

Royal College of Science Union report to Council

By RCSU President Scott Heath

RCSU Freshers' Ball

Sales for the Freshers' Ball are picking up and our aim is to have over 400 students attending – such a figure would take us past the break-even point.

The production of flyers has proven to be a great marketing tool as many people have used them to get information for the event. It has also provided the Departmental Societies with distributable materials.

Freshers' Fair

Freshers' Fair afforded the Executive Committee opportunities to meet the new students and explain the purpose of the RCSU.

For the first time in our recent history Theta, the RCSU mascot, attended the Freshers' Fair and allowed students to learn about mascotry (an example was displayed when CGCU temporarily removed the mascot).

Our position in Mechanical Engineering Foyer was limiting as it meant most footfall came from people keen on discovering what their Union and Departmental Societies do. Sadly, unlike last year's location this meant that students who were just "wandering around" were not available for interaction.

However it was a good to have the Dep Socs near by as they could send students over to find out about the RCSU does, and Dep Socs could ask questions of us when necessary.

RCSU Bookshop

A keen bout of emailing to both the Undergraduate and Postgraduate community has seen the RCSU Bookshop restock in textbooks, and also encouraged several students to visit the RCSU Office.

This year it has also been decided to allow the CGCU to list books based on Engineering in the RCSU Bookshop. We hope this will be beneficial to the student body as a whole and allow the Bookshop to grow into a one-stop location for cheap textbooks

Summer Re-Freshers Survey

Over the summer a survey was conducted with the UG population of the Faculty. 170 entries were received across all Departments (including JMC) and spread across all year groups.

A report is being prepared on the results to deliver to all relevant committees, in the hope that the data can shape future policy.

Constitutional Commission

A commission dedicated to structured and necessary alterations of the RCSU Constitution was passed in the first RCSU Executive Meeting. This will allow a review of all Departmental Society constitutions and Officer positions as well allowing for amendments to the existing RCSU constitution.

Buddy System

All Dep Socs are actively involved in the Buddy System, having held or intending to hold a Buddy lunch over the next week.

The Buddy Quiz is being organised by all Dep Socs and ChemSoc has scheduled the first one for 3 weeks time.

The Buddy Bar Night has been suspended whilst we try to find a feasible date, but it is expected to go ahead in the first term.

Post-Graduate Participation

After emailing the PG population 2 candidates have stepped forward to assist the RCSU in PG Representation and events. We are hoping to formulate short- and long- term plans to increase participation as well as arranging a Post-Graduate Event in the next term.

RAG Participation

The RCSU has begun its organisation of the RCSU-CGCU RAG Ball, expected to be on Tuesday 9th November.

We are also looking to add a RAG officer to the committee in order to help achieve the RCSU goal of increased charitable contributions from the scientific community.

Science Challenge

Last years RCSU President Katya-yani Vyas has volunteered herself to lead the Science Challenge as chair. She is planning to work closely with last years chair in order to deliver a highly successful event.

Careers Focus

Deutsche Bank have kindly sponsored the RCSU, and as part of their terms the we shall be holding an event titled "Scientists into Banking."

This has worked favourably as we are planning to run a series of career-focused lectures across the year.

Office Alterations

Reorganisation: The office has been rearranged to increase the space accessible to the student body and members of the RCSU Clubs, Societies and Committees.

Office Sign: The purchase of a swinging pavement sign has already seen fruition, as students are now readily able to notice the RCSU Office corridor when walking down Sherfield Walkway.

Coffee Machine: A coffee machine was purchased in hope of bringing more students to the office to discuss issues relating to their course or personal life.