

GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2024/25

Position:	Alumni Convenor	
Name:	Ben Parker	
Club:	Athletics	
	Nominator's Name	Signature
1.	<u>Matthew Cliff</u>	<u>M.Cliff</u>
2.	<u>Harrison Collie-Duguid</u>	<u>H.Collie-Duguid</u>



Hi, my name is Ben, and I am a 3rd year Aeronautical engineering student running for GUSA Alumni convenor this year. Sport has always played a massive part in my life whether that being playing Sunday league football, my 10 years of learning karate or now being a part of the Athletics club here at university. This is now my 3rd year being a part of the Athletics club and it has certainly made university life several times more enjoyable through meeting so many great people as well as becoming part of the wider GUS community through GUSA freshers helping in 2023. Over this last year I have also been the secretary for the Athletics club. Throughout this time, I believe that I have enhanced my skillsets that would translate well into this role such as event planning and working as part of a committee as with my role I must constantly keep on top of the clubs running and organize the clubs transport to training, book venues for socials and hotels for competitions like BUCS. I was also very lucky to be able to attend the 1881 dinner, which is the alumni event where previous GUSA council return for a dinner and is the main event this role deals with over the year, last year where I got to see firsthand how the event is ran and the organization that it takes.

For the role of Alumni Convenor this year I really want to emphasis the connection and communication between GUSA and its alumni as over the years many have lost contact with GUSA. To start this, I will be sending out surveys to the alumni regarding a variety of subjects including how they want to see the 1881 event change or run, the second event that has been added as another mandatory event to run and what new ways we can keep in contact with them as this role for a lot of clubs is the main gateway to connection with their alumni. One of the new ways I wish to keep in contact with them is to create groups on platforms like LinkedIn and Facebook to create a community for the alumni to connect with people that they may have lost contact with. This model has worked with many of the larger clubs within GUSA including my own where alumni can keep in contact with each other and the club to learn about events going on during the year. I hope bringing this to a larger scale can help many clubs do the same. This platform can also be used to keep in contact with GUSA and people still in Glasgow. I also want to re-establish the newsletter that is sent to the alumni keeping them updated on what's happening within GUSA. I would like to aim to send these out monthly to our alumni so that they feel like they are still connected to GUSA while also not being bombarded with emails by us. Continuing with the theme of supporting clubs with their connection to their alumni, I would like to compile a handbook for club committees allowing them to stay connected with their alumni. This would include details and tips on setting up platforms to connect them, as well as a variety of events which they could utilise throughout the year to engage their alumni.

Off the back of feedback from the alumni that attended last year's 1881 dinner, I want to reduce the size of the event. Traditionally 1881 has been an event between old and new council and doing so would capture the essence of the event in the past and would hopefully persuade more alumni to attend. This would also make the event feel more intimate and welcoming for the alumni that attend as a lot of the feedback from last year was that they really enjoyed the event however they felt like there was too many current students in attendance. To downsize the event, I believe that removing the plus ones for current council is an idea that should strongly be considered as this would make the event feel more like it's a connection between old and new council. Another way to do this would be looking to book a smaller room in the union like the drawing room instead of the dining room as there is still a lot of space in that room for at least a meal for 50 people. Keeping the event at the union is also something I wish to continue as this was received very well at last year's event as the event was traditionally held at the GUU.

A big change coming to the Alumni convenors remit for 2024 -2025 is the addition of one more compulsory event which can be undertaken throughout the year. One idea I have for this event is an Alumni job fayre. This would entail alumni coming back to talk to current students about jobs and opportunities within or outside of sport after they graduate. This would create many networking opportunities for students as GUSA is a family and could help people utilize the connections they make through sport which also may spark inspiration for anyone who is unsure about life after their degree. Obviously, this would require volunteering from the alumni but with hopes of stronger connection this year I believe that this is possible. Another idea that I have for this event is alumni recreational sports; this can range from 5 a side football to rugby sevens and badminton sessions. I believe that this will be a good way for alumni to reconnect with each other whilst also providing access to sport which may be limited within work life. If this proves successful it could be progressed to a monthly event with varying sports each month.

