

## **GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2024/25**

Position:	Secretary
Name:	Sophia Birch
Club:	Athletics



	Nominator's Name	Signature
1.	<u>Archie Bryden</u>	<u>AB</u>
2.	<u>Elizabeth Powell</u>	<u>EP</u>

### **Background and relevant experience**

I am a third year Neuroscience student, a member of the Glasgow University Athletics Club, and the 2023/24 GUSA Events and Recreation Convenor. During my three years, I have been extensively involved in the sporting community at Glasgow, as part of the Gymnastics, Badminton and Athletics clubs, as well as a member of the GUSA Events Team 2022/23. It would be a privilege to be a part of GUSA Council's next Executive as the student face of university sport and the 12,000 students whose voices we represent.

My experience as the Events and Recreation Convenor has provided real insight into the structure of Council and internal workings of GUSA, providing me with a strong understanding of the expectations of the role of Secretary, and its importance within the Executive framework. Engaging in monthly Senior Council meetings, involving members of UofG Sport and other areas of the University, has offered preparation in being a confident communicator and representative of the student voice at Cross Campus meetings alongside the President and Vice President. Organising large-scale events and maintaining contact between GUSA's wide network of members and clubs has involved a high level of organisation and logistics – fundamental to the administrative duties of Secretary. Holding this role has allowed me to exercise and strengthen my management, time-efficiency, and professional skills which will prove invaluable to an Executive role.

### **Plans for the role**

#### Support to CTS

From the start of the year, I want Club CTS, in particular Secretaries, to know they can seek support and advice from the GUSA Secretary. Through the provision of resources detailing how to chair meetings, conduct and present minutes, and other relevant administrative jobs, I will support Club CTS in resolving any issues they may face over the year. With minutes from Council meetings as an example, I hope this can provide clearer guidance on what Club Secretaries can expect to undertake.

#### Freshers' Week

Being a former Freshers' week team leader and organiser of the GUSA Freshers' Week Fight Night occurring midway, I have a thorough understanding of how the week is run, the scale of the preparation beforehand, and the significance of a strong network of leaders to support its successful running. As the GUSA Events and Recreation Convenor, I worked alongside the Fundraising Convenor to select, manage, and instruct a group of 12 as part of the GUSA Events Team to ensure the events ran smoothly – comparable to the Secretary's task on a different scale. This year, I would emphasise that the selected training sessions offer helpers the confidence to know how and where to access the right help if presented with a difficult, crisis situation on a night out, rather than unknowingly taking on the burden of a situation they are unqualified to manage. Planning GUSA Fight Night 2023 well-ahead during the summer puts me in a more than comfortable position to get started with Freshers' Week preparation in a similar fashion.

#### Blues and Colours

With plenty of experience and enjoyment toward event planning, I would be honoured to be in charge of next year's Blues and Colours awards ceremony. Following my attendance at this year's event, I will assess where I believe changes or improvements can affordably be made whilst still upholding the prestige of the event. Recognising outstanding sporting dedication and achievement is fundamental to Blues and Colours, which is why I would begin my preparations with a thorough review of the criteria. Another consideration would be the replacement of the trophy prize with an award that can be worn at sporting and other related events, reflecting the athlete's achievements in a more practical way.