



Glasgow University Sports Association

AGM 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015-03-24

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Present**

Student GUSA Council members (elect), GUSA Council representatives, club representatives, SRS members, Senior GUSA Council members

*Apologies:*

Stuart Law, Caitlin Kelly, Derek Casey, Roddy Morrison.

### **2. Ratification of last minutes**

The minutes from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were approved and no amendments were required.

*Proposed: Katherine Paines*

*Seconded: Patrick Knaggs*

Vote taken: 63 – unanimous

### **3. President's Report**

This report will provide members with a summary of GUSA's headlines and highlights of this academic year. It has been a massively eventful year for the association and I am sure you will agree it has been an outstanding 12 months.

Firstly, Freshers' Week was a huge success for GUSA and Sport & Recreation with all events having excellent participation and student engagement. The sports fayre, club taster sessions and the GUSA "Into the Wild" Party were brilliant and allowed students to fully engage with the student body. Fresher's week ran smoothly both financially and operationally. There were no major complaints and lots of positive feedback that has allowed us to develop the programme for next year. To display the vast array of work that the association does we incorporated a variety of different events and schemes into the programme. We held disability taster sessions; health and fitness sessions, publicity/social media competitions and both club sport

and recreational sports tasters. I would like to note my full appreciation of all the freshers' helpers who made Freshers' Week such a massive success, who conducted themselves professionally and who did the Association proud.

This year has seen club sport being incredibly successful in various aspects. There has been a high level of competition with clubs winning various titles, and all clubs have improved their level of development and recruitment of new members. The membership of club sport has increased by 16% this year with 3952 students participating regularly. Overall the membership consists of 51% female membership and 49% male membership.

Richard has worked hard to visit the majority of clubs this year to chat with the committees on a fairly informal basis to ensure there were no major problems. This helped relay information to the club sport team so we could work to make effective changes. Although not all clubs were visited we could identify high priority clubs and this helped ensure a smoother year for all.

With regards to travel the amount of minibus incidents has reduced significantly this year. The incidents that have occurred have mainly been down to driver error. In an attempt to reduce the number of accidents at the wall on Library Hill GUSA released a video on how to drive round the corner without damaging the bus. Furthermore the introduction of photo submissions before journeys has made identifying damages easier.

The Glasgow Taxis Cup took place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March and Glasgow retained the cup for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row which was a massive success. Congratulations must go to all athletes that competed in the event. Thanks must also go to the supporters who made the atmosphere of the event much better.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July GUSA and SRS hosted the first ever Alumni Ball which was a fantastic event with over 200 people in attendance. This year also saw GUSA host the first 1881 Dinner where 36 past GUSA council members attended a dinner in the GUU. Both these events were successful and allowed alumni to reconnect with GUSA and celebrate the past successes of the association.

Katherine has also worked with each club to develop their alumni networks. The fundamental aim is in keeping and making connections, the concept of fundraising is something that is not a primary aim of the Association although now graduates can donate back to sport at Glasgow if they so desire.

Publicity has been improved upon again this year with different forms of social media being utilised to help advertise and promote the excellent opportunities available to students and staff. Olivia has done a fantastic job and through the Events Team GUSA's profile on campus, interaction with members and the running of events has been of a high standard. This year also saw the launch of GUSA's Instagram and Spotify which have been utilised to great effect.

In terms of Fundraising we have raised money for incredibly valuable projects and charity. This year ReachOut! Scotland has been GUSA's charity of the year. This is an important project in which we work with disadvantaged youths delivering sports tasters. Furthermore £413 was donated to the project. The raffle at the GUSA Ball also raised money for Jack Smarts Fund for research of haemato-oncology at the University.

There has been a massive amount of work done on Welfare this year. Candice has done a great job in developing the work we do to encouraging mental and physical well-being amongst students and staff. There is information online for clubs to direct club members to if they feel they are in need of some advice. There are currently 3 members on council that completed Scottish Mental Health First Aid Training and we are currently working with SRS to provide training for next year.

The buddy system continues to grow and there are currently 24 student volunteers with buddies. This project is increasingly important to help other students who are less comfortable in a daunting environment, such as a busy gym. Greater publicity of this project and incentives has encouraged increased engagement with this project. This scheme is seen as pioneering by other institutions and has led to the University winning a Commonwealth Games Changer Award.

To promote mental wellbeing the GUSA Get Active event was organised in conjunction with SAMH where the GUSA Council cycled for 18 hours and a total of 750km. This raised awareness on campus for the importance of mental health and GUSA also raised money for SAMH.

Welfare has become a pivotal aim for the association and it is great to see it progress each year. The links we currently have with Disability Sport Scotland, Scottish Student Sport and NUS needs to continue as well as exploring new avenues to support students. Promoting mental and physical wellbeing must remain a goal of the association.

In partnership with Sport & Recreation we helped deliver our fifth Sport and Wellbeing Week. We had a fantastic array of activities and opportunities for students and staff. There was no launch event this year and we need to continue to review the event to ensure we are engaging with as many students as possible.

The events that we run in partnership with SRS have been really successful this year. Events such as Monster Dash, Superteams, Fitness Challenges and the Recreational Sports Leagues have all run smoothly and engaged with a large number of students. These events continue to expand each year and really add to the student experience.

The GUSA Ball was another resounding success selling out with 800 students in attendance. There was a record number of blues and colours winners and a huge standard of applications. It is great to see how many talented and dedicated students there are involved in sport at the university. I would like to thank my fellow executive council for organising a great event.

This year GUSA Elections went online for the first time and were a resounding success. We had the biggest turnout to date with 1548 students voting in total, approximately 600 more than last year. As this was the first year of the system there were a few minor issues that were dealt with immediately. I would recommend council to continue with online voting now that we have reviewed the process.

Last year the GUSA Strategic Plan was finalised and is available online. This year an operational plan was developed in line with the Strategic Plan to

ensure we are working towards the aims of the plan. This has allowed GUSA to work to clear achievable objectives.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be President of this Association. I strongly believe GUSA is the best student body on campus and I wish Caitlin and the incoming Council the very best in taking GUSA forward.

Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped and contributed to GUSA this year.

To the Captains, Treasurers, Secretaries and volunteers who give so much of their time and effort to ensure that our clubs, projects and events remain strong and successful.

Thanks must also go to Julie Ommer, Euan Smith and all of the staff at the SRS. Their hard work often goes unnoticed however they are pivotal in the running of all sport at this university and I personally appreciate everything they have done to support me, the council and sport at the University.

To our senior Council members: Frank Coton, Des Gilmore, Dom Mellor and Roddy Morrison whose input and support throughout the year is greatly valued and appreciated. This year we have welcomed Derek Casey to the senior council members as Honorary Vice President. Derek's experience and knowledge will be extremely valuable to the association and I am sure he will support the council for future years.

And finally to the student members of the GUSA Council whose enthusiasm and commitment this year has been fantastic. It has been a great pleasure to have worked with you and I wish those that are leaving the Council all the best for the future. Thank you.

#### **4. Honorary Treasurer's Report**

- RM unavailable to attend. TG gave a brief overview of financial statements, including income and expenditure.
- Overall this was a tough year for GUSA and things continue to be challenging financially.
- We made a deficit in the year to 31st July 2014 of £4,626. In the previous year we made a surplus of £9,354. This was a swing of £13,890 and is explained mainly by the purchase of additional kit (due to the Nike contract)
- We also received £20k additional Court Grant which was used to bring forward the purchase of a new minibus at the end of the year
- Overall the £5k loss reduced the reserves of GUSA.

*Proposed: Simon Brownlee*

*Seconded: Sandra Perry*

#### **5. Ratification of Election Results**

Senior Council

These members are there for the support and advice, not eligible to vote but are strong allies to the association. First is the ratification of the senior council members, to re-elect current members:

Frank Coton: Honorary President  
Derek Casey: Honorary Vice President  
David Denton: Honorary Vice President  
Roddy Morrison: Honorary Treasurer  
Desmond Gilmore: Court Representative  
Dominic Mellor: Senate Representative

*Proposed: Candice Lindsay*  
*Seconded: Brogan Sinclair*

### Student Council

President: Caitlin Kelly (unopposed)  
Vice President: Brogan Sinclair (unopposed)  
Honorary Secretary: Charlotte Howard (unopposed)  
Alumni Convenor: Alexandra Sawyer (opposed)  
Club Sport Convenor: Alex Mas (opposed)  
Finance Convenor: Ruari Thomson (opposed)  
Fundraising Convenor: Emma Stephen (unopposed)  
Health and Fitness Convenor: Claire Minto (unopposed)  
Publicity Convenor: Maria Sasso (opposed)  
Recreation Convenor: Sagar Ghelani (unopposed)  
Travel Convenor: Michal Orzeg-Wydra (opposed)  
Welfare Convenor: Isabella Heath (opposed)

*Proposed: Richard Yianni*  
*Seconded: Olivia Collison-Owen*

## **6. AOCB**

There was nothing to report.  
TG closed the meeting.