

GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2021/22

Position		GUSA President
Nominee:	Name:	Jessica Woodcock
	Club:	Women's Hockey
Nominator:	Name:	Shereif Kholeif
	Club:	Muay Thai; Tennis
Seconder:	Name:	Charlie Dickens
	Club:	Women's Hockey



My name is Jessica Woodcock, I'm this year's **GUSA Secretary** and I believe myself to be the best choice in moving GUSA forward. I have worked tirelessly to make this Association the best it can be, more inclusive and welcoming – an Association in which students can trust and can be proud to be represented by. With two year's experience on GUSA Council, as **Travel Convenor** in 2018-19 and this past 2019-20 year as Secretary, I have learnt so much. These positions which deal with the day-to-day running and organisation of GUSA have given me a precious insight into the Association, it's members and what it most needs. After these two years, I've come to the conclusion that I'm just not done yet and would like to use this insight to further give back to GUSA, so that all students feel safe, fully represented and proud to be a part of our Association. Over my 5 years at University, in addition to throwing myself into GUSA as a **Freshers' Helper** in my second year and being elected into my positions on GUSA Council, I have been a part of many different and varying GUSA clubs including **Lacrosse, Surf, Ski and Snowboard, Sailing and Women's Hockey**. This has given me the opportunity to see how different clubs of varying sizes are run from the inside, giving me great insight into how each club's needs differ greatly from the other. Not only have I met multiple different sports members and created life-long friends from a variety of backgrounds through these, my dual honours Russian & Classics degree, accompanied with a year abroad in **Moscow**, has allowed me to interact with, appreciate and understand a wide range of cultures.

This year has been anything but smooth for all of us, especially with regards to sport. I want to take my privileged insight of the inner workings of GUSA, it's clubs and members and use this to effectively and flexibly navigate the smoothest and safest path out of COVID and into the return of sport, with the needs of our students at it's heart.

As a hard-working, determined, empathetic leader who genuinely cares for GUSA and the people within it, my carefully thought out campaign is based on four key areas where I believe GUSA can improve upon. This is based on feedback I have received from members of our sporting community and the wider university community. These areas are **Communication, Welfare, Representation, & Sustainability** (all while safely navigating a route out of COVID).

Communication

This year has been like no other, stripped back from our usual weekly trainings, games and socials, we've had to move our lives online. It's been a terribly tricky year for all our students and clubs, most which have never even met their Freshers and new members in person. With all of this stripped away, the importance of communication has become apparent. GUSA's virtual presence and communication networks need to be stronger and more reliable.

How will I achieve this?

1. Creating a stronger, improved **Virtual Presence**. I will aim to achieve this by an **official GUSA website**, stand-alone from the UofG Sport website, in which we can have more accessible, up to date information, allowing our website to act as a spring board for the rest of our clubs – alongside **strengthening our social media platforms and those of our clubs**. The website opens the door to more creativity and outreach, both of which GUSA, in these challenging digital times could benefit from. To do this, I would aim to bring in a **social media intern** to most effectively achieve this goal.
2. Creating a beneficial **Inter-Club Support Network**. Something we've excelled in this year, regardless of restrictions, are inter-club relations. I believe that small clubs could learn a lot from larger clubs and likewise that larger clubs could learn a lot from smaller clubs. The expansion and strengthening of this initiative into an official network will allow clubs to best support and learn from each other, this which will prove vital in the long-anticipated return to sport.

Welfare

Welfare

Student welfare, like communication, currently proves more important than ever to safeguard. With the lack of interaction and usual routine due to lockdowns alongside the safety pressures that exist in our daily lives, people's health and wellbeing is more important than before. Both physical and mental health can contribute towards wellbeing and I hope to make these paramount to everything GUSA achieves in the coming year.

How will I achieve this?

1. **Intramural Leagues & Recreational Sport.** The intramural leagues that were created this past year have received glowing feedback. These have given all students, not just members of GUSA, the opportunity to get involved in recreational, safe sports that led to a recorded increase in physical and mental wellbeing. I hope to not only continue this league but extend it to many other sports, improving students' welfare and outreach for our clubs simultaneously. I will also work towards an **Annual Festival of Sport**, that culminates these recreational leagues while promoting inclusivity, diversity and celebrating the year of sport. With the return to sport and BUCS, I will assure that both recreational sport to performance sport – and everything in between – is catered for within our facilities, this in turn easing the pressure on clubs who are unable to accommodate additional competitive teams.
2. **Peer Wellbeing Support & GUSA Welfare Convenor Training.** The responsibility of Club Welfare Convenors in our current climate proves huge, their training to approach their roles must therefore be more than adequate. I will ensure that the training received is firstly, received early and secondly, proves vast. I will also increase the focus on the **Peer Wellbeing Support Training and Network** so that our members may further be supported effectively.

Representation

Through my vast experience in GUSA, I believe there is always one specific goal in which we struggle to meet – Representation. As the voice of students within sport at Glasgow, I want to ensure that this is a main goal we strive to improve so that all of our members may fully be represented.

How will I achieve this?

1. **Focused Welfare Team Representatives.** I hope to expand our Welfare Team into focused representation roles, these including an LGBTQ+ representative, an Ethnicity and Diversity representative, and more. These roles will work in partnership with the wider University community officers and the SRC to create a supportive and safe place for all students within sport.
2. **Improve Accessibility and Representation for Non-Club Sport Members in the Wider University Community.** I hope to effectively use my strong cross campus relationships and network to create an **over-arching recreational sport structure** in which the wider university population can more easily be reached and represented within sport. I believe the creation of an **extended committee** with varying members of GUSA, SRC council and Club Sport, with scope for an official position that sits on both GUSA and SRC council, would be beneficial in achieving this goal.
3. **Wider Representation in Club Sport.** I believe GUSA could gain a lot more from effectively using the SSS network. Alongside ensuring our students are fully represented, I aim to gain more recognition and representation for Club Sport. I hope to encourage more clubs to interact within the **SSS Platform** as Sport Chairs, this not only putting GUSA and Glasgow University further on the map but in turn representing the voices of our students in sport more effectively, not just at a University level but also a wider national one.

Sustainability

This past challenging COVID year, has opened our eyes to the ecological problems that face humanity. If elected President, I pledge to do more within our Association to combat these ecological problems. Although this will be a long process, I hope to get the ball rolling towards a more sustainable approach and future for GUSA.

How will I achieve this?

1. **GUSA Carbon Offset Pledge.** I hope to make conscious steps towards the upgrading of the **GUSA bus fleet to electric vehicles** with the support of the University, this which will in turn help us to become more carbon neutral as an Association. I will make a pledge towards an end goal of **Carbon Offsetting** within GUSA. Working with recent feedback, I hope to continue to expand the successful **Sustainability Challenge** ran this past year, incorporating this initiative into a wider cross campus project.

Navigating a Route out of COVID

This past year has shown us that we must be prepared for a **safe, flexible and effective return to sport**, however much of a challenge this may prove to be. I understand that the return to sport may come at very different times for the varying clubs due to restrictions however, as we begin to navigate our way out of COVID and return to a new normal, I will endeavour to create and use support networks (including the prior-mentioned Inter-Club Network) to navigate the safest possible approach back to sport for each club and all our members.

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