

CGCU Report to Council 27th April

A note by CGCU President Mark Mearing-Smith

Introduction

As I write this City & Guilds College Union student facing side has started to slow down for the summer term. The back end will still be happening, hand over has already started and the moving of our office later this term.

Budgeting

As with all the other CSC/FUs this last term has been heavily weighed down with the budgeting round. As expected most of our clubs came in with very large requests which along with the new clubs and clubs submitting budget requests for the first time meant that CGCU went to Club & Societies Board (CSB) budgeting meeting with a large increase on last year. As expected it was cut but CGCU was able to come away with what it felt like was a fair distribution.

One issue that came out of the CSB meeting was that the current way FU's welfare and Departmental societies' buddies are funded does not sit well in the "Student Activities" that CSB money is for. The RCSU President has proposed a move to fund that part under the Representation and Welfare Board (RWB), and we hope that the relevant parties will be able to sit down later in the term to look at this which I am sure Guilds will be able to contribute significantly to.

Final allocations have been passed down to our Clubs and Societies with our internal appeals happening in the next couple of weeks. I must thank our VP(Finance & Societies) John James for all the work that he has put into the budgeting round and the help he has given to the CGCU clubs this year. Also a thank must be given to all the Chairs and Treasurers of the clubs as well.

Constitutional Changes

Guilds started this year with a constitution and regulations that had not been updated for about 4 years. The process of updating the constitution started in November with many long meetings about every minutia of change. Also changes required for the movement of postgraduate representation from the FUs to the GSA needed to be reflected. The process was completed last term

Academic Representation

Last term saw Guilds' Academic Affairs Officer Alex Grisman, myself and the DPEW attend the Engineering Studies Committee, where changes for BEng/MEng requirement for MechEng, BioEngineering course structure and the Dean's list were discussed.

Also Alex and I gave our annual delivery to the Faculty Teaching Committee where we brought up major issues that we felt needed to be addressed. These included closing the loop on SOLE, hand-written lecture notes, personal tutors, Metric and departmental computer. We have since received a response from the committee outlining what they are going to be doing.

Colours

Last term CGCU had it's AGM where colours were awarded. For full results please go to CGCU.net.

Elections

A considerable amount of my time last term was taken up by our elections. All our Exec and DepSoc positions were done online with me as the Returning Officer. There was in total 97 positions with about 130 people standing. In roughly 10 positions there were no fully seconded candidates. These positions were filled at the AGM.

Sadly there was a breach of the rules. Someone campaigned before the close of nominations which is against the rules. The problem is that an ordinary student goes online stands for a position and only when nominations are closed do they get informed of the rules. I have suggested to the Business Systems Consultant that rules are online next to the "Nomination Sheet" (what is done with paper elections) and/or they are sent any email automatically when they stand informing them of the rules. It is not feasible for the RO to be checking the website every half hour seeing who else has stood.

Nearly all of the positions in the Guilds exec were filled, with full results at CGCU.net/results.

RAG Week

As usual Guilds held its Slave Auction during RAG week which I believe was highly enjoyed by all present. Over £1,500 was raised for RAG. I must thank our RAG Coordinator Alice Rowland for organising the event and all those who were auctioned off.

Sadly Hit Squad was not out this year.

Boanerges

The President's official transport has had a very active term with transporting the Guest of Honour and the President of the CGCA to the annual CGCA dinner and taking the Rector and the CGCU President for a trip around Kensington.

The Great Egg Race

After a few years being a forgotten bag full of balsa wood, saws and leaflets from Lion's Eggs in the filing cabinets of the Guilds office, the Great Egg Race was reinstated this year with the twist of being a tester outreach event. The whole day went very well, with Dr. Crofton standing in at the last minute to give the introductory lecture and Prof Stephen Richardson judging. You can see the excellent video documentary made of it on Live! I must thank Kirsty Patterson for all her hard work she put in to the organisation and putting together the video.

I am sure that with a specific Egg Race coordinator next year it will go from strength to strength.

Live!

As always Live! is at the cutting edge of student media. I think all of the Guilds team can be proud of Live!

Alumni

As usual I attended a number of alumni meetings, OC Trust and CGCA, which are always fascinating.