



**Shetland College UHI**  
**NAFC Marine Centre UHI**

**End of Year Report**  
**2019/20**

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# “Laying the Foundations”

## Depute President’s Foreward

This year has seen HISA Shetland lay the foundations to becoming a strong and inclusive Students Association. We have taken positive steps to increase student engagement across Shetland College UHI and NAFC Marine Centre UHI and to better integrate our students, so they feel part of one student body despite being spread across separate campuses. We are pleased with our progress on Clubs and Societies and have raised the profile of HISA by providing students with many activities and events. We have demonstrated our determination to provide a strong student voice and desire to improve the overall student experience for those choosing to study in Shetland. The results of our efforts are tangible and can be seen clearly in the increase in democratic engagement over this academic year. Both myself, NAFC Local Officer Alasdair Bendall and our local HISA Support Staff member Sara Fox were only in post for 6 months prior to lockdown. I am excited to see what efforts the newly elected Shetland Depute President Cally Mair can make to build on this progress and continue to support students during these unprecedented times.

- Tegan Patterson, Shetland Depute President 2019/20

### **1. Shetland HISA Team 2019/20**

The student originally elected to the Depute post resigned after a short time in office. By-elections were held in September for the Depute President, NAFC Local Officer and Lerwick Local Officer posts for a term of office running until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

#### **1.1 Shetland Depute President and NAFC Local Officer**

Depute President Tegan Patterson and NAFC Local Officer Alasdair Bendall, along with local Student Support staff Sara Fox make up the Shetland HISA Team for the academic year 2019/20.



Tegan Patterson  
Shetland Depute President



Alasdair Bendall  
NAFC Local Officer

## 1.2 Lerwick Local Officer

The 3 hour per week post of Lerwick Local Officer regrettably remained vacant during this academic year. The student elected into the role in the September 2019 by-election failed to take up the position. After examining the HISA constitution and electoral regulations, it was decided by Tegan and Alasdair that a Film and Media student, who had expressed an interest in the role, could be voted into the Lerwick Local Officer post by their classmates. The officers felt this offered a unique opportunity to accelerate the integration of Mareel students with the rest of Shetland College UHI and NAFC Marine Centre UHI student body. Unfortunately, shortly after being democratically elected by their peers, this candidate withdrew their interest due to personal reasons.

## 2. Democratic Engagement

This year has seen great improvements involving students engaging with the democratic processes of the Students' Association. In this area, the work done by Local Officers and Staff has delivered measurable results and is a clear indication of the increase in student engagement.

### 2.1 Shetland Depute President Nominations 2020/21

Nominations opened in January 2020. This year saw the highest number of students put themselves forward for the role than ever before. A total of 4 students from Shetland College went into the elections period which is twice the number seen in any year previously. See Fig. 2.1

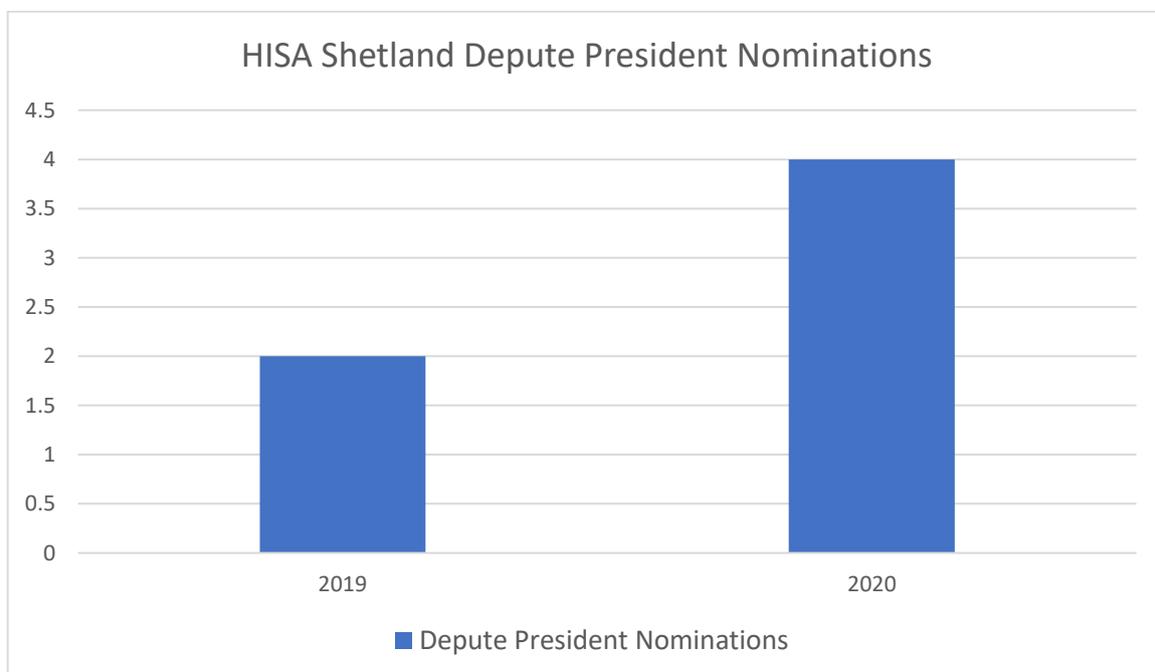


Fig. 2.1 – Depute President Nominations

## 2.2 Elections

The 2020 elections saw Shetland set a new local record for both the number of votes cast for the Deputy President role, and the largest proportion of Shetland College and NAFC students that have voted than ever before in local elections. See Fig. 2.2

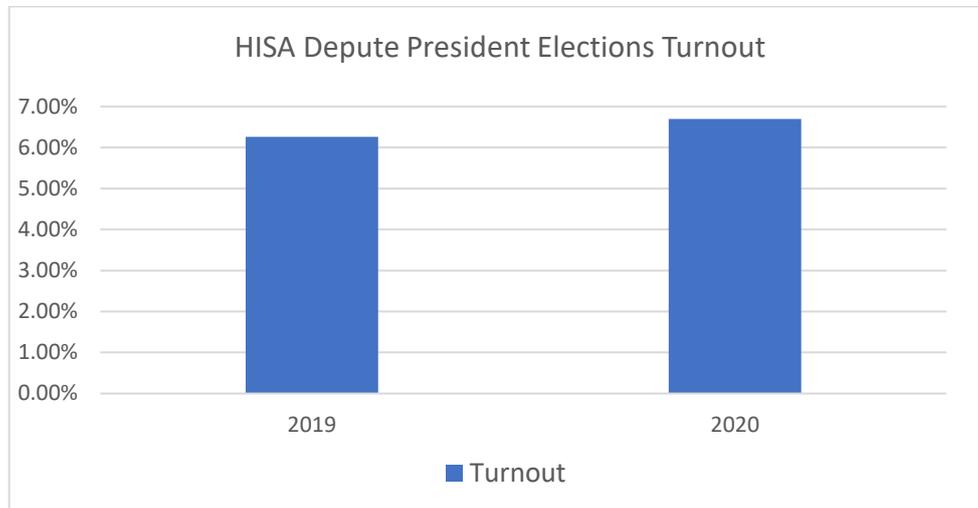


Fig. 2.2 – Elections Turnout Rate

## 2.3 Depute President 2020/21

Cally Mair was elected during the March elections and commenced her post on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

## 2.4 HISA Awards

The HISA Awards nominations opened during lockdown and were a resounding success, especially considering all promotion for the event was performed online. Across the UHI partnership nominations nearly doubled in comparison to the previous year. Nominations from Shetland College UHI and NAFC Marine Centre UHI increased significantly from 2019 – up 42.1% and 150% respectively. See Fig. 2.4

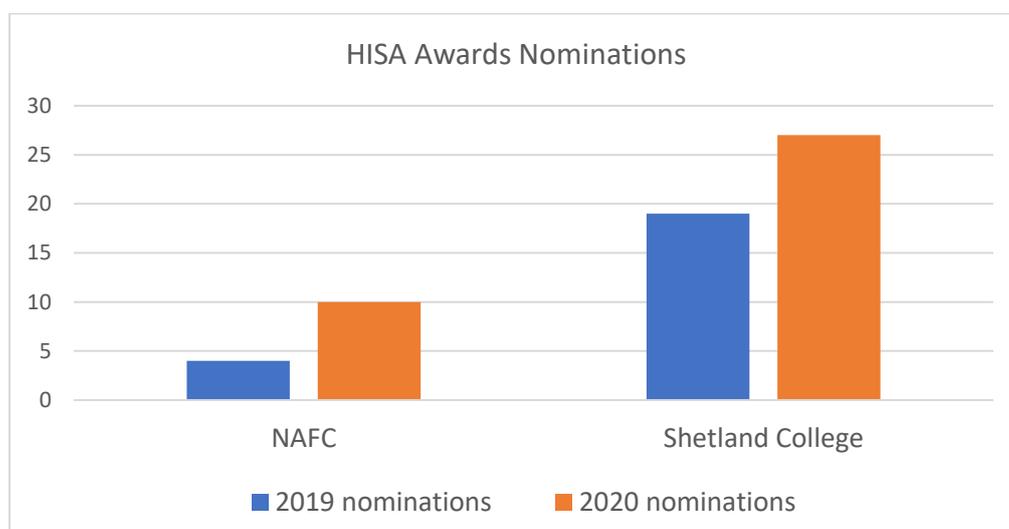


Fig. 2.4 – HISA Award nominations

Caroline Hepburn, Student Support/Liaison Officer at Shetland College/NAFC Marine Centre UHI won the Hidden Heroes Category and was congratulated by Beatrice Wishart in a Scottish Parliamentary motion. The sheer volume of nominations made by students, both in Shetland and across the UHI, is testament to the work done by lecturers and staff in supporting students throughout the year, especially considering the challenges faced from the impact of the pandemic on their studies.

### **3. Class Representatives**

Class Rep engagement has been an ongoing theme throughout the year and is an area where there is definite room for improvement. HISA have set up a Regional Working Group to address this issue across the UHI Partnership. Shetland is represented within this group by both Cally Mair and Sara Fox.

#### **3.1 Number of Class Reps**

The total number of registered Class Representatives this year is 33, with 27 from Shetland College and 6 from NAFC. This figure has fluctuated throughout the year with some reps removing themselves from the role and others coming on board over the course of the year.

#### **3.2 Class Rep Monthly Meeting Attendance**

Class Rep Monthly Meetings had an average attendance of 5 Representatives between November and January. To encourage attendance, the Officers decided to hold two monthly meetings that ran on consecutive days to take account of the part-time nature of many courses. From February a Class Rep meeting was held on a Wednesday and again on a Thursday. This appeared to have the anticipated result, with 4 Reps attending on each day.

#### **3.3 Class Rep Engagement During Lockdown**

The Officers held an informal, online get together for Class Reps in April. The hope was to engage them in a more relaxed setting to minimise any additional pressures on their studies caused by the pandemic. The March meeting was postponed due to lockdown and an online Reps Meeting held in May was attended by one Class Rep.

### **4. Board of Management and Committees**

It is vital that student representatives attend as many Committee meetings as possible to offer a strong student voice, enabling HISA to have a positive impact on their learning experience. This is an area marked for improvement in the next academic year.

#### **4.1 Shetland College Board of Management**

Tegan Patterson was appointed to Shetland College Board and attended all meetings possible within the parameters of her placement timetable, including an online meeting during lockdown.

#### 4.2 **Shadow Board**

HISA VPHE Andrew Bowie attended Shadow Board meetings to ensure the student voice was represented during proceedings. Andrew then fed back to the local officers to keep them informed of developments.

#### 4.3 **NAFC**

Alasdair Bendall attended Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Curriculum meetings.

#### 4.4 **Shetland Transition Board**

Shetland Depute President 2020/21 Cally Mair attended the inaugural meeting of the Shetland Transition Board. The second student representative to sit on the Board is yet to be confirmed. It is expected one of the Regional Officers will attend until the next NAFC Local Officer is elected.

#### 4.5 **Shetland College Committees**

No HISA student representative attended any of the College committee meetings due to studying and placement commitments. This was exacerbated by the lack of a Lerwick Local Officer who would have been expected to sit on a number of these committees. It is the goal of HISA to recruit Class Representatives to sit on committees in the next academic year to lighten the load of the elected officers and widen the opportunity for student engagement.

### 5. **Student Engagement Opportunities and Events**

Creating inclusive events has been high on the agenda of both elected Officers and was an integral part of both their manifestos. HISA Shetland have made great efforts to provide fun and enjoyable activities together with more serious student politics centred events.

#### 5.1 **Freshers**

Freshers 2019 took place over 3 days, with stalls from local enterprises such as Shetland Rape Crisis and Shetland Recreational Trust, culminating in a quiz night at Mareel. The evening event was well attended by students from both NAFC and Shetland College. HISA VPHE Andrew Bowie travelled to Shetland to represent HISA throughout the event, bringing with him various HISA freebies to offer to students. See Fig. 5.1



Fig. 5.1  
Freshers Freebies

## 5.2 **NAFC Weekly Surgeries**

Alasdair Bendall and Sara Fox held drop-in sessions every Monday lunchtime in the NAFC library. This ensured HISA was both visible and available to NAFC students.

## 5.3 **Children in Need**

HISA organised and funded transport to enable Mareel students to play an acoustic set in the Briggistanes canteen in preparation for their upcoming Student Night. This provided an occasion for Mareel students to visit the Shetland College UHI campus and feel part of the wider student body. It also offered a vital opportunity for them to practice their work in front of an audience before it was show cased to the public. This event raised £91.00 for Children In Need.

## 5.4 **Hustings**

During the run up to the General Election, HISA facilitated a Hustings with attendance from:

Alasdair Carmichael – Scottish Liberal Democrats

David Barnard – Independent

Coilla Drake – Scottish Labour Party

Jennifer Fairburn – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

Robert Leslie – Scottish Nationalist Party.

The event, held in the Shetland College Cafeteria, was entirely student led with an incredible turn out from students and staff alike. Questions were submitted from across the student body, covering relevant topics ranging from Brexit and Mental Health to Climate Change. Alasdair Carmichael commented this was the first event of this kind he had been invited to attend on campus and looked forward to seeing many more.

## 5.5 **Regional Council**

This year the HISA Annual Regional Council was rebranded as HISA Con. The event took place over 3 days at the Mercure Hotel in Inverness and was the largest of our annual events to date. The Depute President for Shetland and another Shetland College student attended, participating in a variety of networking and policy-based events. Unfortunately, due to travelling time and studying commitments, NAFC students were unable to attend. The theme of the event was Climate Change and delegates from across the UHI had the opportunity to participate in debates and inform the future of HISA policies. Policies agreed by UHI students at HISA Con include:

- That HISA recognise and declare a climate emergency.
- That HISA bring forward a student referendum on Scottish independence.

## 5.6 **Social Media**

A local Facebook page was created, offering students across both campuses an additional method with which to engage with the Students Association.

## 5.7 Time to Talk Day

Tegan Patterson opened the HISA office in Shetland College for a “cup of tea and a chat” session for Time to Talk day in February. This had an excellent response with 12 students taking the opportunity to come for an informal chat.

## 5.8 Refreshers

A Refreshers week was held during the week 24<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. The aim was to raise awareness of HISA within the student body and to integrate Shetland College, NAFC and Mareel students into a cohesive, inclusive group. The itinerary was designed to offer all demographics of the student body events that would be of interest. These included a bake sale; a Debate on the Merger chaired by Alasdair Carmichael MP; Karaoke and a pop-up student union; cocktail making mixology event and survivors breakfast followed by a beach clean in association with Shetland Students Green Team. See Fig. 5.8

The poster is titled "REFRESHERS WEEK 24th February - 1st March 2020" and features a central logo for SCAN (Shetland Campaign Against Nuclear Arms) with the website www.scanshetland.com. The itinerary is as follows:

- Monday 24th:** Bake sale, Shetland College and NAFC Marine Centre.
- Tuesday 25th:** Mixology Cocktail Making Evening, Upstairs at Da Wheel Bar 6pm to 9pm.
- Wednesday 26th:** Quiz Night, The Grand Bar 6.30pm to 9pm.
- Thursday 27th:** Debate in association with Althing Society, Shetland Museum & Archives Auditorium 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Raffle Prize Draw at interval.
- Friday 28th:** Pop-up Student Union and Karaoke, Posers Nightclub 8pm to 3am.
- Saturday 29th:** Clay Pigeon Shooting, Shetland Clay Target Club, Black Gaet 2pm to 4pm. Archery Taster Session, Sandviein Neighbourhood Centre 5.30pm to 7pm.
- Sunday 1st:** Survivors Breakfast and Beach Clean with Shetland Students' Green Team, The Cornerstone Cafe, Scalloway 11am then onwards to a brukky Scalloway Beach.

At the bottom, there are logos for HISA (Highlands and Islands Students' Association) with website www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk and Gaelic name Comann Oileanaich na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean; a Facebook link "Find us on Facebook"; and the social media handle "@hisa shetland".

Fig. 5.8 – Refreshers Week Itinerary

Another focus of the event was to raise money for the MRI Scanner Appeal to develop recognition of HISA as a valuable, effective contributor to the Shetland community. The final amount raised for Shetland MRI Scanner Appeal has yet to be determined as, due to circumstances out with our control, the Debate which was linked to the raffle had to be rearranged then subsequently cancelled due to lockdown. The current

balance of our fundraising effort stands at £274.96 and it is hoped that we can run the raffle during Freshers week 2020.

## 5.9 PSICI

The Regional and Local HISA Officers created a Working Group during lockdown called Prolonged Social Isolation and Continuing Interactions (PSICI). The aim was for HISA Officers to work cohesively together, creating events and activities for students across all Academic Partners to continue to socialise and interact during the period of lockdown enforced isolation. Both Shetland Officers sat on this working group. Tegan devised and hosted a virtual Pub Quiz that was open to all students and staff across the UHI which was a resounding success. Alasdair took the lead on creating a UHI wide online Running Club where students could share their runs on the Strava online platform.

## 5.10 BBC Radio Shetland Interview

The Shetland Student Officers were interviewed by Radio Shetland at the beginning of lockdown. They gave an insight into the issues students were facing during the pandemic, such as concerns surrounding Mental Health and Wellbeing; social isolation; IT and internet connectivity issues and motivation to study. See Fig. 5.10



Fig. 5.10 – Interview with BBC Radio Shetland

## 5.11 Competitions

The Local Officers held a competition during lockdown encouraging students to share what inspires them. This created an opportunity for students to stay connected during a period of extreme isolation. The competition was run via student e-mail and Facebook and 2 entrants were chosen to win retail vouchers of £25.00 each.

## 5.12 VIP Beenies

Due to feedback received from both students and lecturing staff, it was clear that those with young children under 5 years of age were one of the most adversely affected

groups due to lockdown. Juggling the demands of studying at home and parenting was a major cause of stress for this demographic. To help combat this, we partnered with local company Bambeenies Ltd. and funded places on the VIP Beenies online academy to all students who came forward to request a place. This allowed students with children under 5 years old to access a variety of online activities and resources for free from March to August.

## 6. **Proposed Merger of Shetland College UHI, NAFC Marine Centre UHI and Train Shetland**

Tegan and Alasdair attended meetings with Management and also held meetings with EIS/FELA Regional Officers to make sense of this complicated issue. It was hoped that by holding a Debate during Refreshers, this would enable students to establish well-informed views of the proposal and engage more fully with the consultation process.

### 6.1 **Consultations**

Class Representatives and the HISA officers were invited to attend consultations led by Jane Lewis and Ruth Campbell. These were run both at Shetland College UHI and NAFC Marine Centre UHI. Class Reps were then asked to feedback to their class and bring forward any concerns to the HISA officers. Considering the poor attendance rates from Class Reps generally, the Consultation meetings were well attended and those students that did attend engaged well with the process. An online consultation over Brightspace was facilitated by HISA during lockdown, and despite HISA offering £25 gift vouchers for 3 randomly selected students in attendance, students declined to engage.

### 6.2 **HISA Statement on the Merger**

Before leaving office, Tegan and Alasdair with the support of HISA Regional Officers, prepared a statement to pass to Cally Mair to be finalised. This statement should be issued in the coming weeks.

## 7. **Clubs and Societies**

Creating new clubs and societies was high on Tegan and Alasdair's agenda for the year. They set themselves the aim of ending the Academic Year with 3 HISA affiliated clubs and societies. It is testament to the commitment and drive of the Officers that they achieved this target by mid-March.

### 7.1 **Shetland Students' Green Team**

This well-established, well organised Society won a HISA Award in 2019 for Best Club/Society. The members have continued to meet regularly to complete Beach Cleans and raise awareness of environmental issues across both campuses. In solidarity with Australian citizens, a bake sale was organised to raise money for the WWF Australian Bushfire campaign. A total of £360 was raised by the Green Team across NAFC and Shetland College. HISA agreed to match-fund this money which gives the Society £360 to go towards their future endeavours.

## 7.2 Football Club

The HISA Shetland Football Club was created in January 2020. The aim of the Club is to allow NAFC and Shetland College students to socialise and play football. The club was well attended by NAFC students as it was previously set up in an informal capacity although efforts were being made to encourage more Shetland College students to participate. HISA Shetland funded payment for the 60:40 pitch one evening per week. See Fig. 7.2



Fig. 7.2 – Football Club Poster

## 7.3 Running Club

The HISA Shetland Running Club was created by NAFC Local Officer Alasdair Bendall in March 2020. HISA funded the purchase of Hi-Vis Running Vests from the regional budget and the Club had its first meet in the days prior to lockdown.