

GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2024/25

Position:	Alumni Convener	
Name:	Eilidh McQuillan	
Club:	Trampoline	
	Nominator's Name	Signature
1.	<u>Hollie Fullerton</u>	<u>HF</u>
2.	<u>Evan Edwards</u>	<u>EE</u>



My name is Eilidh and I am running to be the GUSA Alumni Convener 2024/25. I am a second-year History student and a member of the trampoline club. I am currently the club's publicity officer as well as being one of trampoline's volunteer student coaches. Sport has always been an important part of my life and I have been involved in a range of sports from a young age including swimming, hockey, gymnastics, and netball. Since coming to university, I started trampolining and consequently had the opportunity to work with and alongside alumni members from Glasgow and other universities throughout Britain and Ireland. My experience as a volunteer judge has made me incredibly aware of the potential of alumni members to contribute to the success of University's Sports Clubs following their graduation.

This year I led our club's fundraising committee, organising a race night in aid of Glasgow and Clyde's Rape Crisis Centre's 'Fairplay Project.' This event was highly successful raising nearly £500 and having an attendance more than double of our club membership. In this process I enhanced my skills of leadership, teamwork, communication, organisation, and event management, all of which are crucial skills for fulfilling the Alumni Convener's remit for networking with alumni, organising the 1881 Alumni Dinner, and working with council.

Inclusivity and care: It is estimated that 1 in 5 adults in the UK will take on an unpaid caring responsibility for a member of their family. Having these responsibilities, often on top of paid employment, can increase stress and limit carer's involvement in leisure activities. Growing up I helped care for my uncle with Down's Syndrome. I understand first-hand how caring responsibilities may limit involvement in events and I want to use this understanding to create meaningful change. Statistically, women are more likely than male counterparts to hold this caring responsibility. As GUSA strives towards a more inclusive environment, I believe it is imperative to consider the impact of potential caring responsibilities, especially considering the gendered element of this. To address this, I would initiate conversations with GUSA Alumni immediately following my election to communicate information surrounding the Annual Council Alumni Dinner. This would ensure more alumni members would have relevant notice to be able to attend and reconnect.

1881: Organising 1881 is one of the Alumni Conveners primary responsibilities. After taking onboard feedback from previous alumni conveners, I have some ideas about how I would run the event if I was elected. I would like to continue hosting 1881 in the Glasgow University Union. This has an element for nostalgia for many of our alumni members and received positive response after the move back this year. Additionally, limiting student +1s in response to the feedback. This would ensure alumni have an intimate event, central to their needs. I would like to put out a survey prior to summer for alumni to discuss their needs and what they would like to see.

Second Semester Event: Responding to the remit change to include a second alumni event, I have some ideas below for an event to be run in semester 2.

An alumni week - Host an "Alumni Week", in which clubs are encouraged to invite their alumni members back to their clubs for the week for training and reunion events to maintain relationship with members who have graduated. The End of week will culminate in a celebratory event for all clubs, some ideas being a Ceilidh or Interclub Sports Day. During this week I would look to also have an employment event, potentially with involvement from the alumni office which would hopefully expand the event and develop GUSA's relationship with them.

> Freshers helping reunion - bringing back old helpers for a night of games celebrating members who may not have been council members but still displayed dedication to GUSA.

> Virtual Event for alumni who are unable to attend in person events, such as a virtual escape room to continue teamwork and conversation. This ensures inclusivity in our events, allowing as many alumni members as possible to reconnect with each other and students.

Continuities: I want to continue the work of previous Alumni Conveners developing a networking platform or system. This is valuable in allowing members to have a dedicated place for conversation around alumni matters or events. I also want to continue to provide clubs with the best support possible in planning their own alumni events, through club support for conveners. As a member of a smaller club, I feel I can offer a valuable perspective for development of clubs who may not have such an established relationship with their alumni. I would look at creating guides for clubs to base their events from to allow for accessible and manageable event planning.