

## **The University of Birmingham Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association**

*Minutes of the one hundred and twelfth Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the Aston Webb Building (Lecture Theatre WG5), University of Birmingham.*

### **Minutes**

*The President, Joe Cane, was in the Chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.*

#### **Present**

A list of those present was collated by the Alumni Office and can be found in Appendix A to these minutes. Staff from the Director of Development and Alumni Relations Office were in attendance and are also listed in Appendix A. It was noted that the meeting was not quorate and therefore no decisions could be taken but recommendations could be made to the next AGM.

#### **Apologies**

Ellie Keiller, Jo Bentham, Joe Biddlestone, Marsha Davis

#### **Minutes of the 111th AGM**

Recommended to the next AGM that the minutes be approved and accepted as an accurate record.

#### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising

#### **President's Report**

The President gave his report which will be attached as Appendix B

#### **Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts**

David Rigby, the Treasurer, presented the accounts up to 31 August which had been circulated with the papers for the AGM. He stated that the assets were in good shape.

The Midlands Branch had closed and assets on £1,545.55 were transferred to the GGAA's bank account on 08/08/18 and will be transferred to the University Investment Account (EUG 1592). This capital account presently has a value of £10,159.14 at 31/07/18. Revenue from this account is paid annually into an interest account. This totalled £2,505.35 on 31/07/18. The GGAA will have access to this investment account but it will remain untouched.

There were no questions for the Treasurer.

Norma Broadbridge proposed and Stephen Tomlinson seconded that the accounts be accepted. The proposal was accepted unanimously and recommended to the next AGM for approval.

See Appendix C

### **Report from the Development and Alumni Relations Office**

See Appendix D

### **Report from the Administrator of the Alumni Awards**

See Appendix E

### **Election of Officers**

In accordance with Law 6(a), the Chair declared that the following officers were elected unopposed:

Joe Cane (President)

Nina Waddell

Sheila Oxspring (Vice President)

Joe O'Mara

David Rigby (Treasurer)

Lesley Payne

Steve Tomlinson (Alumni Awards Administrator)    John Akers (Minutes Secretary)

Ellie Keiller

Tom Goodman

### **Proposed Changes to Constitution**

To increase the number of people that may be elected or co-opted to the committee from 3 to 8

The difficulty of sufficient attendees at the AGM should be put to the Registrar's Office with the proposal that the size of the quorum be reduced.

The suggestions were proposed and seconded. It was recommended that the proposed changes be submitted to the next AGM or a special general meeting of the Guild and approved.

## Appendix A

### Alumni in attendance:

Sheila Oxspring (1966 BSc Zoology/Physiology)  
Tom Goodman (2018 BSc Computer Science)  
Joe Cane (2015 BSc Business Management)  
John Akers (1964 MSc Chemical Engineering)  
David Rigby (1964 BSc Zoology, 1966 MSc Neurocommunications)  
Steve Tomlinson (1974 BSc Electrical Engineering)  
Norma Broadbridge (1954 BSc Botany, 1992 MSc Sport & Exercise Science)  
Tony Deakin (2006 MBA INLOGOV)  
Heather Cannon (1966 BSc Mathematics)  
Anne O'Meara (1977 LLB Law)  
Joe O'Meara (1971 BSc Medical Biochemistry, 1975 MSc Biochemistry)  
Simon Lerwill (2002 BSc Geography and Planning)

### Staff in attendance:

Claire O'Sullivan, Associate Director (Global Engagement)  
Dan O'Driscoll, Head of Alumni Engagement  
Becky Thornton, Communications Partner

## Appendix B

### GGAA Presidents Report for AGM, September 29<sup>th</sup> 2018

First of all I would like to introduce myself. I'm Joe Cane and I graduated in 2015 in Business Management. I have been President of the GGAA since Sept 2017.

#### Court representation

Owing to a reorganisation within the University, Court meetings and GGAA representation have now concluded. May I thank our most recent representatives, Norma Broadbridge, Joe Biddlestone, John Craggs, Arthur Lee and Lesley Payne in addition to those who have served previously.

#### House of Lords Reception

The House of Lords Reception in November was a great evening hosted by Lord Bilimoria, our Chancellor and Professor Sir David Eastwood. We heard several interesting talks, including one from 2014 graduate Emma James about her progress and experience post the Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme. The event also allowed for alumni networking and it was great to hear some interesting stories, such as the Smithfield Society from Marcus Hall.

#### My Biggest Mistake – Four Alumni in Four Minutes

Organised by DARO and aimed at recent alumni, I attended this event for the second time in the city centre. We heard from 4 alumni talking about their mistakes and valuable experiences

followed by food and a networking session. Once again, this was a really insightful evening and something I hope will continue.

#### Degree Congregation Processing

GGAA representatives once again processed at the December and July Degree Congregation Ceremonies. The primary purpose is for the GGAA reps to form part of the procession and lead out the new graduates at the end of the ceremony, a tradition practiced for many many years. We welcomed several new processors this year and I'm sure they'll agree that these are most enjoyable occasions. Thank you to all who processed.

#### Carol Service December 2017

James Ellis and I represented the GGAA at the Annual Carol Service in the Great Hall. It was an enjoyable evening and was extremely well attended. Thanks to Simon and the DARO team for hosting drinks and networking afterwards.

#### Midlands Branch

Unfortunately, the Midlands Branch made the decision to close at their AGM this year and this was completed in July. Members have been notified and subscriptions cancelled. Remaining funds from the Midlands Branch have been transferred to the GGAA account and the committee are currently considering proposals for commemoration of the Branch. Norma has agreed to continue to promote Branch events such as the annual meet at the College of Food. We hope that members will be able to continue to engage with the GGAA. Thanks to Lesley, Norma and others for their work with the Branch.

#### How to network

In March 2018, I attended a networking evening organised by DARO aimed at recent alumni, hosted in the City Centre. We heard from three experienced networkers and then had the chance to network with others. Thanks to Jane and the DARO team for organising these series of events aimed at more recent alumni. I hope they will continue to be supported and grow in the coming year.

#### Brum Alum Pub Quiz May 2018

As part of the Global Alumni Gathering 2018 we organised a Birmingham themed alumni pub quiz hosted in Joes Bar in the Guild of Students. An enjoyable evening was had by around 40 guests and we hope to grow the event next year. Thanks must go to Jonathan Berg for volunteering as quiz master and his incredible knowledge of the city.

#### Planning for today

One final function of the GGAA committee is to help to plan for today. I do hope that everyone has enjoyed the day.

#### Thank You

As this has been my first year as President, I'd like to thank Sheila Oxspring for her help, support and guidance this year. I'd also like to thank Simon, Claire, Anne-Marie and the DARO team for your support and collaborative working with us this year.

## **Appendix C**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
GUILD OF GRADUATES AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET**

<b>31st AUGUST 2016 TO 31st AUGUST 2017</b>		<b>31st AUGUST 2017 TO 31st AUGUST 2018</b>	
<b>CARRIED</b>	<b>£4397.73</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	<b>£4137.15</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>From Midland Branch closure (8/8/18)</b>	<b>£1545.55</b>
<b>Forum Exps Sept.2016</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1545.55</b>
<b>-UoB</b>	<b>£144.60</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>-Sheila Oxspring</b>	<b>£43.98</b>	<b>-Wine for lecturers</b>	<b>£52.74</b>
<b>BANK CHARGES</b>	<b>£72.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1492.81</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£260.58</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£1492.81</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£260.58</b>	<b>CASH AT BANK</b>	<b>£5603.46</b>
<b>CASH AT BANK</b>	<b>£4110.65</b>	<b>CASH IN HAND</b>	<b>£26.50</b>
<b>CASH AT BANK</b>	<b>£26.50</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5629.96</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4137.15</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5629.96</b>

**D C Rigby  
Hon Treasurer**

## **Appendix D**

### **DARO Report from Claire O'Sullivan**

76 events this year run by University or alumni – including our Global Alumni Gathering attracted over 250 attendees, with events in 17 countries; and Bringing Birmingham to You a new lecture series which connects research staff who are travelling for conferences or research activities with alumni across and share their research in an informal setting –there were 12 events in 10 global cities in the first year. Events take place in Birmingham and London as well as internationally – you are very welcome to join us.

Alumni gave more than 12,000 hours of their time in the last year to support the University and students. This is the equivalent of nearly 7 years of additional staff time, but the impact is more than just the time. These volunteers have given their time to help set University strategy, advise on curriculum and career development, provide careers support to individual students, hosted

guest lectures and much more. This makes such a big impact on enriching the student experience and providing our graduates with more than simply excellent academic credentials in a competitive work environment. Our thanks also to all those in the Guild of Graduates who processed at the degree congregations in December and July.

Over £10m raised in philanthropic gifts to the University ranging from large to small gifts. Every gift is important and we are very grateful for your support.

In autumn 2017 the University launched a new fundraising and volunteering appeal called 10,000 Lives. The objective of the appeal is a simple one – to transform the lives of 10,000 young people through the power of education by providing life changing opportunities. Opportunities such as funded scholarships for young people who have no family history of pursuing higher education or those who are young carers providing care support for family members at home and who often feel that attending University is not an option. 10,000 Lives also provides students with opportunities to take up paid internships, and work experience, to access alumni mentors who will support their career development and much more. Every gift of time or money can make a big difference to the life opportunities, and we are incredibly grateful to all those alumni and volunteers who have supported 10,000 Lives so far. I'm pleased to report that as of last month we had changed 2,500 Lives. If you'd like to find out more, or support the appeal with a gift of time or money please do speak to any of the team here today.

We were delighted that the video that was produced for 10,000 Lives won an international excellence award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Old Joe magazine will go to print shortly – we are holding the presses for photos of today's reunion. Highlights of this edition, as well as today's reunion of course include a feature celebrating the contribution alumni and University researchers have made to the NHS as it reaches its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, an interview with alumnus Gareth Neame the creator of Downton Abbey, four alumni who are working at St George's Park, home of the England football team, news about research which is using honey to fight antibiotic resistance, our role in a new NASA space mission, and some facts, which you may not know, about the Old Joe clock tower. We would love to hear what you think when you receive your copy, so please do let us know, along with any suggestions for future stories you would like us to include.

Welcome Week is underway at the moment and for the first time we have been also welcoming our new students in Dubai. Letting them know that they are part of our alumni community and what that means. We will now be using the next 8 months or so to build the alumni programme that they will enjoy once the first graduations take place in summer 2019.

Thank you to Joe and the committee for your time and support over the previous year.

## **Appendix E**

### **Alumni Travel Awards 2018**

On 14 April 2018, the 'Student Development and Graduate Travel Scholarship selection panel met to consider a total of 74 applications for the various classes of Student Development Bursaries for 2018. The members of the committee each scored the applications separately and the meeting then collated the scores and selected the highest-scoring applications for discussion to select those who would receive an award.

As usual, there was a significant number of application for organised packages, predominantly for travel experiences with 'The Global Brigades' a student-led social responsibility movement to Honduras, Panama, and Ghana. These packages focus primarily on Law, Medicine, Finance and Public Health. The committee considered that many of the claims made by applicants for the local impact of the one or two-week placements with these Brigades were over-ambitious and would be of limited lasting benefit to the communities.

Some proposals, however, did show more originality indicative of the requirement for personal effort on the part of the applicant in the planning of the project, as well as offering rewarding experiences during the period of travel. Two nursing students' applications stood out.

*Ms. Natasha Allcroft wrote:*

"I have liaised with Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare. It is one of the biggest hospitals in Zimbabwe and it is the only healthcare institute that offers training to nurses in the country. I will spend 4 weeks on rotation at the hospital, having unique experiences of specialist departments in Ophthalmology, Intensive Care and Midwifery, all of which I have no experience of in the UK. The hospital has a maternity unit and I am interested in learning about the birthing process, whereby the role of the Midwife is vital given the high infant mortality rates in Zimbabwe."

A similar application was received from another nursing student. Both of the applications were for non-assessed 'elective modules' that form part of the nursing degree but demonstrated effort on the part of the applicants to identify placements that would offer an insight into the nursing profession in Zimbabwe, a vastly different country where resources are severely limited and the challenges of nursing very different from those in the UK and would take both of them out of their 'comfort zones' for a month. The committee considered the placements would provide a valuable learning experience for these students.

The committee decided to make awards to both students, but the GGAA travel award of £1,000 was awarded entirely to Natasha Allcroft and one of the other awards managed by the Student Development office was given to the other applicant. Natasha has completed her placement and her report is attached.

Steve Tomlinson  
Alumni Awards Administrator  
11 September 2018

### **Report of Nursing Elective in Zimbabwe:**

After completing a four-week nursing elective at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals in Harare, Zimbabwe, I must take a moment to applaud the staff nurses who were excellent at improvising when resources were scarce. With specific reference to dressing packs and medications the nurses were able to be creative and prioritise effectively. By carrying out my elective in Zimbabwe, it ensured that I experienced the barriers that nurses faced in delivering care in such a poor country. This allowed me to reflect on my own nursing practice in the UK, highlighting our wastefulness, making me strive to reduce and use resources effectively. The placement at Parirenyatwa provided me with an experience of different nursing practices (Adult, Paediatric and Midwifery), of which I would not get the opportunity to do so in the UK given that I am primarily an adult student nurse.

On my first day, I was given the opportunity to observe the Clinical Educator's teaching of their sterile Wound Dressing. Correct Aseptic Technique was vitally important given the limited resources and low staffing levels; with dressings often not being changed in a timely manner. This has assisted my nursing practice as it has allowed me to prioritise resources and has taught me to be less wasteful of equipment.

One of my learning outcomes was to learn about the many health inequalities in Zimbabwe when comparing them to that of the UK. The most noticeable health inequality I encountered was the prevalence of HIV and its effects on patients and families. With over 13.5 % of its adult population HIV positive, Zimbabwe has a high HIV prevalence. It is standard protocol for HIV testing upon admission for all patients; and there is a counsellor stationed on every ward to meet the emotional needs of any patients with a positive result. Nurses are trained in protecting themselves against sharps injuries. I was given the opportunity to receive HIV testing; this allowed me to empathise with patients who are understandably nervous during this process.

#### Family Planning Clinic Aseptic Technique Training

I was posted in the Maternity Hospital in my final week which included experiences in the Labour Ward, Theatres and Postnatal unit. I was able to witness several caesarean-sections, which I found to be very interesting, given their lack of incubators for new-born babies. Despite limited resources, the midwives were very welcoming and eager to share their experiences with me, whereby I was taught about the birthing process and delivery process. In addition, I was given the opportunity to assist with the birthing process such as listening to the foetal heartbeat, weighing and assessing new-born babies and administering the BCG vaccination. I learnt about midwives' engagement in public health nursing, when acting to reduce the HIV transmission from mother to child. This is done through regular testing and ensuring that every pregnant woman now has access to antiretroviral medicines. I was given the opportunity to assist in a Family – Planning clinic which was led by the post-natal nurses, this forms part of the Sexual Reproductive Health, HIV and AIDS services offered to Zimbabwean mothers as part of their post-natal care. I found these to be empowering and open, with mothers encouraged to talk about their experiences honestly. The clinic primarily assisted mothers with planning and educating mothers in appropriate contraceptives, safe-sex and sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS and cancers of the reproductive system.