

Strategic Plan Discussion Paper

The Big Plan 2015, the Students' Association four year strategic plan, finished in Summer 2015. The overall progress report for The Big Plan 2015 is available from www.gcustudents.co.uk/bigplan2015.

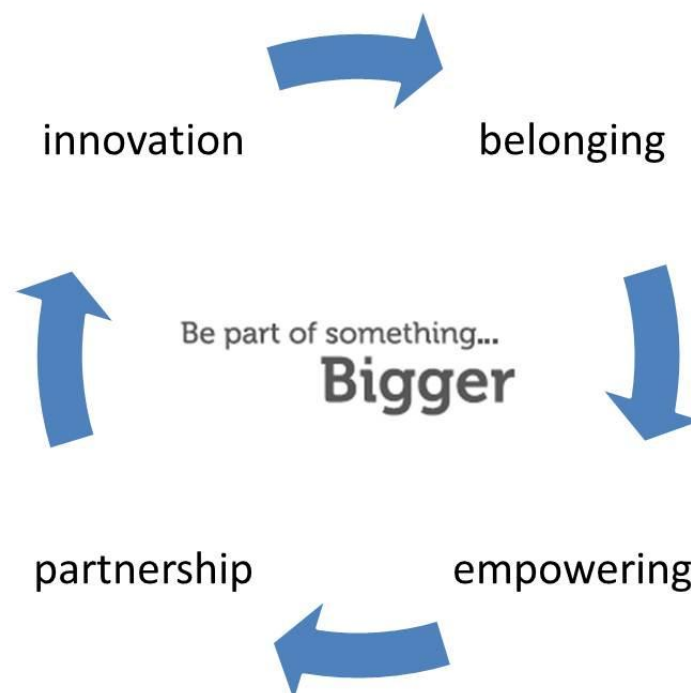
The Trustee Board has approved that the next Strategic Plan will be four years long and will start on 1st August 2016. The Students' Association commissioned the National Union of Students (NUS) to conduct research on our stakeholders' views, including GCU students, for our next strategic plan. This research is available from www.GCUstudents.co.uk/strategicplan.

In a recent NUS Audit Report (2013) for the Students' Association that our "strategic plan should be distinctive and relevant to the students' association, but there should also be clear and defined synergy with that of the university, so that the students' union can demonstrate where it can add most value". The GCU 2020 Strategy is available from www.gcu.ac.uk/strategy2020.

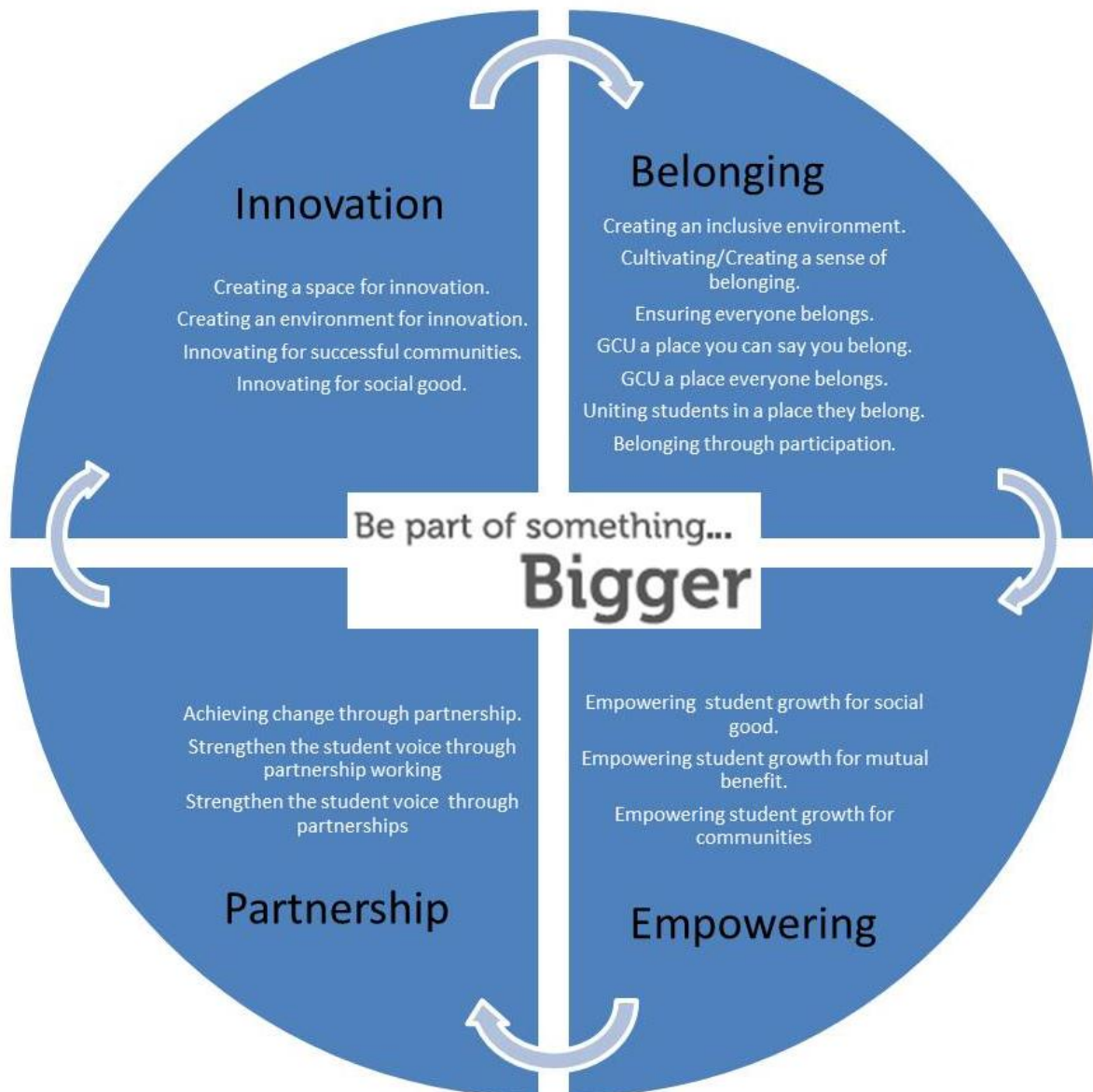
The Trustee Board has approved the following four draft themes areas to be developed and tested with our stakeholders:

- Belonging
- Empowering
- Partnership
- Innovation

It was felt that the four strategic themes areas were linked and there was significant agreement to use our tag line more: **Be part of something... Bigger**. With this being central to the strategic plan in the same way that **Aligning for the Common Good** is for the GCU 2020 Strategy.



The draft strategic themes areas have each been developed further to contextualise each theme and make them more tangible. There will eventually only be one strategic theme for each area.



Student Voice is asked to discuss:

1. Are these the right strategic themes areas? If not, what should they be?
2. Do you like any of the suggested ways of contextualising the themes? Which are your favourites? Any better suggestions? Would the themes make sense to an ordinary/non-involved GCU student?

Strategic Plan Timescales

Date	Who	Tasks
11 th February 2016	Executive Committee and Senior Managers	Facilitated discussion by NUS to draw out strategic plan theme areas.
22 nd February	Trustee Board	Agreed draft strategic themes areas and timescales for plan.
Between 23 rd Feb and 24 th March	Full Time Officers and Staff	Develop draft strategic themes to test with stakeholders, including GCU students.
21 st March	Student Voice	Discuss proposed Strategic Plan areas and initial themes.
22 nd March and April	Full Time Officers and Staff	Consult with all stakeholders* on strategic themes.
Early May	Full Time Officers and Senior Management Team	Develop objectives for each strategic theme.
23 rd May	Trustee Board	Final Strategic Plan themes and objectives approved and draft KPIs developed.
1 st August	All	Strategic Plan Implemented

*Stakeholders:

- Consult with stakeholders – University Court, Executive Board, Trade Unions, GCU staff, partners, NUS, articulation colleges, Students’ Association Staff.
- Consult with members through Student Voice Sub Committees, events with students and online submission form.