



CGCU Report

Andrew Olson – CGCU President

Handover

The handover was quite sloppy. Due to the injury of the previous president, I was “thrown into the job”. As a result, a good part of my time was spent just trying to figure out how everything worked.

The CGCU finances were also dubious. The previous CGCU committee never wrote a Christmas report on what the money was spent (meaning we never got the second half of our grant), so I had to liaise with both the Faculty and the Union regarding these financial issues. In the end though everything was fine.

Also, it is important to mention that I had to organize everything myself, due to my Vice President of Activities being out of the country from early June to early October and my Vice President of Finance not signing the financial responsibility form until after Freshers’ week.

DepSocs

I’ve been overseeing the creation of the Design Engineering Society, and worked closely with Cyin and the Design Eng department to make sure the new students are integrated into the CGCU and Imperial.

Currently Design Engineering has two year reps, one of them serving as Dep Rep. They are working with the Mech Eng reps and Pari, the CGCU Academics Affairs Officer.

I negotiated an increase in the grant that the DepSocs receive, and the feedback I got is that this particularly helps the smaller societies.

I am currently organising a workshop on how to run a DepSoc effectively, chaired by DoCsoc, ChemEngsoc and the CGCU to try to help the smaller DepSocs to grow.

Alumni

I’ve been increasing our ties with the CGCA, and worked with alumni to try to bring some interesting events to our students (CGCA debate, draft of a Guilds Engineering Competition). We organised a very successful workshop for the DepSocs, bringing alumni from specific departments and presenting them to the societies. After the workshop, which included a

Union Council
27 October 2015

nice meal and some drinks at the “Dirty Bones” in High Street Kensington, all DepSocs had ideas on how to integrate more effectively alumni into the Imperial life. The feedback I got from that evening was very positive.

Freshers' Fair

We can confidently say that freshers' fair was a success. Many students learned about the role of the CGCU. They also got copies of “the Spanner” (our booklet), CGCU Oyster card holders and condoms. We also encouraged them to put the CGCU jackets on and try to lift Bolt and Spanner, while we took pictures for Facebook. This proved very popular.

Welcome Dinner

Welcome Dinner was held at the same venue as last year as they gave us a very good prize. However, by this point the only people engaged in the CGCU committee were me and the events officer, which led to a not very well planned publicity campaign. Our social media presence was strong, however not enough posters and emails were set up. This, combined with clash with halls events and (from the information I got from other people) the smaller interest for formal dinners this year's freshers have led to poor attendance. The feedback I got from the people who came was very positive, but the sustainability of these events must be studied.

Push for Welfare and CGCU's connection to the freshers

Unlike previous years, the CGCU has given a talk to every Engineering department, introducing the freshers to the concepts of a CU, the Union's role, elections, mascotry... I gave these talks alongside the AAO and the Welfare officer. They each had a slide and approximately 3-5 minutes where they explained their roles, and how to get help if needed. I also included a list of important numbers and contacts, both in the presentation and in the Spanner. We are trying make our students aware of the services available to them, and push for mental, sexual and physical health.

Sponsorship

I inherited a deal with Shell which barely pays for the publishing of Spanner. One of our main aims is to get sensible sponsorship so we can raise some money fro events and hopefully leave our future successors in an easier economic position that the one we inherited.

Union Council
27 October 2015

CGCU Football League

We have organised a football league that has proven immensely successful, with over 11 teams from 7 different departments joining us. We've already hosted two matches, attracting people that wouldn't necessarily have the time to join a sports team but want to have some fun playing football. This is a proof of concept that is very easy to modify and adapt for the future (different sport, letting one "foreign" department join us, CGCU committee team participating...)

Conclusion

This has been a mediocre start of the year towards students. This is I believe a combination of my personal mistakes caused by an unsupportive committee, and what I believe is a wrong focus on what the CGCU should do. I think that as Imperial students change we should do the same. Students don't want to spend a lot of money in a dinner, less and less people drink at Imperial; and with 3700 undergraduates in the faculty of Engineering, students might feel more closely aligned towards their departmental society than the CGCU itself. However, I believe that we can play a role in providing interesting and insightful events across all Engineering at the same time as working with DepSocs to ensure continuity and effective communication with the student body, apart from our classic roles of academic representation and welfare.