

Moray College UHI – Class Rep Meeting Minutes

20th November 2019 – 12pm to 1pm

Present:

Class Reps: Kyle Cruickshank, Duncan MacPherson,

Staff: Joel Hockney

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

Apologises: Derek Duncan (staff)

Introductions and Announcements

Kyle began the Class Rep meeting after Class Reps signed to register, received their certificates and filled out their forms. HISA Moray also asked Class Reps to do a quick exercise of the benefits of being a Class Rep, aimed at providing that information to Class Reps who were unable to attend the training HISA Moray provided.

- ✓ *Obtain useful representation and communication skills*
- ✓ *Valuable to have on a CV for nearly all employment*
- ✓ *Boosts self-confidence and self-esteem*
- ✓ *Class Reps will be always be providing positive change*
- ✓ *Student voice for their classes and can sometimes resolve issues faster for their classmates*
- ✓ *Opportunities to meet students and staff that they may not otherwise have the chance to*
- ✓ *Opportunity to network within and outside the college*

Kyle introduced himself and the HISA Moray team to the Class Reps and let them know how to keep to date with HISA Moray; HISA Moray provides lots of updates on our social media with all events connected to HISA Moray posted on social media along with any updates for Class Reps.

Student Mental Health Agreement:

Joel went on to explain the yearly Student Mental Health Agreement. The SMHA is a framework for the UHI to build a strong support for students and staff around mental health, which encourages staff to review existing policy, staff training and consider improvements which could have a positive effect on the staff and student experience.

Ultimately the aim of the SMHAs is to ensure that anyone experiencing mental ill-health can feel that they can continue in their studies without facing stigma or discrimination.



For this academic year we are keen to get student feedback on the draft agreement before finalising the agreement, so HISA Moray will be hosting an event on the 25th of November for students to review the draft and offer feedback.

Register to Vote:

Kyle stressed the importance of voting for general election, of which the day of the vote is fast approaching on the 12th December. It is important to for everyone to have their voice heard and use the power of democracy – but it is equally important to register to vote as well! If you are not registered by Tuesday, the 26th November, you won't be able to vote.

We ask all Class Reps and Staff to spread the word about the elections and the importance of ensuring students (and everyone in general!) are registered to vote.

Open Floor Feedback

The following issues were raised from the open floor feedback section of the meeting.

- A common complaint that the Class Reps receive from students is the state of the equipment – lot of chairs appear to be falling apart, tables are worn out with holes in them and soldering irons simply do not work. Linkwood computers also appear to be having issues.
- The smoking shelter for the Linkwood campus has been described as 'awful', as it wobbles, is dirty, with some of the plastic panes burned through by people putting their cigarettes on the panes. As it is supposedly not set into ground correctly, there is a sense that the shelter is not safe and might collapse.
- The Class Reps also requested some information from lecturers about the funding for fabrication and welding parts of the college and expanding the small workshop as there is not enough room for certain equipment. Due to all of this, the timeframe is too short for classes, as there are not enough machines, resulting in a queue of students with nothing to do during class time.
- The Class Reps also voiced that there is no good area to eat for Linkwood students that would then also allow them time for students to get to classes in time. This is partially due to the small refractory area gets crowded quickly with poor temperature control overall not making it an inviting relaxing space.
- Class Reps also brought forward that students have been feeding in more practical projects throughout their course, like more cross-class and cross-college projects. For example a cross-campus challenge for making a buggy, for example.
- Students would also like a survey for the vending machines items as crisps and drinks appear to be not to most Linkwood students' preference.



- There appears to be a large consensus from Linkwood students they would like to be able to purchase drawing sets and mathematical sets from reception, as they don't have money and/or time to go to supermarkets for these sets. Students have been previously asked to bring or buy educational items, calculators, protractors, etc. when students don't have funds for these.
- The Linkwood refractory has been requested to be open slightly longer; as it is only open from 9am to 11am for breakfast and some students' first class finishes at 11 they are hoping that the refractory could be open for a little bit longer so students could have access to breakfast food after the end of their first class.
- There has also been a request by students for better advertisement for apprenticeships and jobs – as there are far too many emails from the college, many students simply 'zone out' and don't spot these opportunities in the emails. These 'excessive' emails are about issues only affecting main campus, so there is email fatigue to check effectively though emails. The Class Rep who brought this up suggested to have more advertisements outside of email too so students can engage and see them more effectively. This would also include having staff from employers to come and speak to students about opportunities.
- There appears to be a consensus among students and Class Reps that they would prefer Mondays instead of Wednesdays for the Linkwood Class Rep Meetings.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2th December at 12pm - 1pm in Conference Hall.

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

