

Council
16th November 2009

CGCU Summer Activity Report
A note by the City & Guilds College Union President

Apologies

First off, I apologise that this paper was not presented to the first meeting of Imperial College Union Council. I did not attend the meeting due to illness in the fortnight leading up to it and had sent apologies via the President on the day that the report was due in which were not minuted.

Summer Sabbatical

The CGCU enjoys a Summer Sabbatical Stipend courtesy of the City & Guilds Livery Companies and the Faculty of Engineering. The Sabbatical covers two months pay during the Summer Period. I began my Sabbatical on the 1st July and took one day off over the August Bank Holiday Weekend to attend the HCVS Trans Pennine Run with a CGCU club and a week off at the end of August to travel to the Isle of Wight with a different CGCU Club.

Faculty Grant

The VPFS and I attended a meeting with the Principal of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Stephen Richardson, the Academic and Alumni Relations Manager, Teresa Sergot, and a member of the Faculty Finance Team. We were awarded £9,150 in total, including £1,000 towards the Summer Sabbatical, which marks a £150 increase on last year. We have been reminded that the Summer Sabbatical and Financial Reports must be presented to the Faculty after neither report materialised for the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

Sponsorship

Using a number of contacts from previous years as well as new contacts provided by the ICU Advertising and Sponsorship Coordinator more than 50 industrial sponsors were approached along with hundreds of local companies. We received several positive responses with regards to having put together a coherent and attractive sponsorship proposal but unfortunately were unable to attract any financial support due to budget deadlines having passed and a general shortage of cash. A number of meetings have been set up for February to discuss sponsorship of CGCU for the 2010-2011 Academic Year and working relationships have been founded with a number of companies who are interested in promoting lectures through the City & Guilds College Union. In particular, a positive working relationship has been forged with the Institute of Mechanical Engineers Young members Division who have held two free lectures for Imperial College students this term and will be inviting students to take part in their young speakers competition in the Spring Term. £500 of advertising was generated for our Freshers' handbook, Spanner, from local businesses and further advertising opportunities are being pursued for a Graduating Year Book in each Engineering Department.

We have unfortunately been forced to withdraw from the Lord Mayor's Show this year following a lack of cooperation from our principal sponsor who have yet to pay us for the 2007 and 2008 shows. The £4,950 entry fee and £1,500 lorry hire cannot be justified without corporate sponsorship and we have instead chosen to host a Beer Festival at Imperial College Union on this day.

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Events

Taking inspiration from the ICSMSU, the CGCU have produced an A3 Term Planner for the Autumn detailing events going on all the way through till Christmas. Having been a bit lacking on events in previous years we have ambitiously planned at least one event every week for the Autumn term ranging from Bar Nights and a Beer Festival to Lectures, Comedy Clubs and Paintballing. The emphasis was on providing a range of activities to appeal to as many engineering Students as possible. The events line up is as follows:

Monday 5th October: CGCU Barbeque
Thursday 15th October: CGCU @ Archangel
Monday 19th October: 2nd IMechE Lecture
Thursday 22nd October: Alumni Networking Event
Friday 23rd October: Masquerade Ball
Wednesday 28th October: CGCU does Comedy Café

Thursday 5th November: Bonfire Night Barnight
Saturday 14th November: CGCU Beer Festival
Thursday 19th November: City of London Pub Crawl
Wednesday 25th November: CGCU does Comedy Café

Thursday 3rd December: CGCU Cinema All Nighter
Saturday 5th December: Engineers Paintballing
Thursday 10th December: Autumn General Meeting and Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17th December: CGCU Mince Pie Party

Representation and Democracy

CGCU is proud to have filled all of its positions for the first time in a number of years with healthy competition at a Departmental Level. We are also pleased to have had twice as many people run for Council as positions available showing that Engineers are actively engaging in the Democratic System.

The CGCU Welfare Officer worked hard during the Summer to help promote the new online Buddies System developed by the Deputy President (Welfare). However, we found buy in from the Departmental Societies was less than enthusiastic, the system clunky and not meeting our needs and its usefulness was eventually negligible to detrimental. We would like to see vast improvements and consultation with Departmental Representatives who need to operate the system before any venture is attempted in future years.

Training

As CGCU President I attended residential training with the other Executive Officers at Royal Holloway during the Summer. I was also pleased to see a better turn out from CGCU Officers at the late September Training Day held at the Union although I still think attendance from Departmental and Academic Reps could be improved upon for future events of this type.

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I've run out of room so any questions are more than welcome.

KMP/2009