



HISA Update for Learning, Teaching and Resource Committee.

March 2026

1: Key organisational headlines from HISA

- Voting in our [2026 Student Elections](#) for our Student Officer team starts on 9th March. At the time of writing candidate approval and training has not finished, and the full list of candidates will be on our website after 12noon on Monday 2nd March. Results will be declared on Friday 13th March. Any vacant positions will go to a by-election later this semester (details to be confirmed).
- At the same time as our Student Elections, we are holding a referendum to approve our revised Articles and Schedules.
- A further referendum will be held later in March on our membership of NUS, alongside a vote on priorities for our new Student Partnership Agreement.
- Nominations are open February 25th to March 20th for our [2026 HISA Awards](#). Student receive emails with a link to the JISC survey. We aim for judging to take place in late April and for the notifications to winners and publicity to be published by early June at the latest.
- HISA's [monthly newsletter, Hi!](#), and our [various socials](#) @TeamHISA, are the best way of keeping up with our latest activity across the campuses.
- Our financial restructure process is ongoing. Our new CEO Colin Munro starts in post on 16th March.

2: The Student Voice Rep system and feedback on learning

Recruitment of SVRs has naturally tailed off towards the end of the first semester, but numbers remain very high at 555 across UHI. 57% of reps are so far trained. We will soon be launching a survey as part of our evaluation of SVR training.

We have a new [page of our website dedicated to SVR meetings](#), containing dates of and reports from our meetings including thematic reports on discussions formed around the [sparqs Student Learning Experience themes](#). This should make it easier for UHI staff, governors and others to learn about and, where possible, join meetings. February's theme was Resources, Environment and Technologies.

We are learning about, and responding to, various issues in learning and teaching across UHI, from our SVRs and elsewhere, including ideas and suggestions from online courses where students do not have routine or publicised access to campuses where that is convenient to them (such as in Applied Music and Humanities. In these



circumstances we are working with curriculum and campus staff to help create and promote opportunities for students to visit campuses periodically to access services, facilities, support and opportunities for community.

Academic Partner specific issues raised through the SVR system about learning and the wider student experience are outlined later in this report.

4: Wider quality activities

HISA been involved in recent weeks in a range of key internal and external processes, including programme (re)approvals and institution-led quality review. A major priority for us currently is working with UHI to prepare documents and resources for the UHI/SAMS/HTC Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review in autumn 2026.

5: Student Communities and Inclusion

- We currently administer [33 societies, 16 sports clubs, and 7 networks](#) across UHI. 16 of these options are online and open to UHI students in any location. Topping around 100 members each, the [UHI PGR society](#) and the [UHI D&D society](#) are the most popular currently.
- Our Term 2 Grant for affiliated student groups closed. We are awarding £3,500 across 15 student groups for equipment, trainings, activity materials, and travel and accommodation subsidies for conferences, trips, competitions, etc.
- With sponsorship from Kishorn Port Ltd, we now have both a women's and men's team to compete again in the [LittleJohn Vase in St. Andrews on March 18th](#).
- We have had four applicants to our Gender Expression fund and are hoping to see more applicants in this term.
- We have been working across UHI to develop more student-led social spaces within HISA facilities. Students across UHI have noted a real desire to have dedicated, student-friendly space on campus to relax, come together, and establish a greater sense of community. We are also conscious of university priorities on community building and retention. As such we are taking forward these conversations with individual academic partners where there are opportunities and priorities in this area.
- We have [celebrated LGBTQ History month](#) across the organisation with articles, posts, and local activities.



6: Local Updates

SVRs and Student Feedback

SVRs – 35

Percent trained – 37%

Meetings – November 11th – attendance 34%

Feedback

Positive feedback on the induction process, comprehensive and plenty of information delivered to students

Students having issues with funding, bursaries, etc. This has been actioned by the funding team by setting up funding drop ins for the Stornoway campus, with the possibility of doing more of these for other students that have had issues this year. Avril McKay also attended the SVR meeting in February to update on funding and address any issues that had been reported.

Students in rural centres feel overlooked in regard to support, not having as many in person support systems as larger campuses, e.g. funding.

Request for student kitchen facilities on the Stornoway campus.

Local Officer Updates

The graduation ceremonies at Fort William, Stornoway, and Thurso were attended by their respective officer. All officers gave a speech during the ceremony that was well received by those in attendance.

Cole – Working on events and engagement at the Thurso campus, hosting games afternoons every other week. He has also been working with the student engagement team to find funding to continue the free breakfasts on offer across North, West and Hebrides.

Abigail – Set up informal drop in sessions once a week to listen to student feedback and issues, that she helps to action alongside the student engagement team. She has also been working on increased visibility on the Fort William campus, as well as developing ideas for increasing our visibility with online students.

Alasdair – Working on our continuing SVR recruitment across North, West and Hebrides, as well as helping students with the funding issues that have arisen this year. He is also working to increase our visible presence on the Stornoway campus.