

UHI Moray – Student Voice Rep Meeting Minutes 30th of January 2023 – 1 PM to 2 PM

Present:

Student Voice Reps: Angela Wiseman, Kieran Charlie Wiseman, Samantha Troup, Tracey Coutts-Trotter, Rob Kerr

Staff: Veronica Borseth – Student Voice Assistant, Heather Sharp – Quality Manager, Colin Watson – Facilities Manager, 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: Rachel McFee, Tracey Coutts-Trotter, Kelsey Grant,

Welcome and Intro:

Melissa Carr (MC) opened the meeting and led the introductions.

Previous Actions:

MC asked Colin Watson (CW) to update on the previous actions.

- CW stated that the quote for the slatted blinds for the S wing classrooms with privacy issues has come in last week. CW has sent in the quote to Derek Duncan (Director of Information, Plannings and Student Services).
- CW also said that no one has turned up from their supplier with the furniture replacements for the damaged seats in the Aye Pod, so there is no update available.

Senior Management Open Floor

MC opened the floor to senior management. Heather Sharp (HS) advised of the following quality related activities happening across the college:

- **Progression Boards** – These happen twice yearly, in February (interim), and June (final). During the boards, course teams across the college meet to confirm the results of students to determine if a student has passed all assessments. This happens for every course and ensures that all results have been quality assured.
- **Systems Verification** – The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) have asked all centres across Scotland to undertake systems verification. This means that we need to evaluate our processes and services to make sure that they meet the SQA requirements.
- **The Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey (SSES)** – the SSES helps us to evaluate and enhance college courses and services. The survey's normally open at the beginning of March and close at the end of April. Dates for this year's survey have yet to be confirmed, but HS will advise as soon as they have.

CW then added that the roof is currently being worked on, so there will be more noise than usual. The work has been scheduled so that it doesn't interfere with any exams.

CW also stated that there are still issues with students smoking on campus.

Aaron's Local Update:

Aaron Wappler (AW) introduced himself online, stating that he was elected in the autumn bi-election on the following manifesto points:

- Expand the counselling provision for UHI Moray, I know that every student who wants counselling should get it.
- Digitalise the process to register a Club or Society and access HISA funding.
- Simplify the process to allow outside organisation's to easily access UHI Moray to put on events; Therapets, Army etc.
- Pressure UHI to improve hardship funding.

Clubs and Societies Update:

Following student feedback, a review of clubs and societies was conducted prior to me (AW) coming into office, following it HISA has made changes to the way we operate clubs and socs, the process to register clubs and societies is now digitalised, the funding is based on merit and the process is more streamlined, the guidance and application to apply for HISA affiliation for new student groups is now available on our website.

[Start a New Group @ Highlands and Islands Students' Association \(uhi.ac.uk\)](http://uhi.ac.uk)

While HISA is not enforcing a ten-member minimum for this term or for sign-up, this minimum membership number will come into effect for the academic year of 23/24.

Any club, new or old, that has fewer than 10 members can receive a £25 award for membership recruitment. The money must be spent on materials, an activity, or other product/fee to promote your club to gain membership. You might use it to print out flyers or have a table with treats at your college during re-freshers. Maybe you will use it to host some sort of event or activity geared at getting new members like a taster session or a meet'n'greet. Just come up with an idea and email us!

As a reminder, the HISA Grant for affiliated groups is now open, there is no restrictions on the funding that can be asked for, but the funding pot is limited.

If you have a club or society you wish to start and have other students support, please get in touch directly. Remember we have existing clubs like:

- MADS (Moray Art and Design)
- Ping Pong on every Tuesday termtime 4:30pm-6pm
- Mixed Sports Club: Termtime 9am-11am on Thursdays

If you would like to start a club or soc or join an existing one, please get in touch with me (AW) directly at hisa.moray.deputeaw@uhi.ac.uk ! We will be more than happy to assist you with the process and getting your idea turned into action.

I (AW) will be running events in the future, follow HISA on social media as well come see us on campus.

Make Green Change Competition:

As part of Green Week, HISA Moray are running "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! 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! Something you can even claim credit for suggesting!

Green Week is a joint event between UHI and HISA, the focus for the week will be around Green Health and Sustainable Living, intersecting between the environmental and cost-of-living challenges that we face and the connection with our health and wellbeing.

Melissa's Local Update:

- In the last month, my focus has been the issues raised at our SVR meetings which have been smoking on campus and the quality and cost of food provided by The Bearded Chef. I have since produced a survey that has been circulated out to all students at Moray Street, Biblical Gardens and Linkwood. So far, we have had quite a significant number of responses and I will now be collating all the evidence and bringing the results forward to the relevant people next week. I you haven't already done so, could you please fill in the survey and inform your classes that there is a survey being circulated. Any feedback would be much appreciated.
- As you may have seen around the campus, UHI Moray are now offering free breakfast for students between 08:30 and 11:00. You can pick up your voucher from The Bearded Chef at the Moray Street campus or Linkwood campus or these are available at the Biblical Gardens classroom.
- We are hoping to arrange in-person training soon for any SVRs that have not yet had this. There is also an opportunity to complete this training online if you would prefer but it is important for us to be able to ensure that all reps attending these meetings have the appropriate training.

Brit Challenge:

BRIT (British Inspiration Trust) support young adults mental health and fitness in the UK through the delivery of their annual BRIT Challenge. The challenge started last Monday (23/01/23) and finishes on 23 March 2023. The BRIT Challenge is an inclusive feel-good fundraiser to improve mental health and fitness, all whilst raising vital funds for local, regional, and national charities, alongside BRIT.

Every UK university, college, specialist college and Students' Union are invited to register to take part, enter teams, and support student and staff participation, both on campus or at home.

There is one bingo card with 23 activities, and you can choose 5 of these activities to do. It's all for a great cause. There is more information about this on the HISA website and all its socials.

Regional Update:

Be in with the chance of winning one of four £25 cash prizes by taking part in UHI Green Week photo scavenger hunt which is open to all UHI students and staff. All you need to do is find and photograph 10 things listed on the UHI website and send them via email to studentengagement@uhi.ac.uk. The competition is now open and will close midnight on Sunday 5th February. Winners will be drawn and contacted on Tuesday 7th February.

Elections for HISA local officer paid part-time positions Depute President of Education and Depute President of Activities and Welfare will be coming soon as well as the paid full-time regional positions President, President of Education and President of Communities. If you or any students wish to run for these positions and require further information, please visit the [HISA website](#) or contact Veronica at veronica.borseth@uhi.ac.uk. When elections do take place, please remember to vote for the candidate that you wish to elect. The important dates to remember are:

- 6th Feb - 3rd of March - Nomination Period
- 21st March – 24th March – Voting Period
- 24th March – Results Announced

AOB/Open Floor Feedback

MC opened the floor to student feedback.

An SVR raised that the UHI Moray Art Department is in a situation now where students are leaving. Students are looking for alternative establishments e.g., Gray's School of Art. There is no communication and neither the students nor the staff know what's happening. Tutors haven't seen their line managers at all over the past few months. The Head of Curriculum has left, and the students have been told that HR are in the process of recruiting a new one. HS responded to this by stating that she'd make sure that this feedback would be passed on to the right people.

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

Post Meeting Additions:

An SVR has contacted the local HISA team notifying them of how the main elevator just outside reception has been making a snapping noise which is causing their class distress. This information has been passed on to CW, who has stated that all the lifts were recently serviced and that UHI Moray have had a third-party independent check from our insurance company who have confirmed their safety.

MC has been approached by a student who asked if there is any chance for more water refill stations to be available around the college. Said student has mentioned that there doesn't appear to be one on S block first floor and other areas throughout the college where they believe there should be. This has also been sent through to CW.

Date of Next Meeting

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