

Delayed Report on CGCU Activity, First half of Spring Term
A report by Tristan Sherliker, CGCU President

Background

This report has been delayed for two council meetings, due predominantly to my ill health – in January and February I was in hospital three times, and repercussions of these visits in my academic life have been severe. This is a report covering the period which should have been reported on in the Fifth meeting of Council, earlier this term.

Period of absence

During my long hospital stay, Guilds was run by the rest of the management committee without any help from me. After I got back to college, in late January, the job of CGCU President was officially delegated and responsibilities distributed among other officers for a period of two weeks.

Events

Early in the year we had our Freshers' Dinner, which had a respectable attendance (although lower than usual), with a good speaker and which was great fun. DramSoc did a great job lighting and setting up for the dancing, and the Casino was very popular, with sponsors providing not only funding but prizes for the winner. We sold tickets online, but found that exclusively using the internet sales system limited our sales significantly, and so began taking cash-in-hand with receipts at a late stage in the publicity. This did however enable us to sell enough tickets to make the event viable. Everyone worked hard for this, across the whole team - help that was invaluable since there had been no HonSec to organise the event before he got involved. There were financial problems which have now been resolved after a meeting with DPFS Chris Larvin at the beginning of term.

The Lord Mayor's Show participation went well as ever, making a neat profit from BP's sponsorship and representing CGCU to the nation in our traditional way. It took a huge effort from those involved, especially from Edward Judge, Paul Sutton, and Elizabeth Williams, as we pulled the traditional all-nighter building it the night before the show. The day itself went well too, and with Bo' and our interesting design we were eye-catching and had a lot of fun.

We've had a lot of smaller events, too – 3 Bar nights, as well as the 3 colleges bar night; several careers talks; a cinema night; the mince-pie giveaway at Christmas; along with RAG events and more. More details on these events in the next report!

Sponsorship

This year has been a very good one for sponsorship, with money coming in from corporate sponsorship of existing events as well as joint careers events with RCSU, an increase in Faculty Grant making it higher than any other year, and other revenue-generating ideas.

This year we are endeavouring to secure Ball and Lord Mayor's Show sponsorship early on. It is always difficult to do over the summer, with few students being involved, and with most companies exhausting their sponsorship budgets before June. We've already approached some contacts who are thinking about the offers, and this should make things much smoother for the incoming committee (once elections happen). It will be a very helpful situation for those elected to be able to concentrate on getting their feet with organisation rather than working against the clock to find sponsorship before being able to start planning.

Representation

We have a network of over fifty representatives, across all departments and years who all report to Departmental Representatives with problems. These problems are taken to departmental Taught and Research student committees, with many problems sorted out at departmental level and those larger ones being discussed and brought to higher levels by Alex Grisman, Eirini Spentza, and myself.

While Winter term is usually spent sorting out the smaller things, we spent the first half of this term preparing for the Engineering Studies Committee and the Faculty Teaching Committee, holding a forum for all reps to come and gripe about their problems before opening up discussion. Many new problems were brought to light, and represented to the Faculty, from routine computer shortages to extremely important questions about exam failure rates and coursework setting.

When we see how effective these committees have been to our petitioning, we will proceed with more action – another forum for reps next term, and the chance for people to bring exam concerns directly to us.