

# GIBS Alumni Associations

## Clubs, Interest Groups, and Chapters

### INTRODUCTION

**Alumni associations play a pivotal role in nurturing and sustaining the bond between the School and its graduates. These associations manifest in various forms, including clubs, interest groups, and chapters, each designed to cater to the diverse preferences and interests of alumni. Serving as a dynamic extension of the alma mater, these entities provide platforms for continued interaction, networking, and collaboration among former students.**

**The GIBS alumni network comprises individuals who have completed academic education as well as certain executive education programmes offered by the School since its establishment in 2000.**

**The GIBS Alumni Link which has offices in the East Block, serves as a bridge between the school and its graduates. The purpose of the Alumni Link is to foster a strong community of alumni, promote lifelong connections, facilitate learning relationships, implement appreciation programmes, and encourage shared participation.**

### GIBS ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

GIBS Alumni Associations provide platforms for alumni to connect, network, and engage with fellow alums who share common interests or reside in specific regions. These associations comprise clubs, interest groups and chapters and they foster a sense of community by organising social and cultural activities, facilitating lifelong connections, and promoting professional development through networking opportunities and other programmes.

The Alumni Associations are headed by officers who consist of a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. If necessary, additional officers can be elected to the executive committee, pending approval from the Alumni Manager. The roles and duties of these officers will be detailed in the association's constitution, and the term of service is three (3) years.

### GIBS ALUMNI CLUBS & INTEREST GROUPS

Alumni clubs and interest groups are a subset of the GIBS alumni body in which common interests undertake self-managed activities under the guidelines established by an approved constitution or terms of reference set forth by the School.

The purpose of GIBS Alumni clubs and interest groups are primarily aimed at fostering connections and engagement amongst alums. Activities include:

- **Networking:** provide a platform for alums to network with fellow alumni, and share professional experiences, interests, opportunities, and industry insights. These connections can be valuable for business, career advancement, mentorship, and building professional relationships.
- **Social Activities:** organise social or networking events, reunions, and other activities to bring alums together in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. These events help foster a sense of community and allow alums to reconnect with old friends, make new acquaintances, and celebrate shared experiences.
- **Continuous Learning:** offer educational programmes, workshops and seminars to support their members' ongoing learning and professional development. These initiatives may include guest lectures, industry panels, and skill-building sessions to keep alumni informed about current trends and advancements in their respective fields.
- **Giving Back:** engage in philanthropic endeavours to give back to their alma mater or the broader community. This can involve fundraising initiatives, volunteering efforts, or supporting scholarships and bursaries for current students, serving as a means for graduates to contribute to the success and well-being of the School.
- **Alumni Relations and Communication:** serve as a communication channel between the School and its alums. They facilitate the dissemination of news, updates, and relevant information to keep alumni informed about their alma mater's achievements, developments and upcoming events.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

- ▶ While alumni clubs or interest groups can be initiated by alums, the establishment of these is exclusive to the Alumni Link.
- ▶ At least 50 alumni living within a specific geographical area are required to establish a chapter.
- ▶ Should alums wish to propose a new alumni club or interest group, they are to provide written evidence to the Alumni Manager of support from at least 20 alums for such an association.
- ▶ The Alumni Manager will decide whether the proposed club has been approved within one month.
- ▶ Once approved, all alumni associations must submit a written constitution to the Alumni Manager, detailing all activities of the association and using the alumni policy as a guide.
- ▶ Once the constitution has been ratified, the association can proceed with the election of officials.
- ▶ Only GIBS alums may be members of an alum club.
- ▶ All members of an alum club, interest group and chapters shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the associations.
- ▶ For the avoidance of doubt, no one who qualifies as an alum and is in good standing with the School may be excluded from membership of any alumni associations because of age, race, colour, gender, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.
- ▶ If a member takes no active part in the club, interest group or chapter of its activities for more than a year, they may be delisted as a member of that association.

### SUPPORT BY THE ALUMNI LINK

- ▶ Budget permitting, the Alumni Link will cover the cost of two club events per annum and one chapter dinner.
- ▶ During the year, the Alumni Link will sponsor some beverages and snacks as appropriate for association meetings.
- ▶ The associations are responsible for creating their own invitations, newsletters, and mailers under the direction of the Alumni Manager.
- ▶ The various associations will be responsible for developing and managing their activities and programmes themselves.
- ▶ The Alumni Link will provide guidance and administrative support and ensure that the programmes are coordinated and integrated with other alumni and school-wide activities.

**Gordon Institute  
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## GIBS ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Alumni chapters are geographically dispersed branches of the School's alumni association and were established to facilitate local engagement and networking among graduates who reside in specific regions or cities. Activities in these chapters are under the School's direction, guidance and approval.

### The primary purposes of alumni chapters include:

- ▶ **Local networking and socialising:** provide a platform for alums living in the same geographic area to connect and network. They organise local events and social activities, allowing alums to establish and maintain relationships with fellow alums who live nearby. These interactions can lead to valuable professional connections, job opportunities and social engagement.
- ▶ **Community building:** helps create a sense of community among alums who live in the same region. Chapters organise activities that promote a shared identity and foster a sense of pride and camaraderie among alums. Chapters encourage support and collaboration within the local community by bringing alums together.
- ▶ **Continuous learning:** similar to alumni clubs or interest groups, chapters often provide educational and professional development opportunities. They may host seminars, workshops, or guest speaker events focused on topics relevant to the local industry or professional landscape. These initiatives enable alums to stay updated on advancements in their industry and enhance their skills and knowledge.
- ▶ **Giving back:** Alumni chapters frequently engage in philanthropic initiatives and community service projects within their geographic area. They may organise volunteer activities, fundraisers, or charitable events to give back to the local community. These efforts demonstrate the commitment of alums to making a positive impact in the region where they reside.
- ▶ **Connection to the alma mater:** Alumni chapters link the alums in a specific area and the school. Chapters maintain communication channels with the school, sharing updates, news, and information about alumni-related activities. This connection helps alumni stay connected to their alma mater, even if they are physically distant.
- ▶ **Support to alums:** Alumni chapters often extend support to recent alums who have relocated to the chapter's region. They may offer mentorship, career advice, or assistance with transitioning into the local job market. By providing a support network, chapters help alums navigate the challenges of starting their professional lives in a new area.

**GIBS Alumni Link | Connect,  
Learn, Appreciate and Participate**

Visit the Alumni Link at the Alumni Zone co-working space, GIBS east block upper level close to the security office.

For more information please contact the Alumni Link at [alumni@gibs.co.za](mailto:alumni@gibs.co.za) or +27 011 771 4116.