

# Moray College UHI – Class Rep Meeting Minutes

## 2nd December 2019 – 12pm to 1pm

### Present:

**Class Reps:** Kyle Cruickshank, Abbey Buchan, Kiera Campbell, Andrew Whyte, Shavonne Connor, Emily Burns, Dean Lambert, Marcus Gray, Liam Beattie, Hermione Morris, Leanne Rowsa, Kyle Powell, Menita Roberts, Daniel Crockett, Seheid Maiual, Aj Whyte, Joshua Ralph, Dana Munro, Nathan Anderson, Rhiannon Stradling, George Sansom, Andrew Hay, Kai Sleaitor, Martine Higgins, Esther Collins,

**Staff:** Joel Hockney, Kristine Duffus, Derek Duncan, Heather Sharp, Nikki Yoxall, Seonaid Mustard

**HISA Officers:** Kyle Gee – Depute President Education, Nathan Sanderson - Depute President Activities and Welfare,

**Apologises:** Louise Gordon, Brandy Hall

**Guest:** Sara Fox – Shetland College UHI HISA Student Association Assistant

### Formal vs Informal

Kyle introduced the meeting with a quick discussion for how the Class Rep meeting should be presented; whether the meetings should have a more informal tone or a formal setting, after previous suggestions made by Class Reps.

The informal vote won outstandingly among the Class Reps.

### Female Sanitary Products

An anonymous vote was also held about female sanitary products – this is following the fact that sanitary products are being misused in female toilets and will have to be removed if they continue to be misused.

The vote offered a choice between keeping the box behind the bathroom door or being removed (but will be available at student services).

All Class Reps that attended voted in favour of keeping the sanitary products within the women's toilets, (aside from one vote that had been spoiled).

### Eco-Group

The Eco-Group that HISA Moray has set up had a small attendance from students and Class Reps on the 19th of November but there was a great deal of discussion had between the Class Reps that did attend. Many issues were discussed, but the two main focuses that the group wanted to focus on were establishing a Food Bank at the campus and declaring a campus-wide Climate Emergency. We will be sending out the minutes of this meeting and the date of the next Eco-Group session soon.

## Wellbeing Workshop

The Wellbeing Workshop that HISA Moray organised on the 25<sup>th</sup> November focused on students providing feedback on the next draft version of the Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA). The SMHA is an agreement that is made every year for what the UHI should put focus on regarding student mental health. One of the key pieces of feedback that we received was clear and easy accessibility to the student mental health agreement. We had lots of effective feedback from the group that attended this wellbeing workshop and would like to thank the students for their time.

## LRC - Eating, Drinking and Absence from Computers

HISA spoke to the staff at the LRC about the situation that had been previously raised with students being banned from eating any food - unfortunately, due to some students taking in excessive amounts of food to the library, students and staff are still not allowed to bring in food to the LRC.

The staff did respond that while drinks were allowed, that there are strictly no cans, as they are more liable to spill over due to not being sealable. Bags left by students and staff can be left unattended, but that it is **your responsibility for your property not the staff's** - in addition, you are allowed to leave your computer, but please lock the computer when you leave and leave a note on the screen as to when you should return. All students and staff should be taking regular breaks from the computer anyway.



Kyle explained HISA-CON, which is an amazing opportunity for students to come along to HISA-CON on the 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of January next year. It is the only event that brings together students from across the UHI region, providing great opportunities for networking with like-minded people. This is HISA's annual event- it is led by your elected student officers to help shape the decisions, policies, and actions that HISA will work on throughout the year.

Students attending this year's HISA Con will have more ownership of the student association, through debate, workshops, and breakouts with open discussions- HISA will become what you want it to be and prioritise what is important to you. HISA's 2020 event is shaping up to be the biggest HISA event yet and the conference will focus on what's happening across the UHI. To summarise, the event promises you will;

- Have a chance to listen to keynote speakers
- Get your chance to ask MSP's questions on a range of topics
- Learn more about Climate change and sustainability across the Highlands and Islands
- Have a chance to shape HISA policy
- Get a chance to develop your skills
- Have a chance to make new friends
- Be part of the HISA family

With social events, activities and group meals planned, HISA Con promises to be more than just a conference- join us for a wonderful three days- this is your chance to meet the organisation and make new friends!

**In order to apply for a space, email back to [Joel.Hockney@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Joel.Hockney@uhi.ac.uk) answering the question - up to 500 words - "Why do you believe you should go?"**

**Five students will be selected by the HISA Moray Officers.**

**Submissions must be in by the 10<sup>th</sup> of December.**

If you are not successful with your application, there may still be potential 'walk-in' space for students as well - *but this will not be funded*.

**Making Class Rep Meetings more inviting**



We have many students registered as Class Reps with a significant portion of these Class Reps taking up the opportunity to have the Class Reps training. Yet we are seeing only a certain amount of Class Reps attending Class Rep meetings.

Kyle asked the Class Reps how they could see the Class Rep Meetings to be more inviting to students or accessible, if there are issues with Class Reps getting to the meetings.

The Class Reps had a short period of time to add in their feedback onto paper sheets to what they think could improve the Class Rep Meetings to make them more inviting or accessible for Class Reps.

**More Class Rep training will be available next Monday on the 9<sup>th</sup> December at 11am to 1pm at room S110.**

## Smoking Shelter Committee Meeting

Nathan brought up before the floor was opened to Class Rep feedback that HISA Moray would be organising a Smoking Shelter Committee around many of the issues that have been brought up previously in Class Rep Meetings.

Due to how much this has previously been discussed, we suggest that Class Reps that wish to bring up the issue of smoking on campus or the issues around a possible smoking shelter to attend this meeting instead of bringing it up at Class Rep meetings. If you are not able to attend these meetings, you are more welcome to bring feedback straight to us at HISA Moray.

Issues were debated on the 5<sup>th</sup> December and we will be notifying Class Reps when the next meeting will be taking place.

## Open Floor Feedback



- A Class Rep brought up that they had been waiting for two weeks for response about an issue about the E-library. Kyle responded that they do listen – the response rate may not be quick as is hoped as both officers only work 14 hours a week.
- A Class Rep said that in their class on Monday afternoons that they watch educational videos that are meant to help with the course that are around subjects that will be covered next academic year - but they feel that this classroom time could be used on re-capping on more prominent topics. Nikki asked for the name of the course after meeting and would discuss it further with the Class Rep.
- According to a Class Rep there is absence of recycling bins around the campus in classrooms, especially paper recycling. Nathan said that we would talk to site assistants about this.
- It was brought up by a Class Rep that they must use their own money to buy shoes for their course – there was only enough funds for the tunic, trousers and kit but not shoes. The Class Rep said this was starting to be a problem. Derek said that each course gets costed within its annual review to see what is and is not essential for them to pay for. He said that he would also speak to the Class Rep about this after the meeting.
- Class Rep asked why the main site has better gear than Linkwood; at the campus some of the tables and chairs are ‘almost destroyed’ meaning that it is not a nice environment to work in. Derek added that staff do review the equipment and have replaced a hundred chairs and aiming to get the radiators fixed at the Linkwood campus. Generally, it is always the aim of Moray College UHI to make sure that there is a standard level across all campuses.
- There was a request made by one of the Class Reps to have a shelter for students that arrive a little early at the biblical gardens – due to public transport timetables. It was also hoped that there could be more bins around the biblical gardens so that the public did not litter and mean that horticultural students and staff pick up their mess.
- A Class Rep brought up that a lecturer appears to be refusing to use Brightspace – so there is no way to access the online resources. Nathan stepped in to say that having a standard level of training for Brightspace for all lecturers will be debated at HISA-CON.
- Could get some feedback into what has been changed. Add to list of minutes. Nikki – feedback gave back from last CR to all staff.
- Several students brought up issues they had with Brightspace; one Class Rep said that they a bad introduction overall to Brightspace, while another Class Rep brought up that their introduction was very brief considering they do most of their work on



Brightspace. A Class Rep felt that lecturers should teach the basics of Brightspace to students.

- Heather Sharp (Quality Officer) is reviewing the feedbacks students gave in the Early Student Experience Survey. An action plan is being developed to track and manage identified areas for improvement. A number of the actions require working groups to be put together to further look at what students have said in their feedback. These include:
  - The funding process;
  - Induction; and
  - Brightspace.

It will take time to implement improvements, but all staff feel it's a valuable exercise given the amount of feedback provided by students.

- There were several Class Reps who mentioned that they felt there was not enough seating area on days that there were pupils from secondary schools at the campus who take up space and seating area. Lots of the usual social areas were booked out; Derek replied that the marketing staff will be made aware of this, as demand for space is very high due to marketing taking in lots of recent bookings, some of which do happen to take up the social spaces for students.
- A Class Rep said that they would welcome an introduction of the fitness room at induction, as there had no information about this. Kyle pointed out that the timetable for the fitness room should be available on posters around the main campus. There is also information about the fitness suite on its' Facebook page.

## Date of Next Meeting

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 12pm - 1pm in Conference Hall.**

*Class Rep Meetings minutes by Joel Hockney, Moray HISA Student Association Assistant*

