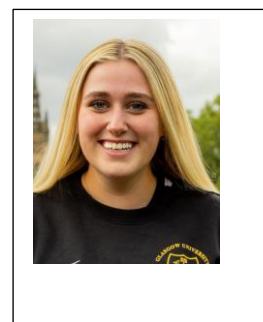


## GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2024/25

Position:	Vice President
Name:	Dominique Hewitson
Club:	Volleyball and Boat



	Nominator's Name	Signature
1.	<u>Amelia Morley</u>	<u>AM</u>
2.	<u>Evan Edwards</u>	<u>EE</u>

My name is Dominique Hewitson, I am a third-year biomedical engineering student, and I am running for the position of GUSA Vice-President (VP). I have spent this year as the GUSA Outreach Convenor, overseeing the GUSA Outreach programme and developing relationships with active schools' coordinators, charities, and university widening participation staff. I won the 2023/24 Presidents Cup for Most Outstanding Council Member as well as the 2022/23 Jack Smart Outreach through Sport award. I am a current member of Glasgow University Volleyball Club (GUVC) and the Glasgow University Boat Club. I have competed in BUCS American Football and Volleyball for the past two seasons as well as officiating and volunteering as a coach within GUVC's outreach sessions. I was previously the President of Glasgow University American Football Club and Glasgow University Volleyball Club's Welfare Officer.

Having spent time as Club Captain in a male-dominated mixed club, Women in Sport Week is something I feel incredibly passionate about. In order to support women in leadership roles and other positions of responsibility such as coaches and officials in our GUSA clubs, I will organise workshops and support sessions to enable women in these roles to share learnings and experiences and hear from leading women in sports. This will include input from athletes and other leaders within sports. This would allow them to share and develop ideas, supporting one another not just within Women in Sport Week but for the remainder of the year.

As a sober student, inclusive and supportive culture on socials is something incredibly personal to me. With statistics showing students are drinking less than ever before, it is important to ensure incoming students feel comfortable at all socials, be that a sober social or not. I will work to break down the 'tee-total' stigma by providing clubs ideas for sober socials through a best practice guide based on sober social successes within other GUSA clubs. I think it is also important to educate Club Executives and Social Secretaries on how to encourage safe, inclusive, accessible environments at socials to widen participation and ensure everyone has a good time.

A key event within the role of GUSA VP is GUSA Ball and after the success of this year's event, I would hope to build on that success to ensure next year's dinner runs as smoothly and enjoyably as possible. With the rising cost of living, I would work to keep ticket costs as low as is feasible, reducing financial barriers for as many people as possible to attend the event. I would also expand on the after-dinner tickets which were introduced this year to allow those who didn't receive a club allocated ticket to join in the celebrations of the evening. I would also like to continue to explore the possibility of expanding the dance floor for the ceilidh, starting communications with the venue early to see what arrangements could be made to allow as much space as possible.

During Freshers' Week, I would like to explore the possibility of collaborating on inter-union activities that might help widen GUSA's reach, encouraging those who wouldn't usually consider sports to become involved in GUSA and active lifestyles. Publicity is key during Freshers' Week so I would like to work with the incoming publicity convenor to great a strategy to promote all our clubs and events as well as possible. I would also like to work cross-campus prior to Freshers' Week to collaborate with the other unions to provide activities and support to sober students – encouraging and highlighting the ability to have a good time socially without alcohol or with little drinking.

The VP has the responsibility of sitting on the cross-campus welfare forum with the three other student bodies. I would like to use this platform to allow us to collaborate with the other unions to promote key welfare initiatives and campaigns such as educating members about the GUU Duty Board, GUU's Safeguarding Protocols, and the SRC's 'Safe Home Scheme' by Glasgow Taxis for GUU Sports Wednesdays. As Vice-President, I will highlight and promote the safeguarding team, making sure that all GUSA members know where to get help and report any issues to ensure they are dealt with correctly. This would also help reduce the pressure on club Welfare Officers to handle any safeguarding issues which they are not equipped to do. I would like to encourage clubs to reconsider the remit of their Welfare Officers and change the name of these roles to Inclusion and Culture Officers In line with GUSA Policy. I would introduce additional support for Club CTs through the provision of published policies showing the step-by-step processes for conflict resolution within clubs, and further promoting which issues it is essential are handled by the UofG Safeguarding Team.

Rectravaganza has been moved within the VPs remit for next year and is something I would be very excited to organise. I feel passionately that all students should have access to sports and ways to stay healthy and active. I would like to explore ways to promote these sessions beyond GUSA club members, sharing graphics on the televisions across campus to hopefully engage the wider student body and hopefully in turn increase GUSA's membership. I would encourage clubs to use these sessions as recruitment tools as the sessions are free to attend so are a great way to bring in new members.