



Shetland UHI
End of Year Report
2021/22

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“Post-pandemic Reboot”

Depute President’s Foreword

This year will probably see a mix of face to face and online lectures and events in UHI. My plan is to make the deutes role a lot more visible this year as we come into a post pandemic society. This will be straightforward in the Lerwick campus, but, It would be good to be able to have the same access to the Scalloway campus. The Scalloway and Lerwick campuses have now merged and its important to me that they feel part of, and included into, all events and societies’. With the merger, it is important that when the campuses mix together, the facilities remain the same, including canteen menus and prices for ALL students. Introducing partnership between UHI and HISA, and Lerwick and Scalloway campuses is key to seeing the merger of campuses being successful, and key to students who leave in the future, knowing they were empowered to have a positive student experience.

Mindfulness and the promotion of the green button will be at the forefront of my time as depute. This campaign to get the green button visible for all UHI students has been my most proud achievement, and was facilitated with a lot of help and partnership between UHI and HISA. I aim to see the partnership grow and continue. I would like to think that looking to the future, students will find UHI and HISA joined at the hip as 2 separate entities that highly compliment each other as we take the student experience to be a very positive experience. With the merger we have a real opportunity to grow and function as a team, which I really look forward to being a part of.

I have joined the Shetland UHI board as well as the board of Trustees for HISA. Both roles are important for the relationship between HISA and UHI to flourish and grow.

I look forward to my time as Depute President for Shetland and continuing to build on the foundations set in 2019 by another predecessor to this role. To bring students together, to make their voice stronger with SVR’s, working together with lecturers and students to make Shetland UHI the best place to work and study.

We stand on the shoulders of those who have paved the way before us, to build a great, positive area for all students in both campuses. Partnership is vital and key to seeing this progress and happen. Positive empowerment, growth and community will develop and enhance the experience of all students and staff as HISA and UHI listen and support each other.

Teamwork will make the dream work and I look forward to being part of this to see a successful fruitful 2022/23 year as we move forward in Shetland UHI

- Ian McCormack, Lerwick Local Officer 2021/22, Shetland Depute President 2022/23

1. Shetland HISA Team 2021/22

Elections were held in March 2021 for the post of Depute President Shetland. By-elections were held in November 2021 for Scalloway and Lerwick Local Officer posts for a term of office running until 30th June 2022.

1.1 Shetland Depute President and Local Officers

Depute President Cally Mair, Scalloway Campus Local Officer Harry Hickey, Lerwick Local Officer Ian McCormack, along with local support staff Sara Fox make up the Shetland HISA Team for the academic year 2021/22. Cally Mair resigned as Depute President with effect from 19/05/2022.



Cally Mair
Depute President Shetland



Ian McCormack
Local Officer – Lerwick



Harry Hickey
Local Officer - Scalloway

2. Democratic Engagement

This has been another difficult year, feeling the effects of the pandemic on democratic engagement. Despite the combined efforts of HISA staff locally and regionally, engagement was down across the UHI on pre-pandemic years.

2.1 Shetland Depute President Nominations 2022/23

Nominations opened in January 2022, running for 4 weeks. Due to the higher-than-average prevalence of Covid-19 within Shetland, local HISA staff remained working from home, choosing not to visit campuses to recruit for nominees in person as no invites were received to classes on campus. Despite requests from Jane Lewis to invite HISA into classrooms for the nominations period, no on-line class invites were extended by lecturing staff on either campus. Only one student nominated for the Depute Post for 2022/23. See Fig. 2.1

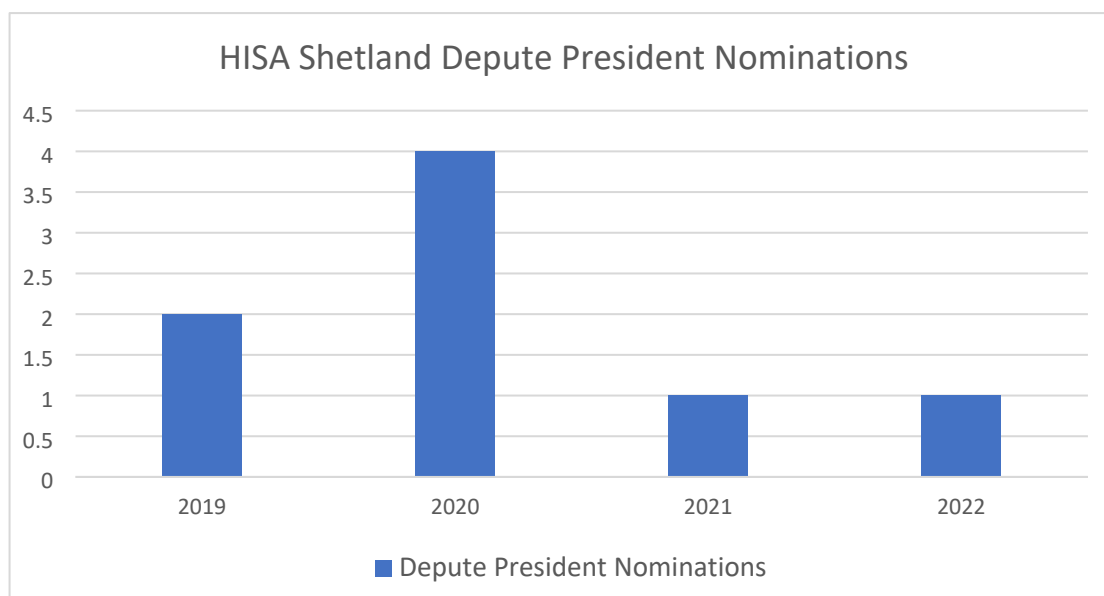


Fig 2.1 – Depute President Nominations 2019 - 2022

2.2 Elections

A full report has been submitted to Board by Elliot Stradling, HISA Democracy and Student Governance Co-ordinator.

One positive to be noted from the 2021/22 election statistics is the reduction in unused votes. Shetland UHI students are voting for their Regional Officers in greater numbers year on year. This is suggestive of students participating with and supporting HISA as their regional student's association.

The number of unused votes, usually where a student votes for their local officer but fails to participate in the regional Presidential and Vice-Presidential ballots, has decreased by 80% for President, 81% for VP Further Education and 84% for VP Higher Education between 2019 and 2022.

2.3 Depute President 2022/23

Ian McCormack 2021/22 Lerwick Local Officer, was duly elected during the March elections, commencing in post as Depute President from 1st July 2022. Unfortunately, Ian will be leaving post in September 2022 due to academic reasons. The Depute post will be on the ballot for the usual September/October by-election.

2.4 HISA Awards

The HISA Awards nominations were reflective of the issues seen with student engagement in other areas this year. Nominations were down across Shetland UHI in comparison to previous years. See Fig. 2.4

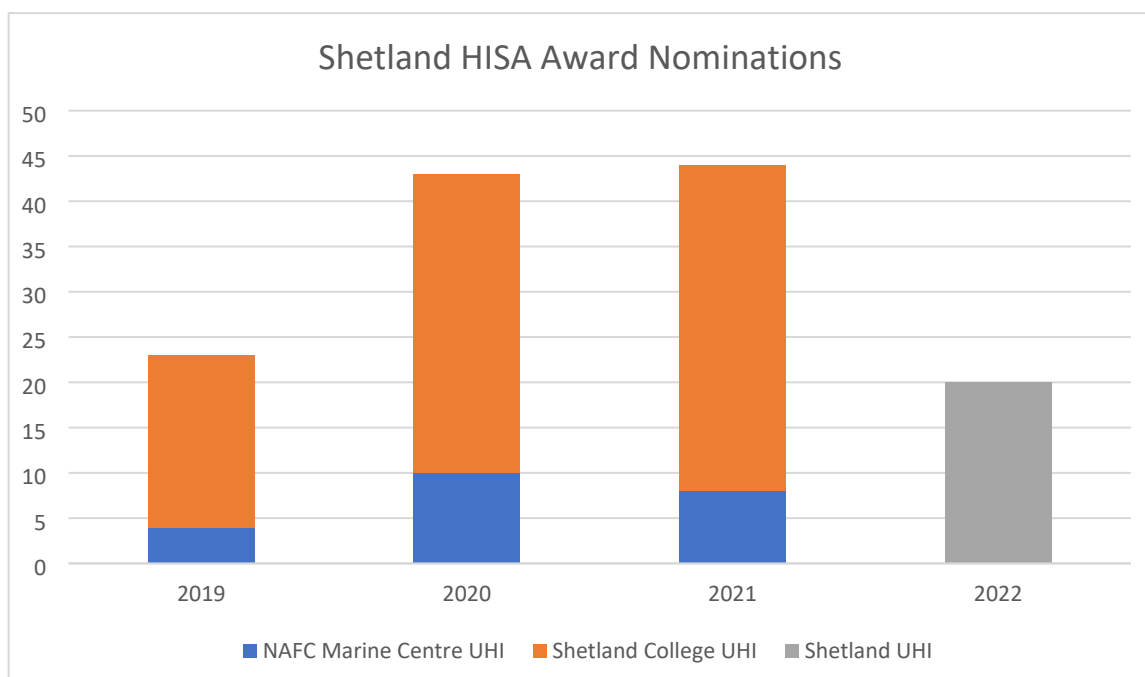


Fig. 2.4 – HISA Award nominations 2019 - 2022

A total of 533 nominations were made across the partnership, lower than the 663 from 2021. Considering the hardships students have continued to face during this academic year, alongside the extra pressures faced by staff, the number of students who took the time to show their appreciation can again be viewed as extremely positive.

2.5 HISA Award Winners

Shetland UHI had two HISA Award winners this year. Sue Beer, winner of the Student Voice Representative of the Year Award, demonstrated unwavering commitment and investment in her role as SVR for NC Art & Design. HISA Shetland is delighted to see Sue receiving the recognition she deserves. Best Personal Academic/Learning Support Award went to Shetland UHI Community Learning Lecturer Karen Warner, and the HISA Shetland Team extend our congratulations to them both.

Roxane Permar narrowly missed out on award but made the Highly Commended list for three separate categories which is in itself a remarkable achievement. Roisin McTamney, Senior Textiles Technician at Shetland UHI, and student Lisa Ryder also made the Highly Commended List completing a successful year for Shetland UHI.

3. Student Voice Representatives

Following student feedback, Class Reps were re-named as Student Voice Reps to better represent the focus of the role.

3.1 Number of Student Voice Reps

The number of SVRs at Shetland UHI reduced significantly this year. A move away from SVRs being selected without any real interest has impacted on figures as predicted, but those Reps who do come forward should be more engaged and willing to participate.

Following requests from the Principle of Shetland UHI in the staff newsletter and direct emails from HISA staff, we received 6 invites into classes on Lerwick Campus. The recruitment rate for SVRs during class visits completed by HISA was 100%.

The total number of SVRs for Shetland UHI is 10, with all 10 of those students enrolled on courses at Lerwick Campus.

There were no SVRs registered for 2021/22 for courses at Scalloway Campus.

HISA Shetland have demonstrated their commitment to students following the merger, encouraging students at all campuses to feel part of one integrated, cohesive student community. Local Officer Harry Hickey has endeavoured to engage with Scalloway Campus students in the absence of any SVRs, reinforcing our message that all students have a voice and are both valued and effectively represented by HISA locally. See Fig 3.1

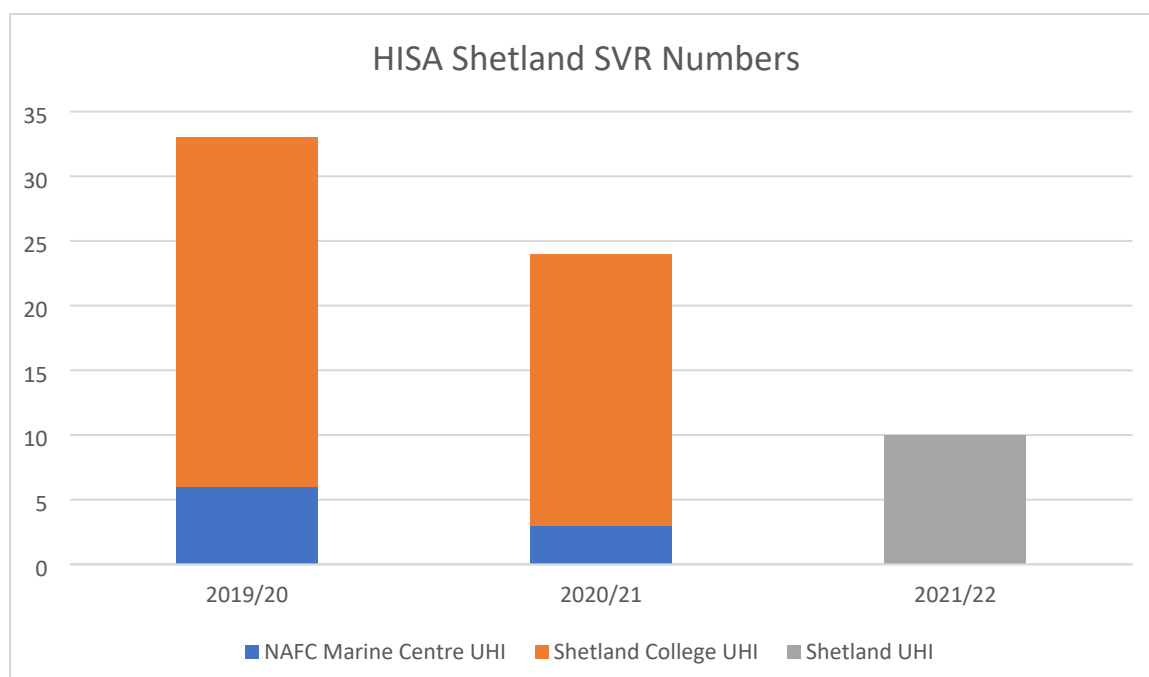


Fig. 3.1 – HISA Shetland Student Voice Representatives 2019-2022

3.2 SVR Monthly Meeting Attendance

The low number of Reps has caused difficulties with meeting scheduling, with many meetings attended by only a handful of reps and on occasion, only by Sue Beer. Shetland UHI staff Caroline Hepburn and Gwen Williamson attended as guests. The

quantity of SVRs attending each meeting unfortunately made it unrealistic to hold any out-with normal working hours as had been our intention for this year.

4. Board of Management and Committees

Shetland Depute Cally Mair continued her exemplary attendance at Board of Management and all committees across Shetland UHI, ensuring the student voice is at the heart of officer representation.

4.1 Shetland UHI Board

Cally attended all possible Board and Learning, Teaching and Research Committee meetings, with support from then President Flo Jansen until the culmination of the merger process.

4.2 Senior Management Group

Cally provided excellent attendance and representation of students at SMG meetings.

4.3 Shetland UHI Committees

Cally regularly attended Ops and Estates, Health and Safety and Quality Improvement committees.

5. Student Engagement Opportunities and Events

The focus of the Shetland Depute President this year was on effective representation at Board and Committees, ensuring all students across Shetland UHI were given a voice during the merger process, and while embedding into one organisation. This commitment left little time within their contract to invest in on-the-ground student engagement activities.

5.1 Inductions

Cally was involved with the Inductions planning process with the Shetland UHI team. HISA Shetland featured well on the timetable for both HE and FE at Lerwick Campus. Due to scheduling difficulties, some of the FE and all the HE HISA sessions were removed. Unfortunately, this left all Scalloway students and all HE students with no introduction to their Student Association during Inductions.

Lerwick Local Officer Ian McCormack and Scalloway Local Officer Harry Hickey have both expressed their desire to see HISA firmly on the timetable for inductions at both Lerwick and Scalloway Campus for 2022/23; that HISA staff and officers will be offered greater accessibility to our members following inductions, thus enabling recruitment for SVRs and encouraging democratic engagement during election cycles.

5.2 Freshers

Freshers 2022 saw a return to in-person events and activities.

Freshers 2022 consisted of a Freshers Fayre showcasing third sector services in our local community and offering students a path to explore volunteering opportunities to aid their employability. An open invitation was offered to all services based at Voluntary Action Shetland and tables were allocated on a first come, first serve basis facilitating adherence to social distancing requirements on campuses.



Students interacted well with at the tables, many left with a variety of freebies and feedback from the services was positive regarding enquiries from students looking to volunteer.



To help orientate travelling students with the local amenities, HISA Walking and Running for Wellbeing Club hosted guided walks of Lerwick and Scalloway. The routes were planned to encompass doctor's offices and chemists, hospitals, supermarkets and shops, takeaways and restaurants, leisure centres, and pubs and nightclubs.

To complete the week, our evening event was hosted close to Scalloway Campus, reinforcing our inclusion of, and commitment to, all students at Shetland UHI. Local businesses COPE and Johnny on the Spot provided food and cocktails, which HISA provided free of charge to students. The event was well attended, however, feedback from students was this event would be more inclusive if it were open to all students, not just 18's.



5.3 HISA Adventure Trails

A regionally organised project designed to encourage students to get out and active in nature, going on adventure walks and sharing their experiences with each other. The first 100 sign ups received a free walking pack. The initiative was open and inclusive to beginners and seasoned hillwalkers alike and supported by Think Health Think Nature!

5.4 HISA Active Community



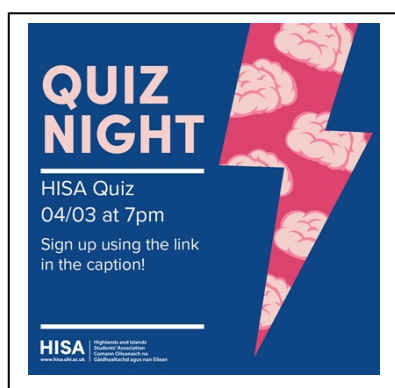
This initiative aims to bring together students and staff from across the UHI into one, active community. The online Strava club (available [here](#)) hosts competitions, challenges and many more opportunities to engage with other students and staff. This club connects people over the vast distances covered by UHI, and provides a sense of community while encouraging people to get active and stay active.

5.5 International Women's Day

HISA Shetland were proud to support Shetland UHI and Shetland Women's Aid in celebrating International Women's Day. Depute President Cally Mair attended the event and HISA's regional Communications team supported this endeavour with an excellent promotional social media campaign to encourage students to attend.



5.6 HISA Quiz



Following the excess of online quizzes during 2020/21, less focus has been in this area. However, as they were appreciated by networked students and quizzing stalwarts, some quiz nights have remained. Online quizzes that were not live events were also created to keep students who love to quiz engaged.

5.7 HISA Con

Our Annual Regional Council, HISA Con, was again held online with the theme of "Exploring Post-Covid Communities". Students, Regional and Local Officers and Student Voice Reps from across the partnership participated in the event in January 2022. A Regional accountability session allowed students to focus on the work their

Regional Officer team had completed this year ahead of Student Regional Council. Student Voice Reps and HISA officers then discussed the proposals submitted, before voting on the policies which help shape the decisions and actions that both HISA and the UHI will work on throughout the year. The agenda consisted of Lorna Gregson-McLeod from HIE as keynote speaker, a Q&A from Garry Campbell on the UHI Curriculum Review, workshops from SPARQs, and an MSP Panel on 'How do we maximise the post-covid economy' attended by Rhoda Grant MSP, Jamie Halcro Thomas MSP, Emma Roddick MSP, Jamie Stone MP and Anne Thomas.

5.8 Refresh and Connect

HISA officers Cally, Harry and Ian all attended the Shetland UHI Student Support Services session at Mareel. They enjoyed working with the Shetland UHI team and meeting students in a relaxed environment.

5.9 Refreshers

Refreshers week, held in March 2022, focussed on enabling our students to reintegrate into their student community.

One of the recurring themes heard from students during the pandemic years has been missing studying with one another and the sense of isolation this creates. HISA Shetland funded an afternoon and evening study session in the upstairs Mareel café. This was a private event for Shetland UHI students where they could bring their books and laptops, enjoy a free lunch and study in an environment of camaraderie. The comfortable seating area encouraged students to take a break from their studies and socialise in a relaxed, private setting.

Study Session
#SHETLANDREFRESHERSWEEK

Come along to our Study Session. Revising for an exam? Prepping for some coursework?

Meet upstairs in the Mareel Café Bar in Lerwick and enjoy a free light lunch! Bring your laptops and books and meet some of your Officers!

Friday 1st April
1pm-4pm

HISA Highlands and Islands Students' Association
Comann Oileanaich na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean



HISA Shetland Football Club previously funded the 60:40 pitch at Clickimin Leisure Centre one evening a week to enable Shetland UHI students to come together, get active and have fun. To revitalise this club, the pitch was hired during Freshers week and advertised to students across Shetland UHI. These students have subsequently booked more sessions at the 60:40 throughout Semester 2 through HISA Shetland.

Our Freshers 2021/22 event at the Scalloway Boating Club was requested again by students, and we listened to feedback by making this a more inclusive event open to Under 18s. The emphasis was on Pool and Pizza rather than alcohol and this was the most attended student-only event delivered by HISA Shetland since 2019.

To round off the week, HISA encouraged all Shetland UHI students to support their peers at Mareel by celebrating with them and other members of our community at their Student Showcase Night. HISA Shetland offered a raffle open only to Shetland UHI students on the night as the event was open to the public. The prizes were in keeping with the musical theme and consisted of Ear Buds, Guitar Stands and also at the request of the Mareel Students Planning committee, some prizes with a wider range including Co-op, Tesco and Shetland Arts Vouchers.



6. Clubs and Societies

Despite the best efforts of HISA officers, we have been unable to recruit students to continue with the registered Clubs and Societies in Shetland.

6.1 **Shetland Students' Green Team**

Despite including this successful society in all Induction materials, Freshers activities and featuring them regularly in the Student Newsletter, students have not answered the call to keep this club going. The President of the Green Team for 2021/22 has recruited a PhD student to take over the reins, however, they do not start until October. This leaves the society vulnerable to not having the membership to re-register in the Autumn. Discussions are ongoing with the Green Team and HISA Activities Team to determine the best course of action to ensure their sustainability.

6.2 **Walking and Running for Wellbeing**

This club could not recruit students and was not re-registered in October 2021.

6.3 **Football Club**

This club could not recruit students and was not re-registered in October 2021.

6.4 **Online Darts Club**

This club could not recruit students and was not re-registered in October 2021.

6.5 New Approach

Scalloway Officer Harry Hickey, as a new student to Shetland approached a local hockey club and successfully integrated himself into this sporting community, even travelling to play with the team in Aberdeen in the District Cup. Having approached local community groups for other activities across HISA, to rejuvenate our Clubs and Societies, Harry has written an approach letter to a large group of local sports clubs and associations including Shetland Rugby Club, Shetland Football Association, Shetland Golf Club, Shetland Hockey Club, Shetland Darts Association and Shetland Blackball Association. We aim to be the conduit for students to get active in their community, working with successful community groups who are already established and creating strong, sustainable links between us. Students who have an interest in a particular activity, whether they have played before or wish to try something for the first time, will have an avenue to a local club and know they are welcome at one of their events. It is hoped this will encourage student leaders to come forward and participate in forming HISA Clubs and Societies in the future.

7. Officer Campaigns

Local Officers Harry Hickey and Ian McCormack both included campaigns on their manifestos and delivered on their promises to the students who hold them accountable.

7.1 Green Button Campaign

Lerwick Local Officer Ian McCormack worked collaboratively with UHI staff Iain Morrison and Kate Mawby, and HISA Mental Health Co-ordinator Joel Hockney to successfully have the Green Button placed in a more prominent position. Ian believes this will offer students more accessibility to digital Mental Health and Wellbeing support. The Green Button is now situated next to the Red Button on MyDay, and when Brightspace undergoes a re-write it is planned to make the Green Button prominent on the learning platform regularly used by UHI students.

7.2 Affordable food at Scalloway Campus

Scalloway Officer Harry Hickey sought to provide parity of experience between Lerwick Campus and Scalloway Campus students over canteen facilities. Harry's aim was for Scalloway students to have access to affordable, nutritious food in the same way that students can when studying in Lerwick. Da Haaf provides a community café/restaurant service and does not cater adequately for the needs or budgets of students. Students cannot afford to eat on campus and have no space that is not open to the public in which to eat. Talks are ongoing with the private restaurant provider in creating a "student meal deal" menu, offering food at a similar price to the Briggistanes Cafeteria on Lerwick Campus. It is expected this will be in place by Semester 1 2022/23.