



City and Guilds College Union

Union Council

End of Year Report

Summary:

The CGCU has had a successful year so far. We have seen growth since last year in terms of activities as well as sponsorship and alumni engagement. We have revamped our regalia and updated our website. We have continued to represent our students in all areas regarding welfare and academics.

Events

A note by David Moores, VPA

Since the time of the last report, the CGCU has run several events. These have engaged well with members, increasing the visibility of the Union, and providing extra services to students.

1. Quiz Night

This was a casual get together to build community spirit. It was a free event - we had 70 sign-ups but an attendance of around 50. We served pizza, and overall it was an enjoyable event (apparently some of the questions were too hard)

2. Tri-Union Take-Over (Bar night in Metric)

This is a traditional event between the CGCU, RCSU, and RSMU. We all got together to organise it, and it was successful with around 250 guests. The event helps keep amicable tri-union contact, and we hope to repeat this event next year and are going to work with the Union/ Beit venues to organise the date to be on a Wednesday, away from ACC night.

3. Mince Pie Party

This was a Christmas event in which we gave out free mince pies on Dalby court to raise some seasonal cheer.



4. Valentine's Day Pop-up stand - see Welfare section

5. Women in Engineering

WIE was an event designed to promote engineering as a career amongst women. A panel of six successful female engineers, including Dame Judith Hackitt, President of the CGCA, the alumni body for Imperial Engineers. The panel each in turn spoke about their careers, giving help, advice, and tips. The floor was then opened to questions, with the ~50 attendees having to be stopped asking questions after an hour. This was followed by a networking event over food and drink provided by college catering.

We were able to cover the costs of the event via sponsorship from CGCA, WES, ICE and other institutes. We engaged with several postgraduate students and even some staff members at this event.

5. CGCU Festival

The CGCU festival engaged students. Hundreds flocked to metric within minutes of the opening time. An array of competitions, games, and challenges were on offer for the students to complete. At 8pm, metric turned into a karaoke bar, much to the amazement of all involved. About 400 people came at some point during the afternoon.

6. Sports

We have had a Football league. Teams from all over the union have entered, and despite tough away games in Hyde park for some sides, the finalists have been decided. The final will be played soon, everyone is really excited.

7. Upcoming event: CGCU Colours/ End of Year Celebration



Finances

A note by Andrew Olson Gallardo, VPFS

At the moment we have around £8k, but things we have to buy (welfare) and events to run (colours). We aim at finishing the year with £6.5k, which will keep us in line with what the CGCU had at the beginning of the year. We have had higher expenditure this year, but this has been offset by new sponsorship, which shows that we are growing.

Academics

A note by Claudia Caravello, AAO

In addition to the many meetings I attend as AAO, I have also chosen to attend the SSLC meetings of every engineering department in first term, so I am able to understand each department better and be able to represent them better in faculty meetings. Having attended all these meetings, I have then feedback to the dep reps about what's going well, what they could improve on, and discussed things that needed to be followed up on. Where I feel satisfied that the dep reps are chairing/participating in SSLC meetings and were doing well at looking after the year reps, I stopped attending that departments SSLC meetings and continue to liaise with them through the slack/face-to-face instead.

I have worked closely with Luke (DPE) and Beth (AAO of RSM) to discuss TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework), HEP (Higher Education Policy), and the Zero Tolerance Policy, as well as sorting out small issues within departments. I also sat on the funding review group for the Higher Education Policy.

I continually check up on all dep reps and have recently worked with a department to deal with a complaint about a fire alarm during an exam, and with issues in design eng about late publishing of tutorial solutions and exam solutions.

Welfare

A note by Fintan O'Connor, Welfare Officer

- Sexual health supplies have continued to be offered to any CGCU students requesting them from

the office. Waffle, a social app start-up gave us 800 condoms in return for giving their publicity through an email to our members.

On Valentine's Day, we ran a pop-up stand in Dalby court, handing out condoms and lube, as well as information on emergency contraception. Posters from a consent campaign run by Cambridge Students' Union were also printed for the desk. Event was well-received. Hopefully increased some awareness of the CU's sexual health provision, as well as promoting healthy and responsible attitudes towards sex.

I collaborated with Emily-Jane (DPW) and Sky Yarlett on Under Pressure for the last week of autumn term. This was a campaign on promoting healthy attitudes towards, and coping mechanisms for dealing with stress, as well as a number of other student issues. I also helped campaign for the promotion of the second Under Pressure in March.

I interviewed the candidate for the new college role of Director of Student Services (DSS) as part of a panel of students. We represented students so that we get a candidate who will work with us for the best student welfare outcomes. This was in collaboration with EJ and Luke McCrone (DPE).

Milia and I took part in mental health first aid training on February 14th.

The CGCU, ran a successful Mince Pie Party and 'Women in Engineering' seminar style event. This brought a number of high profile women in engineering to Imperial on the evening of February 13th. The talk was well attended, and the audience, who were very engaged, found it quite beneficial.

The CGCU committee has introduced a Deputy Welfare Officer position for the coming year 2017/18.

We newly introduced provision of free tampons and sanitary towels as of March 9th, available from the CGCU office. All credit to Alice Jackson and Milia Hasbani.

There was a welfare stand at the CGCU Festival which included promotion of Under Pressure and highlighting of provision of welfare services as well as distribution of sexual health supplies, Under Pressure fliers, and Advice Centre fliers.

Unfortunately we were unable to run a Dog Therapy event due to the coordinator at the charity being on leave for a long time, but the rest of the planning with the faculty and this process will be passed on to next year's committee. Ideally we would aim to organise more events and campaigns that have a longer term effect.

Clubs and Societies

A note by Andrew Olson Gallardo, VPFS

In addition to holding management group meetings, helping the clubs with advice, and budgeting, here are a few updates:

1. New addition to CGCU

We welcome a new society, Drone Society. They had a very successful launch event, with high profile speakers such as Mirko Kovach, from the Aerial Robotics Lab at the Aeronautics department. They aim to provide a forum to discuss ideas for unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as bringing speakers and building their own drones.

2. MG Restructure

Milia and I worked with DPCS as well as with other MG chairs to try to design a Management Group

restructure. The end result was a very good compromise that recognises the added value of the Constituent Unions and fosters connections between societies to solve common problems, which will help CGCU societies grow.

3. CGCU grant

The CGCU has helped DepSocs with the CGCU grant scheme, where a Depsoc can apply for a specific event with the aim of either promoting welfare or “turning around” the society and try to engage more students. For example, we have granted CivSoc and MechEngSoc money for their respective Mums and Dads scheme. BioEngSoc received money for their joint HealthHack with DocSoc and MedTech society.

4. Miscellaneous CGCU MG items

DocSoc ran very successfully their biggest ever ICHACK yet, and with BioEngSoc and MedTech they ran the first HealthHack competition. Both hackathons featured prizes and corporate sponsors such as Microsoft.

The CGCU is pioneering a handover scheme where we will build an archive on an online repository of all handovers for all clubs, with the aim of ensuring smoother handovers in the future even in the case of the officers “disappearing” during the last term.

Alumni relations

A note by Milia Hasbani, President

We have had a successful year in terms of coordination with the CGCA, the alumni arm of the Faculty of Engineering. Andrei and myself have regularly attended CGCA and OC Trust committee meetings and some events. The CGCA have offered sponsorship for the Welcome Ball and the Women in Engineering event. Dame Judith Hackett was a speaker at the WIE event and helped us engage with other alumni speakers. The CGCA have also funded 2 new computers for the CGCU Office. We are currently working with them on restoring the CGCU Officer Shields to be displayed in the City and Guilds Building. We are also helping them engage with current students through our events.

We have also been handing out OC Trust Cheques including Student Activity Awards, Postgraduate Travel Awards, and Elliot Trust bursaries from the CGCU Office.

Some alumni events we have attended include:

- I attended the Carpenters’ Company Luncheon for Christmas (The Carpenters’ company funds the CGC President’s Summer Sabbatical)
- I laid a wreath on behalf of the student community and to honour students named in the City and Guilds War Memorials on Remembrance Day.
- David Moores, VPA, attended the RSMA annual dinner
- Alice Jackson, Honorary Secretary, attended the CGCA 5 and 10 year reunion
- Several committee members attended the CGCA Annual dinner, in which the Holbein Memorial award was awarded to the CGCU Sportsperson of the year, Rocio Alvarez
- Andrei Pogan, CGCA Officer, attended the Imperial College Livery Shield Rededication
- I will be attending the FGCI dinner where we will also be awarding the recipient of the FGCI President’s award.
- Milia, Andrei, and Claudia (as next year’s President) will be attending the CGCA AGM

Regalia

A note by Milia Hasbani, President

Thanks to Karolina Sokolowska, our regalia officer, we have introduced new silk CGCU ties and cufflinks and have been selling these alongside our traditional scarves. We have also been looking at how to diversify our stock and push for more female-focussed regalia, so we have recently introduced CGCU beanies, and have several ideas for future committees.

Other/Admin

A note by Milia Hasbani, President

Over the past year we have moved back into our old office which was being renovated. Our webmaster, Andrew Hill has redesigned the website and this project will be continued by next year's officer. We have also amended our regulations to include 2 new officers - a deputy welfare officer and an honorary treasurer.

Moving Forward

A note by Milia Hasbani, President

We are very pleased with how the year has passed and have managed to expand our activities and increase our presence. We weren't able to complete all our preliminary plans and ideas, but we have learnt a lot and we will pass this on to future committees. We hope to see a continuation in growth and engagement in future years. We currently have 2 unfulfilled Exec committee positions for next year - events officer and the RAG coordinator. Some of the suggestions from next year include a constitution and regulation review, introduction of a newsletter, and more discussions about the possibility of introducing a year long sabbatical role for the President. We have been working with ICU to improve training with officers all around and are confident that we will see some of this training take place during this year's handover. We are also looking to expand our membership to postgraduate students as we have managed to engage with them slightly over the past year and feel that both parties will benefit from this change, if/when it happens.