

Moray College UHI – Class Rep Meeting Minutes

7th November 2019 – 12pm to 1pm

Present:

Class Reps: Kevin Mould, Kelly Blakenane, Jason Cameron, Shavonne Connor, Emily Burns, Leanne Dove, Paige Cowie, Beatriz Pinto, Rowana Crossland, Marans Gray, Kyle Powell, Jessica Allman, Nathan Anderson, Dana Munro, Laura Ward, Mandy Shinklatter, Adam McNab, Melissa Bowcutt, Lynne Gardner, Helen Dixon, David Indge, Arthur Whyte, Rachael Goodliven, Dean Lambert, Brandy Hall, Louise Gordon, Katrina Farra

Staff: Joel Hockney & Derek Duncan

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

Apologises: Nikki Yoxall (staff), Kodeigh Senff, Klaudia Stopa

Introductions and Announcements

Kyle referenced back to last meeting issues raised there; Kyle had a meeting with head chef Bob who is trying his best to find more vegetarian and vegan options. Bob is very willing to have a meeting with Class Reps and Students to listen and take ideas for more dietary options in the cafeteria.

Kyle reiterated Derek's previous answer about the Class Rep's inquiry for more of a printing allowance – if the course you are enrolled in requires you to print more than your printing allowance your lecturers can ask senior staff to get more printing credits for you and your class.

Nathan carried on about the sanitary products being misused from the previous Class Rep meeting and emphasised that students really need to stop vandalising these products and asked the Class Reps to speak to their classes about these issues. Derek explained that at Moray College UHI that discreet arrangements are made so that students have access to these sanitary products and are expected to use that resource responsibly. This current behaviour of vandalising of these products is unacceptable and may result of these products being withdrawn from the women's toilets.

A Class Rep said they believed that it was unfair to punish all the students for a few misbehaving students, to which Derek responded that access to these sanitary products would be available elsewhere at the college, just not at the toilets if this vandalism persists.

Marketing Activity:

The Moray College UHI marketing team came along to do some activities to gather feedback and enhance advertisement engagement with students and prospective students.

The summary of the feedback gained from these activities and the survey they have put to all students will be passed to you all at a later date.

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 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.

More Class Rep Training Sessions:

We are providing two more Class Rep Training sessions on the 14th of November and on the 9th of December for anyone that was not able (or aware) of the previous training sessions.

If you were not able to attend the previous sessions, could you please let us know which of these new sessions you will be attending. This also includes if you are not able to attend these new training sessions.



Open Floor Feedback

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

Class Rep Training

- A Class Rep raised an issue that their class was suffering with timetabling in Administrative Practice and Care and that the absence of their lecturer during classes had been detrimental to students learning the course.
- Derek said that he can pass this on, but also added to the Class Rep to go to CCMs to bring it up to their HNC course. In CCMs some of these issues, such as with timetabling, can be more swiftly resolved than even in the Class Rep meetings.
- An issue had been brought up that Class Reps and their fellow students believed it was unfair that they were unable to eat cold food in library and that to their knowledge that nothing in the 'Food Policy' stated against eating cold in the college library.
- Furthermore, a Class Rep brought up that HNC students need to do lots of studying and due to this, many feel they have to eat and study at the same time in order to fulfil workloads.
- Class Reps were also disgruntled that they cannot leave their equipment in library unattended, which means that they cannot leave it for even ten minutes when needing to get food. So, for many students, they feel they either have choose between packing up everything and missing out on valuable study time or go hungry.
- This also affects students who eat breakfast at the college or have dietary requirements – as these meals are cook on demand, they may have to wait much longer, which can be very difficult to manage time when they are under time-pressure to study.

Smoking Policy

- There was even more discussion around Moray College UHI's Smoking Policy and Class Reps being irritated by students smoking under the bike shelter at the front entrance and not moving – along with there being no suitable shelter from rain for smokers that isn't this bike shelter by the entrance of the campus.
- It is clear there is lots and lots of discussion here around this subject, which due to time had to be cut short in this meeting – Nathan will book a meeting to further discuss these points which all students and staff would be welcome to.

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

