

Moray College UHI – Class Rep Meeting Minutes

16 February 2022 – 4pm to 5pm

Present:

Class Reps: Andrew Reddy, Amos Metcalfe, Gordie Wells

Staff: Veronica Borseth, Colin Watson, David Patterson

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

Apologies: Jennifer Mair, Nicole Hyslop, Sarah Thomson,

HISA Opening:

CL spoke about how his main manifesto point is helping students to find what they'd like to do, and wants to create a space where they can do so safely. CL spoke about how he is creating a "Social Hotspot" club, where he hopes students will come to chat (eg about studies, lecturers), to raise morale, and not have to worry about any negative repercussions as it's a private space. CL is hoping to have the first meeting in early to mid March, and students can just drop in without needing to sign up for it. CL also hopes to promote honesty and openness within this club, so as to boost student's confidence. More information to follow.

HISA Previous Actions:

There were no previous actions.

HISA CON, Policy, and Elections Update

We had HISA CON a couple of weeks ago, it was a 3-day long event, lots of speeches, lots of debating, lots of policies passed. RS noted every policy change that was submitted, was passed.

- There was a policy about changing the remits of your principal regional officer roles, so the regional officer's will no longer be Vice President of Higher Education and Vice President of Further Education. The new roles will be Vice President of Education, and Vice President of Communities.
- There was policy passed about funds for equipment for part time students, so part-time students are able to get the same funding as full-time students for the equipment needed for their course.
- There was a policy passed for improving public transport for students.

The most exciting part is elections coming up, so if you are interested in any of the local or regional HISA roles available, you can nominate yourself for elections. If you think you can do a



better job than RS or CL, or want to see what it's like, then sign up. RS also noted that there is no obligation to continue with the nomination if you decide it's not for you, as it's possible to withdraw. Even if you don't think that you're going to win the elections, put yourself forward as it looks great on your CV and to show your future employer your ambition.

CL added both positions at HISA are great jobs, and are brilliant at building character, but stressed that scheduling alongside certain courses could be tricky, and that to bear that in mind if you nominate yourself.

NEUK

Veronica Borseth (VB) spoke about the Neuk Collective, that it's a group of four neurodivergent artists – Robyn Benson, Dylan Esposito, Tzipporah Johnston and Dawnne McGeachy – set up in 2020 with support from Creative Scotland. Their work focuses on advocating for neurodivergent people specifically in the arts – so people with autism, ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Anxiety etc.. So, if anyone is interested in helping to support neurodivergent artists, or are interested for personal reasons, they have an extensive list of resources available. <https://neukcollective.co.uk>

Bus Travel Scheme Update

RS paraphrased what NH said in the previous SVR meeting regarding free bus travel and mileage allowance.

- There is free bus travel for those under 22, which started Jan 31st 2022.
- Student finance for transport for those students that are under 22 and live on a bus route, will have their funding ceased by the 4th of March, as it's expected they will use the free bus pass.
- Students that are above the age of 22, or don't live on a bus route, will not have their mileage allowance affected.
- If for any reason you disagree with the end of your travel funding, appeals for the continuation of the travel payments can be made by using the button on your student hub.
- Link to apply - www.getyournec.scot/nec/

National Student Survey Update

RS introduced the subject of NSS, saying that the National Student Survey is available to students who are in their final year in higher education. RS noted that it might not apply to everyone in the meeting, but having this information passed on would be much appreciated. RS also offered to send out a link to the survey to anyone who might need it.

RS spoke about how the NSS is run by NUS, and that it is currently open, and that the aim is for students to be able to give feedback of their experience at the university. RS added that it's a great way for NUS to see how everyone is doing when it comes to studies. - Link in chat : www.thestudentsurvey.com

RS also added that the NSS survey will help other students decide what courses students want to attend in the future. RS stressed to pass on this link to anyone that is eligible for the NSS survey.

Refreshers!



RS went on to promote the Refresher's Fayre, which is a free event that will be from 10 am – 1 pm on the 22nd of February down in the conference room. There are going to be stalls from local businesses, there will be free food, and student discount offers as well as freebies. There will also be the opportunity to speak to local businesses regarding funding and housing. RS and CL will be there, so if anyone wanted to come along for a chat, then book a time slot and come along. Sadly due to covid there is a limited capacity, so there is a time booking system in place. RS also stressed that there will be Covid regulations in place, so mask wearing, hand sanitisation, social distancing etc.

Link to event - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/freshers-fayre-tickets-245784015607>

Other staff:

Colin Watson (CW) introduced himself, saying that he was at the SVR meeting in the morning, and introduced his role as the facilities manager. CW then went on to speak about his history with Moray College, having previously been a student at the College.

CW encouraged all students to do the NSS, as this can have a strong impact on the student experience. CW also spoke about genuinely wanting all feedback, both negative and positive, as it's his job to improve the student experience when it comes to facilities.

CW noted that an action has been completed after the previous SVR meeting, around cars being parked in the motorcycle parking spot at Linkwood Campus. CW has spoken to the Linkwood staff, and a sign will go up to stop cars using the space.

CW mentioned his concern about graffiti and vandalism, and asked for SVRs to raise any instances with staff. CW also confirmed that there have been two cases of racist graffiti at the college, and that they are photographing the evidence and then removing them as quickly as possible. Also if students see vandalism, if you see or hear anything, raise it with staff. CW stressed that the College would be handling any of these instances with discretion, so as to not get any of the people informing on these instances in trouble.

David Patterson (DP) introduced himself, saying that he really wants to hear feedback from the students on the student experience, be it positive or negative. DP spoke about how the staff and students for the past 2 years have been doing a fantastic job keeping things going in the college, but it has taken it's toll resilience wise. DP reiterated that he really wanted to hear how things are going at the moment, and how can he help to make the student experience better.

Open Floor Feedback

RS opened the floor to feedback.

Andrew Reddy (AR) queried when students get to hear about job fayres and career opportunities. RS responded that they will set up a meeting about this with Kirsty in the next month or so, and can update at the next SVR meeting.

Note: Since this meeting, Rhiannon has been in touch with the MC marketing team as well as DYW and found out that there is a job fayre in the works for early June.

There was a closing discussion on what is everyone's favourite cake.



Amos Metcalfe (AM) raised that if students would like entertainment, attend the scene of a play that both he and RS are going to be a part of in the coming months as they're both associated with the Out of Darkness Theatre. RS responded by saying that they'd share more information about this later.

Gordie Wells (GW) queried if it's possible to just walk in to student services, or if it was necessary to book in first. CW believes that you can walk in, but he will find out and update at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th March at 12pm - 1pm by blended Meeting.

Class Rep Meetings minutes by Veronica Borseth

