

The Link

Issue 1 - February 2020

HISA News

Freshers'

Freshers' was a big success this year, with events held across 5 days. Students particularly enjoyed the pub quiz and comedy nights held at Revolution Inverness, and we hope to hold more events here moving forward. We also had a really busy Freshers' Fayre, with roughly 100 stalls set up to let students know more about the local community. We will have a smaller version of this event at the start of next term so keep an eye on HISA Inverness's Facebook page for details!



Deborah Halliday, VP Activities and Welfare

Our VP for Activities and Welfare Deborah Halliday has been working hard to get as many clubs and societies running as possible. We have 15 societies and counting and please contact the HISA Office for any details about these. Deborah is also going round and visiting each club at least once this academic year and she is making her way steadily through the list! We are still trying to get a few clubs established, and we are particularly keen to hear from any students interested in rugby, hillwalking, basketball, mountain biking or engineering.

Deborah: hisa.inverness.aw@uhi.ac.uk

Viv Mackie, VP Education

Our VP for Education Viv Mackie has been working hard with Supported Education students. We have been looking into work placements and options for when the students leave college. We are also working hard to include all of our students in the community here at the college. Also, we held a stall in the atrium for World Mental Health Day. This provided leaflets and information about groups who can help with mental health issues. Viv also hopes to hold events to raise awareness of the challenges faced by certain groups of students in the new year so watch this space!

Viv: HISA.Inverness.Edu@uhi.ac.uk



Class Reps

We have had a lot of success working with class reps this year. We have worked on a number of issues so far and got some really useful feedback on the Student Experience. So far we have managed to get a student microwave organised which is just due to go through some safety tests and should be in place by the new term at the latest. We are also working on how to advertise this position so students have a better idea of what it involves.

George Gunn, Student President

Our Student President George Gunn has been working hard on environmental issues here at the college. We are working closely with the Catering team here at the college and have jointly committed to reducing hot drink prices for customers who bring a reusable cup. HISA Inverness have also given away a certain amount of free coffee cups to aid this launch. George has also been working hard to establish a pop up bar here at the campus, and we hope to have this up and running for an event as part of Refreshers' Week in February.

George and the local HISA team have also produced some guidance around the potential impact of Brexit on EU students and staff. This resource should be available soon. Finally, George was instrumental in setting up a general election candidate Q and A session here at the college. This was a great chance for students to quiz potential MPs on the issues which are important to students here at Inverness College UHI.

George: HISA.Inverness.Pres@uhi.ac.uk



Find HISA in their office in the Atrium.

Coming Up

Refreshers – week beginning 3rd February:

Ceilidh in the Performing Arts Theatre, Tuesday 4th February 6-8pm;

Main fair in the Atrium, Wednesday 5th February 11am-2pm;

Clubs and activities fair, Thursday 6th February 11am-2pm;

Pub quiz in the Sheiling pop-up bar, Thursday 6th February 8-10.30pm.

Next SRC – Wednesday 19th February 12-1pm, Lecture Theatre

Careers and Employability Week – week beginning 23rd March. On Wednesday 25th March there will be stall in the Atrium and various events throughout the week.

December SRC Meeting

- We provided feedback on some of the information from the Student Satisfaction and Engagement survey. This was done through a short video and provided some good feedback from class reps;
- We let class reps know that the student microwave would be installed after Christmas and this has now been done in the Corrie;
- We asked the class reps what events or nights they would like to see from our link with Revolution bar in Inverness, the most popular results were comedy nights, quiz nights, live music nights and themed nights. We hope to arrange some of these events at Revolution over the coming term;
- We mentioned the upcoming HISA elections and asked anyone interested in running for a position to contact us for more details.



Achieved Together

The Partnership Agreement

At the beginning of this academic year, we collectively looked at the 8 themes of the student experience. Looking at evidence drawn from student feedback, local and regional reports, ongoing initiatives and plans, we decide on 3 areas to concentrate work on. This year these are:

- Student Voice in Partnership: Students and staff working positively together to find solutions to enable continuous improvement;
- Advice Support and Progression: Working with you to achieve your potential;
- Student Life: The wider aspects of being a student.



This semester we have also been looking at survey results -

Main themes coming from survey feedback:

- Communication and Culture
- Treating students as adults
- Absence cover

Some examples of changes taking place:

Inconsistent communication – we are working with teams across the college to improve the consistency of communication with students and check how this is working – we will develop a consistent communications policy

LRC being used as a classroom – in our staff briefings we have made clear this is no longer acceptable. We will review and monitor and staff are to discussing rooming issues with their head of school or depute

Not enough plugs for laptops in the LRC – additional sockets have been added

Students waiting outside classrooms before classes start – we understand and are working to identify rooms where direct access is possible

Difficulty with identifying timetables – timetables are now published online

Issues raised at SRC sometimes not addressed – at least 2 members of management staff and heads of school will regularly be in attendance alongside key facilities managers