

# Moray College UHI – Class Rep Meeting Minutes

25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 12pm to 1pm

## Present:

**Class Reps:** Amos Metcalfe, Lilia Lee, Brendan Baker, Conor McLeod

**Staff:** Veronica Borseth Student Voice Assistant, Laurie Symon, Nicole Hyslop, Heather Sharp

**HISA Officers:** Rhiannon Stradling Depute President Education, Caelum Leese Depute President Activities and Welfare

**Apologies:** Jennifer Mair 052458,

## HISA Welcome:

Caelum Leese (CL) started the meeting and introduced the art showcase happening in a few weeks in the Victoria art building, mentioning he will be helping with the event. It's a college event, and CL feels the art department is deserving of recognition and could use HISA's help in some cases. CL added he is waiting on receiving promotional materials for the event.

CL relayed there was a Star Wars quiz that was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, mainly for student hall residents. A few students turned up, including one that wasn't a halls resident. The quiz went well, some of the prizes available to be won were a Grogu plush doll, a Lego box, and a Grogu collectible. It went well overall, CL reiterated that he enjoyed the event, though had trouble pronouncing some of the odd names from Star Wars.

Rhiannon Stradling (RS) apologised for joining late and assumed the lead of the meeting.

## Sports Updates:

RS introduced Laurie Symon (LS), the Sports Development Co-Ordinator for HISA.

Firstly, LS spoke about how the Sport and Active Travel Survey, which first started last year, is open currently. Its purpose is to find out what everyone, including staff, students, officers etc. want to see regarding sport, active travel, community activities, in the Moray area, so HISA can deliver. The more responses HISA get to this survey, the better HISA can plan for next year and deliver what people want to see. LS reiterated that any help spreading the word of this survey would be much appreciated.

Link to survey: <https://uhi.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/sport-and-active-travel-survey-2022>



Secondly, LS highlighted the Sporting Blues Awards Nominations that are still open till the end of the week. They've been going for 5 or 6 years at UHI, and it's all about recognising the achievements of UHI students over the course of the year.

There are a variety of categories in terms of the Sporting Blues, ranging from students representing a University Team, right up to people competing at a national or international level. One honorary sporting Blues award went to Jade Konkell last year who played rugby for Scotland, and another was given to Graeme Shinnie who's played football for Scotland. There have been some fantastic sports people connected to UHI in the past, and the Sporting Blues Awards are a way for us to recognise them.

LS reiterated that the nominations for the Sporting Blues are open till the end of the week, and urged everyone to circulate this information on to anyone interested or related to sports.

Link in chat -> <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/students/get-involved/students-association/sporting-blues/>

LS added that any help to spread these two bits of information would be massively appreciated.

### DYW Update:

RS then introduced the subject of DYW, saying that they had a quick meeting with Aimee Stevens recently, who represents DYW at UHI Moray. Aimee Stephen was wanting to share with students what DYW does, and the events that are coming up. RS added that for those that might not know, DYW stands for "Developing the Young Workforce", and that there's a lot of wrongful assumptions that they work with students and get them jobs, however this isn't the case. What they actually do, is act as a middle ground between employment and schools. For example, they work with employers and communicate with them about the skills that students are learning currently and ask whether they can offer any vacancies related to those skills, to students.

### Job Fayre:

RS then added that there is a Job Fayre held at the UHI Moray on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, organised by DYW and helped by HISA. This Fayre will be attended by various local businesses who get the chance to talk about jobs, opportunities, apprenticeships, volunteering, etc. that would be available to students. RS stated that it would be a worthwhile event for all students to attend, and that you should sign up if that is something that interests you. RS can circulate links later if anyone is interested.

Link -> <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/jobs-fair-moray-jobs-and-you-tickets-327988962817>

### Building Effective Learning Communities Event:

RS introduced the Building Effective Learning Communities Event that's being held online on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, and like with the job fayre, if anyone is interested, contact RS after the meeting and RS will circulate links. It's all about learning, and how you can work with other people to improve it.

### Pride Month Events:

RS then spoke about how Pride events coming up, as June is Pride month. CL and RS have been working hard to create events for the month, and there are multiple events that they have planned. They'll be releasing a calendar of events for Pride soon, so if anyone would like to join, that'd be



appreciated. Some of the things planned will be the usual Drop-In sessions, a flag calendar, “test your knowledge” event that can either be in person or online, and even a small in person disco if anyone is interested in that.

CL interjected that everyone should keep an eye out for the MMM (Moray Motivational Monday) video relating to pride, which RS added is already being worked on, and should be very good.

### SAAS Funding:

Nicole Hyslop (NH) added that she wanted to talk about SAAS funding. SAAS funding is the funding body for anybody that is going to be studying higher education, so anything from HNC onwards. If anyone is going to progress with their studies next year, SAAS have said that if you have your application with all supporting evidence submitted by the end of June, then your application will be processed before the starting date of your course, which is what is recommended. Any applications received after that date are not guaranteed to have the funding in time for the start date.

NH added that if you are considering progressing with your studies, you don’t have to have received an unconditional offer, you can put in an application for SAAS funding and still change your mind.

If there are any questions relating to SAAS funding, for example how you qualify, how you apply, what you can apply for etc. you can send those questions to NH, but please do that as soon as possible so that it’ll be sent off in time for the next academic year to start.

### Open Floor Feedback

CL opened the floor to feedback, asking Amos Metcalfe (AM) if any of the SVR’s had any issues regarding classes or courses. Conor McLeod (CM) responded by saying that the ICT work given to the musical theatre class has been given to the students very late. AM added that given the lecturer issues that the class had, and then when they were finally given staff support, that member had no experience in ICT, so was not effective at helping. Given the lack of support, a lot of the students in the class have failed their ICT portion, and have to retake it parts of it, which they’ve only recently been given. They also haven’t received any effective support regarding ICT and stand to fail the entire course if they don’t pass their resit.

CL asked whether this issue is something the SVR’s are expecting change for when it comes to their own classes, or if it’s something that they want to ensure isn’t going to happen again in the future. AM responded by saying that it must be changed for future students, and that the ICT work must start earlier in the year. CM also added that the ICT work didn’t seem to relate to the course. AM mentioned that everything ICT related seemed to be only things that they needed to look up, rather than relate to the course.

### Previous Actions:

Veronica Borseth (VB) asked whether there were any previous actions, to which there were none.

### Close:

RS brought the meeting to a close.



## Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 12pm - 1pm by Online Meeting.

*Class Rep Meetings minutes by Veronica Borseth*

