

Background

The Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association (GGAA) was established in 1906. In 1989 its aims and objectives were amended as follows:

To support and further the interests of the University of Birmingham and its members;

To provide a means of representing the views and interests of its members to the University; and

To provide an organisation for social activities for members.

In 2001 the University appointed a Director of Development & Alumni Relations and since then there has been a transition to the current situation in which the traditional activities once undertaken by the GGAA are now delivered through a paid work force of approximately 60 members of staff. The main duty of the GGAA currently is to represent the alumni community at graduations.

In these circumstances, the Committee of the GGAA therefore recommends:

- (i) the GGAA exists by virtue of the provisions of the University of Birmingham Charter, extended by the Statutes, the Ordinances and the resolutions of the University Council. The GGAA therefore asks the University Council to seek approval of the amendment of the University Legislation to put into effect the dissolution of the GGAA;
- (ii) the University's Development and Alumni Relations Office shall continue the work of the GGAA by promoting and supporting the interests of the alumni and their lifelong relationship with the University.

The current GGAA Committee shall be authorised to act as a caretaker body to work with the University until the GGAA is dissolved to oversee the closure of GGAA business. This is on the basis that the laws of the GGAA will be abolished with immediate effect and the Committee of the GGAA will cease its day-to-day activities, including – but not limited to – election of officers, organisation of events, and other such administration.

A sustainable future

The University of Birmingham, through the work of the Development and Alumni Relations Office, will continue to deliver the aims of the Association by:

- (i) connecting with the 275,000 contactable alumni through its bi-annual alumni magazine, a tailored communications programme including regular newsletters, website presence, and a social media activity for the 50,000 followers;
- (ii) delivering a global events programme both online and in person including webinars, networking receptions, guest lectures, professional development activities, dinners and bespoke events for VIP's;
- (iii) providing multiple and varied opportunities for alumni to support current students through volunteering as mentors, delivering curriculum lectures, supporting recruitment activities by attending fairs and providing profiles;
- (iv) continuing ceremonial duties once performed by the GGAA such as identifying graduates to represent the alumni community at graduations; and
- (v) connecting donors with areas of interest within the University and supporting their philanthropic interests such as supporting students via scholarships or medical research.