

# Moray College UHI – Class Rep Meeting Minutes

19 January 2022 – 12pm to 1pm

## Present:

**Class Reps:** Brendan Baker 20011110 – Built Environment

**Staff:** Veronica Borseth, Heather Sharp

**HISA Officers:** Depute President of Education Rhiannon Stradling

**Apologies:** Caelum Leese, Emma Coutts 18005733, Ryan Paddison 09013962

## HISA Welcome:

- RS (Rhiannon Stradling) apologised for the late start due to issues with finding the room key and proceeded to welcome those in attendance.
- RS then introduced VB (Veronica Borseth) as the new Student Voice Assistant.
- RS presented HS (Heather Sharp) as the UHI Quality Manager.

## HISA Con Promotion:

RS introduced HISA's upcoming event, HISA CON, which is on from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, if you want to attend, you can receive authorised attendance. HS had a query as to how students ensure that it is classified as authorised. In response, RS provided further clarification that students need only talk to their lecturers about it, making sure to mention that it is for attending HISA CON. If that turns out to be insufficient, RS recommends for students to seek support from HISA.

The deadline to sign up is the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. Sadly, it was changed from having both online and in person event, to now being solely online, due to Coronavirus concerns. There are MSPs panels, Q&A's, workshops, and drop-in sessions planned for HISA CON.

Link to HISA CON and Agenda [HISA CON @ Highlands and Islands Students' Association \(uhi.ac.uk\)](https://www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk).

RS then proceeded to go through the agenda with all the attendees, stressing that it's free, and held annually. Students can go to vote on policies that directly affect their education and student experience.

HS suggested that it would be a clever idea to book a room for HISA Con for students to dip in and out of so that they can do so easily while still attending their classes.



## Officer Updates:

RS informed the attendees that CL is not here today, but that he has been working on a social hotspot idea, which is an area where students can socialise, and work through if they have anxieties about coming back to college after being online for so long. He also has clubs and societies coming up and has led Christmas/Yule events and competitions. Unfortunately, these events and competitions had low attendance.

RS mentioned that the Refreshers Fayre is coming up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, and that it will be in person. As such, it will have limited slots available, so make sure to book ahead of time! There will be vendors, local businesses at tables in the conference room, freebies, and student discounts – who doesn't love a freebie! RS also stressed the importance of social distancing, hand sanitisation, mask wearing etc. during the event.

RS updated the attendees on a project in the works called "Moray Motivational Monday", which the officers are working on with Laurie, HISA's Sports Co-Ordinator. "Moray Motivational Monday" is an online challenge which aims to energise people on Mondays, as Mondays are often a day that it is difficult to summon motivation on.

## Enterprise Project:

VB presented an upcoming project involving students. The project was created in collaboration with Moray Council, Elgin City Council, and Elgin BID, to provide further student focused social spaces in Elgin. The aim of this project is to determine whether students are interested in having a social space, and whether they would utilise such a space, and if the answer is yes, to create a social space of the student's choosing.

To assess interest in the project, there will be a survey released in the coming weeks which will determine the outcome of the plans put forward to the Moray Council. Students will have a 3–4-week period of filling in this survey before the plan moves to the next step. Students who complete the survey, will have the chance to win a £250 prize. Those that complete the survey will also have the chance at participating in a paid focus group after the survey completion.

## HISA previous actions:

RS raised that previously Art students have had issues regarding the length of time required to log into the provided computers. However, RS believes that to further work on this problem, in-person tech support is required. RS relayed IT has stated that the authentication required is due to the past cyber incident, and that any further issues with this should be sent to RS' email. No further emails have been sent in regarding this matter.

RS' email: [hisa.moray.ed@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:hisa.moray.ed@uhi.ac.uk)

RS noted that room C007 is being considered to become a quiet room for students. BB (Brendan Baker) commented that the room would be a good one for people with slight autism, to limit overstimulation.



On the topic of gender-neutral toilets, HS advised that the toilet provision in A block (main campus) is gender neutral. There is also 1 toilet in T block which is gender neutral but this building is often locked. I advised that Linkwood does not have any gender-neutral toilet provision but I think the Biblical Gardens do. RS raised the requirement for full cubical toilets to ensure privacy. HS advised that this may be looked at in the longer term as there will be financial implications to this. The process of reviewing gender-neutral toilets across campus is ongoing and HS will provide updates to HISA as and when they're available.

Also, RS is hoping to get a multifaith room. They mentioned someone suggested the first aid room previously, but they're not certain yet what'll be chosen. Provisions might need to be made hand and feet washing, and if so, further discussions would have to be held. Talking to the local mosque about providing those facilities was also mentioned, however only in passing.

### Final Remarks:

HS mentioned that there are plans for food provisions at Linkwood, by having vending machines or food van be available to students. As for locally on the main campus, a tuckshop would be opened for students by the end of January.

BB commended his lecturer's ability to balance practical work with theory work.

### Date of Next Meeting

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm - 1pm by Online Meeting.**

*Class Rep Meetings minutes by Veronica Borseth*

