



CGCU Summer Activity Report

A note by the City & Guilds College Union President – Lejon Chua

Faculty Grant

The application for the Faculty Grant was made collaboratively by the CGCU and RSMU. Due to the fact that the RSMU is at the ICU Club, Society or Project level the full combined (at the time of the application for the grant) allocation would be distributed to CGCU Exec first before the RSMU portion is to be disseminated by us to RSMU Exec. The CGCU has been in constant dialogue with the RSMU with regards to their requirements and have consolidated the details before arranging the application meeting with the Academic and Alumni Relations Manager, Dr. Teresa Sergot, and a Faculty Finance Officer, Mr. Andrew Stagg. The actual sum awarded came under three categories and these were £4475 for CGCU, £1875 for RSMU and £2800 for Joint Items. The Joint Items fund category facilitates activities shared by both the CGCU and RSMU including the Departmental Societies' Allowance, Media and Hospitality. The grant is to be disbursed in two parts; the first just before fresher's fair and the second after furnishing Mr. Stagg with an initial report on fresher's week activities.

CGCU Sub-committee Meetings and Training

The first CGCU management and taught student affairs group meetings cum training session will be held sometime in the third week of October, organised by Yuchen, our Vice-President of Finance & Societies. Attendance is mandatory for the whole CGCU Exec team, departmental representatives, chairs and treasurers of each club and society managed by the CGCU. The Academic Affairs Officer will provide training for departmental representatives while the Vice-President of Finance & Societies will provide financial training for the chairs and treasurers. A small informal social will be held after the training to serve to bond all student representatives under the arm of the CGCU.

The CGCA Meet the Union Event

The CGCA Meet the Union event is to be held at Zetland Arms for the first time on the 26th of September and is organised collaboratively by Nigel Cresswell, the CGCA Honorary Secretary and William Gonsalves, our CGCA Officer. A total of 30 people has been registered to attend, 10 of them being alumni and the other 20 made up of the CGCU committee or departmental representatives. A finger-buffet will be served.

Departmental Welcome Presentations

Over the summer CGCU welcome presentations for freshers have been set up with each of the academic departments under our umbrella. These presentations have been scheduled across the first week in the Autumn Term and last a maximum of thirty minutes each. The presentations aimed to briefly outline the position of our Constituent Union within the ICU as well as the freshers' relationship with us. Furthermore it was to introduce the CGCU Exec team, the CGCU mascots, the ICU election system as well as the events and help we would be able to offer. We will also present the various important avenues that we get reach out to the student body and vice versa.

Freshers' Fair

The CGCU was allocated stall reference MEF15 (MechEng Foyer) at the 2013 Freshers' Fair. The stall is to be manned at all times with officers on duties welcoming members of the Faculty of Engineering, explaining what the CGCU stands for to students or faculty members who have not yet attended our departmental welcome presentations. There will be two mini-games, namely "Pin the nut on the bolt" and "Bicep Curl the bolt" for fresher's to win prizes.

The CGCU executive committee will be wearing our newly designed T-shirts and handing two different freebies including stress bolts and juice-filled shot glasses. Flyers for our welcome dinner will also be distributed at our booths.

CGCU Welcome Dinner

The CGCU Welcome Dinner & After-Party event has been reinstated after a year of respite, and is confirmed to be held on Wednesday 22-Oct at Café De Paris. The event will begin from 7pm in the evening with a welcome drink served, a three course dinner including two free drinks (either a glass of house wine or house beer or non-alcoholic drinks) will be followed by a notable after party. Two ticket options have been made available, namely, £30 for Welcome Reception (100 £26 early bird tickets) and £8 for After-Party. Significant sponsorship has been attained for events this year adding a greater ability to subsidise such events and to allow the opening up of socialising opportunities for Freshers of the Faculty and other students.

Election of two unfilled positions

As both the CGCA Officer and Guildsheet editor positions were unfilled after the 2013 Big Elections, a call for nominations followed by ordinary general meeting elections were held during the summer. As the CGCU no longer produces the guildsheet, the committee unanimously agreed, hinging on a call by the previous president Paul Beaumont to submit a new and updated constitution (concomitantly with ICU restructuring), to amend the position title from Guildsheet editor to Media and Marketing Officer, a more encompassing role for all design and publicity work. Eventually, both William Gonsalves and Yuebi Yang were voted into the CGCA Officer position and Guildsheet editor positions respectively based on single transferrable vote. It was crucial that we elected both officers during the summer as major ongoing CGCU projects, such as the Fresher's Handbook and the CGCA Meet the Union event, involved their roles heavily. Nominations for year group representatives within each of the nine academic departments run alongside the ICU schedule.

Fresher's Handbook

The CGCU has written its own yearly handbook – the Spanner. It describes the different aspects of CGCU. This year, the handbook is 40 pages in length with RSMU's contribution of 2 pages. The increase in the number of pages is due to the CGCU executive committee getting full-length photo and write-up features to make us more known and memorable to the freshers and promote potential engagement. Copies have been printed alongside the ICU publications and they have been delivered to the Freshers homes before their arrival. International freshers will be getting their copies delivered to their halls.

Online publicity

A new twitter account has been set-up by the CGCU committee and the facebook page revamped. It has been decided that to promote a brand identity, the mascot bearers will spearhead both twitter facebook activities. The CGCU is also having a new website and it will be launched during fresher's week.

Office Refurbishment Project

As part of an initiative to revive the CGCU brand, a plan to refurbish and paint the CGCU Office at 340 City and Guilds building (used to be called Mech Eng Building) was proposed. Although the paintwork was not approved as refurbishment of the room was already part of a 5 year long plan to revamp and upgrade the entire C & G building, we managed to acquire new furniture and computers through the faculty funding.