

January 2020 Council Report

CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION

“The Aims of the City & Guilds College Union:

- To further the academic, welfare, sporting, recreational, and social interests of students of the Faculty of Engineering.
- To encourage, promote, and support our clubs and societies.
- To represent the needs and interests of Engineering Students to College, ICU, and external bodies.”



The CGCU has gone through a small but noticeable period of turbulence following the resignation of the previous President. The Union have been helpful in conducting an election and a new President and Vice President were elected at the end of last term.

We are looking at continuing to have a successful year and would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and dedication.

Events

The committee have been very hands-on in planning, organising and executing more events this year than before. These have included a Town Hall, which encourage first years to run for representation and union positions, and an industry event with a Mechanical Engineering alumnus who is a Forbes 30 under 30 CEO. Also, the Diversity in Engineering was once again held this year in collaboration with DoCSoc, EESoc, ChemEngSoc and BioEngSoc. It was renamed to Faces in Engineering in order to not discourage any demographics from attending the event, and based off sponsor feedback from last year. It had panellists from Bloomberg, American Express, Qualcomm, Shell and Cisco. Expanding on MechSoc's traditional event, the Mince Pie and Mulled Wine evening was also held.



Furthermore, a CGCU-CGCA meet and greet was hosted by the CGCA so that DepSocs could find out more about how they could engage with and use the resources that the Alumni can provide to help them run their society. It was evidently successful as depsecs have been in contact with CGCA members for advice and funding. The sports league has also been very successful, with around 28 teams of 5.

Communications

The Comms team have continued their excellent work in promoting the work of our societies and keeping our constituents up-to-date and informed through our fortnightly newsletter, Engineers' Editorial. They ran promotional campaigns for all the events listed above, encouraging a high turnout so many benefitted from these events. For example, the turnout of Faces of Engineering increased by 200% from last year. For the first time ever, they also livestreamed the panel, and we look to be incorporating livestreaming into future events so all engineers can benefit even if they are not able to attend on the night.



We had a hoodie pre-order at the start of the year, selling personalised CGCU hoodies similar to those of committee. The Guildsheet editors have been contacting various cohorts and societies in gathering a draft for the first publication as we are looking to release an issue of in mid-February. Hopefully we will be getting some Colours pins made so they can be awarded this year in rewarding reps in the Engineering departments that have gone beyond and above advocating for students.

Clubs & Societies

Since the previous council report, another Management Group meeting was held to explain the process of Budgeting and inform senior volunteers about the Rent Debate to encourage attendance to the special Union Council.

We have also had a focus on improving the financial operations of the Union, working with the RCSU recently to bring a sponsorship paper to the Officer Trustees. We aim to streamline the sponsorship contract approval process with eActivities. The paper has been delegated to the CSPB and has been added to the backlog of the Systems team to be done.

Our Clubs & Societies team have been very hands-on and a great help during the transitional period while the new President was applying for Financial Responsibility. They have also provided a detailed budgeting guide to our clubs and societies and have helped immensely with any problems they have faced. We are looking forward to ICHack coming up soon, which usually means a lot of CGCU involvement (namely using our storage space and helping with large expenditure).

Education

Our Education team has done a great job in representing the academic needs of our constituents. They have been representing the students in ERB and the Union Council. A Faculty SSC was chaired in conjunction with RSM VP of Education which was attended by the Head of Education and Student Experience Strategy, the Vice Dean of Education, the Faculty Senior Tutor, and the Departmental Reps of all the departments in the Faculty of Engineering. Useful points were brought up and problems brought to the attention of relevant staff. It also increased the communications between the rep teams from different departments. Most of the rep teams have been met with and they will be looking to spread any good practice, such as MechEng's continuous feedback loop, from one department to the others.

Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Chair and Officer have been very proactive. Several free yoga sessions were held in conjunction with the YogaSoc and all sessions were fully attended. They are currently running a campaign to spread awareness of the free sexual health and sanitary supplies available in the CGCU Office. The campaign also spreads awareness of the available resources to students for mental health support and for mitigating circumstances. This was done through leaving cards around the campus with contacts such as Nightline and the LGBT+ Switchboard. A wellbeing issue of the Engineer's Editorial has also been sent out as part of the campaign.



Unfortunately, Dog Therapy was unable to be held last term due to scheduling issues from the Charity, however we are looking to incorporate it in future events. Moreover, there are plans to hold a LGBT+ Careers event in collaboration with IQ and the Alan Turing Institute.

Future Plans

The committee will be focused on running our flagship event - the C&G Week, in the upcoming term. It will last from the 10th to the 14th of February and it will include events such as Dog Therapy, an Entrepreneurship Fair, a Valentines bar night, a Townhall, a pub-quiz, a Queen's Tower tour in conjunction with RAG, and a Valentine's day stand. The publication of the first Guildsheet of the year would hopefully also coincide with the week.

We have plans down the line to release another round of merch including items such as enamel pins and scarfs.

Last year's CGCU Colours did not go ahead due to time constraints. However, we will be looking to do so this year and will be opening nominations for it around March.

For the upcoming Leadership Election, we have made plans to promote it and spread awareness of the roles within the CGCU through channels such as roll banners, posters, social media posts from the current position holders, and the Townhall.

Overall, last term has been very successful with many events ran and wide student-participation. We will look to continually support our chairs and officers in carrying out their great work.