

UHI Moray – Student Voice Rep Meeting Minutes 27th of February 2023 – 1 PM to 2 PM

Present:

Student Voice Reps: Kellie Lawtie, Blu Edwards-Jackson, Kieran Charlie Wiseman, Esme Fenemore, Rob Kerr

Staff: Veronica Borseth – Student Voice Assistant, Derek Duncan – Director of Information, Planning and Student Support, Aimee Cuthbert – Assistant Voice Manager

Note Taker: Veronica Borseth – Student Voice Assistant

HISA Officers: Melissa Carr - Depute President Education, Aaron Wappler – Depute President Activities & Welfare

Apologies: Kenny McAlpine, Kelsey Grant

Welcome and Intro:

Melissa Carr (MC) started the meeting, leading the introductions.

Previous Actions:

Veronica Borseth (VB) stated that a student had raised previously that the lift outside the main campus reception had been making a concerning noise, which HISA have brought forward to Colin Watson (CW the Facilities Manager). As CW is not in attendance, Derek Duncan (DD) stated that Schindler's Lifts will be inspecting/servicing the lifts today.

MC then asked DD if there was any update from CW about the state of the chairs in the AyePod, as a student has previously raised this issue, and CW is in charge of getting the suppliers to provide replacements. DD is unaware of any progress on this point, though agreed that they needed replacing.

Note: UHI Moray are waiting on suppliers to provide replacements.

Building and Repairs Status:

DD stated that some of the wooden repair work has been recently completed on the Victoria Art Building, however the roof repairs are still ongoing. DD also advised that students will shortly have access to the dark room via temporary entrance. DD stated that the building has suffered from water ingress. Tests were also carried out to determine if there was asbestos in the building, thankfully these tests confirmed there was no asbestos.

DD said that the Birnie Wing roof is also being repaired currently, and that CW is in communications with the lead surveyor, who then speaks to the head contractor. Currently they are projecting an end of March project completion date.

DD also let the group know that the new HISA office is in progress of being completed also, the only steps remaining are the installation of the network cables, painting, and flooring.

DD then stated that UHI Moray are working on providing better access to students that might have mobility issues. Much of the space on the ground floor seems to be allocated to support areas, which has meant that some classrooms are allocated to more difficult to reach areas. This means that they're rearranging rooms so

that more classrooms will be on the ground floor. This is an ongoing project to ensure that they have no classrooms in areas that don't work well.

Also, as mentioned previously, an engineer is due in today to look at the lift outside reception.

AOB:

DD stated that the demand for laptops is currently easily being met, and that there are available laptops for students to use. The intention is to buy more student laptops for the next session.

DD spoke about how wellbeing funds have been released for the next year, so UHI Moray should see an increase in the wellbeing provision. DD also mentioned that they currently have Katrina from the NHS come in every Wednesday to the main campus; however, UHI Moray still don't know whether the Counselling funds for 2023/2024 is going to continue. DD stressed the strong need for the service to continue.

DD stated that smoking and vaping on campus has been an ongoing issue, and that there had been a recent incident with someone smoking cigarettes inside the building, which is against the law. It seems that a small percentage of students are disregarding the policy that's in place about not smoking on campus.

In response to DD, an SVR asked whether a smoking shelter was going to be put in place. MC interjected, saying that this topic would be discussed later in the meeting, as it's a point on the agenda. DD added that there is a requirement to review the smoking policy because it's operation was proving problematic. AGBC is shared with NHS Grampian staff and the College has adopted the same policy which means smoking is not permitted anywhere within College grounds which is proving difficult to police. There are likely a range of ways we can support smokers and student feedback is important.

Another SVR then spoke about their experience with a recent fire alarm evacuation, and how the signage for the fire assembly point for that particular area in the building was very unclear, which led to students being confused. DD responded, stating that the assembly area for the AGBC building is out the Hay Street West entrance, and then out on the grassy area on the northern lawn.

Officer Update: Activities and Welfare Officer

Aaron Wappler (AW) then shared his updates, which are listed below:

Therapets – 6th of March – 1pm – 3pm

Partnership with our amazing colleagues at UHI Moray and Canine Concern Trust Scotland, Therapets will be coming to UHI Moray's - Moray Street campus to visit students on the 6th of March at the Alexander Graham Bell Centre, to visit you!

Book a twenty minute slot with other students here now to avoid disappointment:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3PnkiNzhQk-rj958iELqYwab0sFPFI1OuaE3WjuJfdNUNzM3RE5IU1FPSjZJQkZUks3R0FLMzhUVC4u>

Cycling Repair Shop – 15th of March 11am – 2pm

For anyone with a bike, we are bringing Outfit Moray to the AGBC Café on the 15th of March between 11am – 2pm to give you a free bicycle light service and health check, conducted by an inhouse bike mechanic, This event is not only open to staff and students but it is open to the general public as well.

Our HISA Sports Coordinator Amanda Fleet, will also be in attendance if you want to get in sports on campus, start a sports club or get recommendations for clubs in the area, she will be there to answer all your questions.

To avoid disappointment please book your slot here. [OutfitMoray Bike Doctor](#)

Make Green Change – 2nd of February to 2nd of March

HISA Moray's "Make Green Change Competition with a top prize of £80 voucher (of your choice, Amazon, iTunes, you name it, we'll get it!) and two books for two runners up from Mission Nutrition! It closes on Thursday so please get in your suggestions now!

We want to hear from YOU about what changes you'd like to see on campus to make it more eco-friendly, the more specific and practical the idea the better, that's what we want! On top of winning the cash prize, your HISA Moray team will potentially work to get the change enacted!

Make Green Change Comp Link - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3PnkINzhQk-rJ958iELqYwab0sFPFI1OuaE3WjuJfdNUMVBRUFcyUjhQR1EzMlIHWTJKTThGSKlNTi4u>

After his update, AW also mentioned that all the suggestions from the Make Green Change Competition will be brought to DD after the HISA elections.

Sustainability and Food Waste

In response to AW speaking about the Make Green Change competition, DD spoke to the group about UHI Moray's plan to reduce the use of greenhouse gas emissions with an overall aim of meeting the target for net zero by 2045, although this is being reviewed in line with a revised UHI-wide strategy to achieve this by 2040. DD stated that he was part of a sustainability group, and that UHI Moray's plan for becoming net zero had been approved by the SLT (Strategic Leadership Team) and now just awaits student feedback before it can go on to the Board of Management. Part of this plan requires that UHI Moray reduce their carbon output more each year. DD mentioned that UHI Moray are doing well in comparison to other locations, however they still have a lot of work to get to net zero given that none of the campus buildings were built to be net zero. Note that one of those buildings was built around 1880, so it would be difficult to have done so then!

UHI Moray has a local Carbon Management Plan which sets out key aims and projects for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Smaller projects will all make a difference for example, the use of reverse vending machines to support the deposit return scheme is an example. HISA will need to feed into the plan before it is approved by the Board.

At this point, an SVR raised that on their Professional Cookery course, much to their frustrations the students don't have a good way of recycling their food waste during class. The SVR stated that given the ongoing food crisis, food waste should really be reduced as much as possible. The SVR also said that potentially the organisation Net Zero Scotland could help provide a way for the food waste to be composted or used, which would over all make UHI Moray more sustainable.

DD noted that the College has engaged with EUAC (the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges) and have adopted their road map toolkit which support's Colleges moving towards net-zero emissions. The College will continue to engage with EAUC going forward.

A discussion then ensued about the number of apps that help reduce food waste (OLIO, Too Good To Go).

DD then spoke about the food larder in the LRC (Library and Learning Resource Centre) which is a discreet service where those that are struggling with finances, can receive long-life food items.

There have been a number of projects to support sustainability and improve safety and as a result, the Hospitality training kitchens and refectory at the main campus were converted to electricity, meaning less use of natural gas. New equipment for the refectory has been delayed due to supplier issues, but that will be resolved soon.

Officer Update:

MC then presented the anonymised results from the survey she had sent out previously about smoking and food provision on campus. MC stated that she had worked together with CW to produce this draft report, and

together with CW she would put together a more finalised summary paper and bring this forward to the Board of Management. The anonymised results are included alongside this document for the SVRs, in case anyone would like to include their feedback. Note that since it is in draft form, *please don't share it!*

A general discussion then happened about the results of the survey, including suggestions about potential solutions.

DD also stated that the pricing of the food at the main campus refectory had been discussed often throughout the years at SVR meetings and is not unique to pandemic and post-pandemic times. DD also stated he wanted to know what kind of things students would like to see service-wise from the refectory in the future.

Regional Update:

MC then provided a brief regional update.

- The HISA CEO has recently resigned, and we now have the interim CEO Antony Blackshaw for the next 6 months.
- Nominations for the HISA Spring Elections are open until Friday the 3rd of March at 2 PM! This is for the next year student officer roles, which are part-time jobs that students can work alongside their studies! Link to [more information](#) and to nominate is [here](#).
- The Cost-of-Living Campaign which is led by HISA President Heather Innes is ongoing currently, and if anyone has any queries on this or ideas, please contact heather.innes@uhi.ac.uk.
- Our HISA Vice President Communities Madeleine Brown is organising an International Women's Day round table event, which will be on the 8th of March. Poster included in the email.

Open Floor Feedback

MC opened the floor to feedback.

An SVR raised that the classrooms in the upper S block are way too hot, and that a lot of students have had to go home due to feeling ill from the heat. DD said he'd get CW to look into this.

Another SVR raised that some of their fellow students were struggling to get certain books that are required by their course from the library, due to the library only having one copy of said book. The SVR requested that there be duplicates of the more popular books, so that everyone could get the information that they need. DD responded that there is an inter-library loan system, which should be able to help in this case. DD also stated that there is a budget for buying more books. MC questioned whether the books might also be available in eBook format, to which the SVR said they'd investigate. DD advised that the person to contact about the book provision is Jérémie Fernandes (JF), as he is the library officer for the college. DD said he'd message JF after the SVR meeting so that he is aware of the situation.

There were no more items to discuss, so MC closed the meeting.

Note: due to not having Heather Sharp in attendance, there was no update on the ongoing situation with the Art Department. We hope to update at the next meeting!

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27th of March at 1 PM – 2 PM by Blended Meeting

*Note that this meeting **will** still be in the Lecture Theatre! It's the meetings in April and May that will be in the Board Room.*