



Glasgow University Sports Association

AGM- 26th August 5.15pm via Zoom due to COVID-19

Minutes

1. Introduction & Welcome

Present: Student GUSA Council members, GUSA Council representatives, club representatives, University Sport members, Senior GUSA Council members.

2. Ratification of last minutes

The minutes from 13th May 2019 were approved and no amendments were required.

Proposed: Ciaran McMonagle

Seconder: George Fournarakis

3. Presidents Report

In this report I will give you a summary of GUSA's headlines and highlights of this year. It's certainly been an eventful and activity filled year however, much of the activity which would have went on was curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I guess what is important to remember is that amidst all of this, we are all sitting here surrounded by friends and GUSA family with our health intact and we can only be grateful for that. By the end of this report I'm sure you will all agree with me when I say it has been an outstanding yet unconventional 12 months for the Association despite everything so far. As this report comes at an unusual time of the year due to COVID and extends to me to write as the incoming president, there will be a blend of past and new information from 2019/20 & 2020/21.

Freshers Week last year was a huge success for GUSA and University sport with all events as we continued to increase participation & engagement. GUSA's main events of the week included the sports fayre excellently run by Charlie which saw over 9500

signups across our 51 clubs during the 2 days. Club taster sessions were excellently run by clubs with fantastic turnouts. All of these events allowed students to fully engage with GUSA and see what life as part of the club sport family is like. Sports fair and taster sessions were regularly deemed as some of the best free events during fresher's week. This year, GUSA intends to offer as full a program as is safely allowed to do so. The most notable changes will be that the GUSA party and evening club events in the unions will not run. However, GUSA is committed to running taster sessions and has even successfully applied for funding to purchase 720 yoga mats & resistance bands to supply all international self-isolating students with some sports equipment upon arrival at Glasgow. The intention here is for the active lifestyles team to deliver fitness classes online via Zoom or the new UofG Sport App to create a sense of community for these students during their mandatory isolation period.

Fresher's week ran smoothly both financially and operationally last year. There were no major complaints and lots of positive feedback that has allowed us to develop the programme for this year. The importance of helper welfare has consistently been fed back over the past couple of years which has led us to trial an anonymous reporting feedback form for helpers with the intention of continuing this initiative this year. Many COVID precautions have been put in place this year which will hopefully allow helpers to safely promote what GUSA has to offer in the era of COVID.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, BUCS has determined that all club league standings would remain the same for 2019/20, with 2020/21 acting as a bridging season. Whilst this is not the most positive news, it is still fantastic to see that many of our teams were enjoying huge success in their respective leagues and expecting to be promoted this season. Hopefully this forward momentum will carry through in the years to come.

The membership of club sport has increased this year reaching a grand total of 4686 students participating regularly with a total of 54% being female members to 46% male members. Within the upcoming year, I hope to add to these statistics and include better representation of our trans and non-binary community, in order to better represent all our members.

With regards to travel – there has been no mention of increased incidents this year which is fantastic to see. It is important to note that with COVID-19, minibus restrictions are likely to mean that clubs can only use buses for up to 5 individuals max under strict adherence to hygiene procedures. This will in part be solved by hiring coaches for Freshers week taster sessions and there is intention to review how GUSA will support club sport travel in the year to come. Jess and Barbara had been doing some incredible work for travel getting drivers assessed all through the summer last year in preparation for the semester. Unfortunately, COVID has also reduced the possibility of running minibus assessments throughout this summer – another blow to club sport travel however, this will hopefully be offset throughout the year with our intention being to train Barbara, our travel administrator, to also run assessments throughout the year.

Our finance department has also recently seen the addition of Jennifer Sung as the new finance administrator. This should hopefully lead to more efficient collaboration between GUSA and Sport and free up some time for our new finance convenor to better support club treasurers. Our outgoing finance administrator, Jamie, was excellent in his ability to cover both roles of convenor and administrator in the interim period.

On the topic of sponsorship, it is looking increasingly likely that organisations will struggle or are struggling to sign sponsorship deals for the upcoming semester. This is important for clubs to take into consideration when seeking out sponsorship for the year. Ensure that contracts and terms are reasonable and airtight as it may be difficult for organisations to uphold payments in the months to come. It may, unfortunately, be inevitable that this year may be the one where many clubs make a loss. GUSA also expects this to be the case for our Association. Whilst not ideal, reserves are made for times like these and always remember not to be too hard on club executives for the decisions they may have to make this year.

The Glasgow Taxi's Cup unfortunately did not take place in full due to cancellation following the COVID outbreak. However, I am delighted to say that Glasgow University won both events that we managed to compete in. Congratulations to both the snow sports and cross-country team for bringing the Taxi's Cup home in an undefeated season! Hopefully next year, we will make it 2 following this year's perfect streak. I would like to note my thanks to Jamie Taylor for all the work he continues to put into the organisation of Taxi's Cup with partnered universities. It is looking increasingly likely that the Taxi's Cup may have to take place in semester 1 this year with BUCS restarting in semester 2.

GUSA held our most successful 1881 Dinner where over 50 past GUSA council members attended a dinner in the GUU. The event was successful and allowed alumni to reconnect with GUSA and celebrate the past successes of the Association. Holly – our alumni convenor introduced a new format to the evening where she interviewed 6 past presidents and council members on the evening. This was incredibly well received and has showcased the incredible institutional and individual successes and differences which GUSA & individual ex-council members have had over the years. The intention is to continue this interview format in the years to come.

GUSA's publicity has been truly exceptional over the past year. Our publicity convenor, Jack, worked with our vice-president Sami in order to hire a new videography team to work with GUSA. This new videography team brought to us the GUSA club-sport promo video and GUSA-ball promo video which members will have seen on our social media and on the evening of GUSA ball. This was a huge step for GUSA in producing quality media content and continues to be a part of what we will offer this year.

In terms of Fundraising, a huge shout out to Catherine – our outgoing fundraising convenor who helped raise an amazing amount of money for incredibly valuable projects and charities. This year, our chosen charity was Scottish Disability Sport. Catherine worked hard to put on a number of very successful events including the Big GUSA Quiz, the council triathlon, the GUSA ceilidh as well as the Jenny Graham talk which was a ticketed event. The final amount raised was £1972. Catherine also managed to fundraise £300 in FW t-shirt sponsors and £1670 for hiring Sports Fayre stalls to external companies. Again, a class effort! As every year, every ticket purchased at the GUSA Ball included an option to donate money to the Jack Smart fund, thus raising a great amount for supporting medical research at the University of Glasgow in the field of haemato-oncology. Furthermore, I am delighted to say that we continued our tradition of running a shoe box appeal as part of the GUSA Quiz and almost all participants were seen to be contributing.

Phoebe had an incredible year developing GUSA's welfare policies and we are extremely proud of the work she put in. Phoebe continued developing the work we do to encourage mental and physical well-being amongst students and staff with our gym buddies' program, running a successful 500 miles for mental health event, and working with the Linda Tremble Foundation promoting eating disorder awareness. We also ran a fantastic LGBTQ+ awareness campaign with LGBTQ+ role models and an abundance of pride was shown at club trainings with LGBTQ+ flags. I am delighted to say we have chosen to re-affiliate with the Scottish Student Sports "Healthy Body Healthy Mind" award for the upcoming year 2020/21 following a year's hiatus.

Many of the events that we run in partnership with University Sport unfortunately did not run this year due to COVID-19 and a range of other factors, this includes monster dash & the Edinburgh/Glasgow boat race. However, Superteams did make a return this year. The hard work of the Council, members of UofG Sport staff and more than 80 volunteers who allowed this to go ahead so smoothly must be noted and celebrated also. Once again, Superteams reached a maximum capacity and is likely to continue to expand each year, adding hugely to the student experience. Our recreational Sports Leagues and drop-ins have all run smoothly and engaged with a large number of students participating across a range of different sports.

As Health & Fitness Convenor, Roza has successfully built on Kieran's year before her, working with UofG Sport to introduce Strength & Conditioning to an additional 4 GUSA Clubs. In addition to this work, Roza was an integral part of organising the "Broga" event which saw an evening of yoga with "bros", followed by an intriguing and informational guest lecture and debate from Olympian hammer thrower Chris Bennett.

The GUSA Ball was another resounding success selling out with over 850 students in attendance. This was a record number of students following the decision to move the Hilton to the Doubletree this year, which allowed additional seating. The quantity and quality of Blues & Colours applications this year was incredible. The awards were intended to be presented at our inaugural B&C dinner in April which unfortunately could not go ahead due to COVID-19. However, our next scheduled B&C dinner is set to be a fantastic affair combining winners from three different years! It is great to see how many talented and dedicated students there are involved in sport at the university. I would like to put out a special thanks to Sami and Jason for all the work they put into both events.

We had an impressive turnout for GUSA elections with 2400 unique votes cast with a grand total of 5408 votes cast which is once again, the highest voting turnouts in student elections at Glasgow. With one of the highest ever turnout for the position of President, this is a testament to the incredibly hard work of the nominees and council this year despite our substantially lower number of contested positions at 4.

It has been an absolute pleasure to become President of this Association in these uncertain times. I strongly believe GUSA offers a great sense of community, diversity and value for students at Glasgow and I look forward to continuing to devote my efforts to this Association and to you all. I would like to wish a huge congratulation to all outgoing council for their work and the best of luck moving forward into their next chapters.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped and contributed to GUSA this past year.

From the Captains, Treasurers, Secretaries and volunteers who give so much of their time and effort to ensure that our clubs, projects and events remain strong and successful. Your engagement over the past year and your continued enthusiasm this year has been incredible. I imagine many of you will not have expected to be dealing with a sports club in a global pandemic upon adopting your new roles but I have been incredibly impressed with all of your efforts from the online fitness classes, mindfulness training, maintaining regular communications with members and even working hard to reimburse students for lost trips. You have truly all been class acts!

Thanks must also go to Euan Smith, Keith Joss and all of the staff at University Sport who have supported both the past council and continue to support our new council through this unprecedented period. Their hard work often goes unnoticed to many but I can tell you now, the support they have been providing me as your new President is what has allowed me to continue to operate as efficiently as I can.

Another thanks must go to our senior Council members, both incoming and outgoing. Frank Coton, Des Gilmore, Peter Jackson, David Duncan, David Denton, Simon Kennedy and Phil Morrice whose input and support throughout the past year has been greatly appreciated by the outgoing council and has already proved hugely valuable to me within my new role. A special note to Des Gilmore who has now been with the GUSA council for 22 years! In recognition of this, our intention today is to grant Des with the title of Honorary Vice-President to allow him to continue his involvement with GUSA on a more permanent basis. With this, we would also like to welcome Kirsty McConn Palfreyman onto the council to replace Des as Court Representative and to recognise Simon Kennedy as our Senate representative following Peter Jackson and his great service to the council. We would also like to extend the role of Honorary Vice-President to our Director of Sport, Euan Smith. His continued efforts in supporting GUSA presidents has been a great help to the Association and we would like to recognise this.

And finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all of the student members of both outgoing & now incoming GUSA Council, and particularly the incredible duo of Charlie and Jess, whose enthusiasm and commitment this year has kept me going throughout the first few months of my role. It has been, and continues to be, an absolute privilege to work with you all each and every-day. From listening to my crazy ideas, to being optimistic at times when it is needed most. I can only foresee a great year ahead with you all.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Overall GUSA had a strong year in 2019 which is demonstrated in the Income and Expenditure Account.

- The main sources of income in the year were
 - Overall Court grant was £371k

- Freshers Week and GUSA Ball income of £50k (these are offset by costs – with a deficit being made - £1.1k Ball ; break even – Freshers Week)
 - Other income of £28k – mostly sponsorship, donations and travel reimbursements that net off.
- Overall income was up from £292,534 to £449,810 – the main reason being increased grant from the University Court of £152,626
- Expenditure
 - GUSA has kept costs under controls and in accordance with the current finance guidelines.
 - Most costs were broadly in line with the previous year, with increases in Entry fees and affiliations, travel and accommodation
 - Overall costs increased by around £24k.
 - Miscellaneous expenditure represents various expenditure including stationery costs and catering.
 - Overall this meant that at year end GUSA had a surplus of £107,918, compared with a deficit of £25,097. This surplus will go to reserves and will be used in future projects.
- Balance Sheet
 - The net assets of GUSA at the end of July 2019 were £299k
 - Cash balances at 31 July 2019 were £413K (2018 – 255k)

Situation after the year-end

- Accounts are now over a year old
- The move to Xero Accounting software means that GUSA accounts can be produced much more quickly and are currently in progress and also allows for closer monitoring of income and expenditure
- Bank balance at end of July 2020 - £194k

5. Ratification of Election Results

Senior Council:

These members are there for the support and advice, not eligible to vote but are strong allies to the association. First is the ratification of the senior council members, to re-elect current members:

Frank Coton: Honorary President
Phillip Morrice: Honorary Treasurer
Kirsty McConn-Palfreyman: Court Representative
Simon Kennedy: Senate Representative
David Denton: Honorary Vice President
David Duncan: Honorary Vice President
Derek Casey: Honorary Vice President
Des Gilmore: Honorary Vice President
Euan Smith: Honorary Vice President

Proposer: Charlie Dickens
Secunder: Catherine Holland

Student Council

President – Shereif Kholeif (Opposed)
Vice President – Charlie Dickens (Unopposed)
Secretary – Jessica Woodcock (Unopposed)
Alumni Convenor – Catherine Holland (Unopposed)
Club Sport Convenor – Jayny Saunders (Opposed)
Events Convenor- George Fournarakis (Unopposed)
Finance Convenor – Julia Gallagher (Opposed)
Fundraising Convenor – James Patterson (unopposed)
Health and Fitness Convenor – Bertie Graham (Opposed)
Publicity Convenor – Anna Woodcock (Unopposed)
Travel Convenor – Ciaran McMonagle (Unopposed)
Welfare Convenor – Ewan Galbraith (Unopposed)

Proposed: Ciaran McMonagle

Seconded: Jessica Woodcock

6. AOCB

The following amendments to the constitution were proposed:

- 1.) THE COUNCIL 1.1 - The Honorary President and Honorary Treasurer shall be ~~nominated by senior members of the permanent staff of the University and shall be nominated by~~ the Secretary of the University Court- and approved by council.
- 2.) POWERS 1.1 – (Unclear about links to our E&D Policy and Discipline policy so we are proposing to add in the following) - initiate disciplinary procedures including suspension and/or disaffiliation in the event that it is alleged that any Member(s) or Club of the Association have engaged in any misconduct contrary to the interests of the Association as outlined in the GUSA Discipline and Equality and Diversity

~~Policies, or of any other behaviour unbecoming to a Member of the Association~~ or breach of this Constitution; subject always to the right of appeal against a disciplinary action;

- 3.) CLUBS 1.7 - An Affiliated Club ~~must~~ should normally be affiliated to the National and Local body controlling the branch of sport in which it is interested. Representatives to such bodies shall be student members of the relevant Club subject to the approval of the Council.
- 4.) FINANCE - There shall be a Finance Committee of the Association which shall consist of the President, Finance Convenor, ~~and~~ the UofG Sport Finance Administrator and UofG Sport Development Manager. ~~The UofG Sport Club Sport Manager and~~ Additional Student Council members may be invited to meetings as required.
- 5.) SAFETY - All Club Captains must submit an annual ~~annually a~~ Risk Assessment as a part of their document submissions. ~~that must be approved by the GUSA President & UofG Sport Sports Development Coordinator.~~ The distribution of this Risk Assessment to club members will then be the responsibility of the Club Captain.
- 6.) WELFARE OFFICERS 9.12 – Every affiliated Club must annually elect a member under the title of Welfare officer, or appropriate alternative. This member will be given formal training by the Association and will sit on the club committee.

Proposed: Charlie Dickens

Seconded: Ewan Galbraith

Objection to amendments: N/A

The amendments to the constitution were passed.

7. AGM Close

SK closed the meeting.