



Revised HISA Articles of Association

This paper presents HISA's revised Articles of Association for approval by each of its institutional governing bodies.

The revision is the culmination of a major undertaking begun during the 2024-25 academic year to develop revised governing documents. The documents have been approved by a [referendum](#) and [Annual All-Student Meeting](#), and by our Trustee Board and a Special Resolution passed by our Company Law Meeting (21 May 2026).

A primary purpose of this work was to address information that was missing, outdated, conflicting and contradictory, or unnecessarily complex and duplicating. This "tidying up" exercise aimed broadly **not** to substantively change our current structures, but merely to express them in a clearer, more readable and more useable manner. At the same time, a small number of minor adjustments have been made, including:

1. The restructure of our Student Officer team (including the removal of the HTC Depute President).
2. The adjustment of our Trustee Board chair role to now sit with an independent member rather than the President. This change reflects good practice and aims to strengthen our governance by allowing an external trustee who is in place for more than one year to help ensure continuity and consistency whilst allowing the elected President to be the vice-chair. This arrangement is seen in the majority of other students' associations in Scotland and is supported in the latest Code of Governance for Students' Unions. Given the workload of the President, the HISA Trustee Board and Executive Committee supported this change as a means of encouraging applicants to the Cross-Campus Officer roles.
3. Continuing to set referendum thresholds at 200 students participating and which reflects current experiences.

The background to the role of the Association and its need to remain accountable to the University and each Academic Partner remains unchanged.

We welcome broader feedback as to how future revisions of the Articles of Association can help enhance engagement of our diverse student membership in shaping the policies and priorities of HISA.

The HISA Trustee Board have requested ratification of the updated Articles of Association with the aim to complete this process by the 30th June 2026 in order to allow a sound, stable and clear basis for constitutional functioning for 2026-27.

Xander McDade
Chair of Trustees/Student President
Highlands and Islands Students' Association
29 May 2026