise employment opportunities. Through the embedding of the current Graduate Attributes and Curriculum for Excellence four capacities into the curriculum and the actions below SRUCSA and SRUC can work together to have an effective employment strategy for our students.

**Actions:**

- To undertake a review of current careers guidance available at each campus and for distance learning students and propose recommendations which seek to provide a parity of service to all SRUC students regardless to level or place of study
- Continuation of the annual Careers Convention with SRUCSA contributing to its planning.
- Explore how the SRUC Alumni scheme will encourage graduates to share their employment experiences and inspire future and current students.
- Develop activities which encourage SRUC students to remain with SRUC for research or employment including paid internships, vacation work placements, graduate entry vacancies and funded post-graduate research positions.

3. Learning/ Student Community
Seamless transition between campus and level of study encourages students to stay with SRUC and maximise their academic potential. SRUCSA and SRUC recognise that fostering a sense of student pride in the SRUC community is also a strong contributory factor and shares a commitment to facilitate and embed this further

**Actions:**

- **Continue the commitment to the student transitions and other enhancement themes.**
  (QAA)
- Promote SRUC merchandise to students and staff to provide a visual sense of community.
- Establish and build upon cross campus and extra-curriculum events which will strengthen the SRUC community.
- Explore the creation of an annual intercampus sporting occasion for 2015-2016 which promotes cross-campus student integration
- Establish a Freshers’ buddy scheme at each campus.

Signed ........................................................
Student President of the SRUCSA 2014/2015

Signed ........................................................
SRUC Acting Chief Executive