



CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION

Council Report II



“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.”*



OVERVIEW

This report provides a summary of all the activities that the City & Guilds College Union has focused on since January, as well as the general goals for the upcoming term.

Continuing the focus of building bonds within our Engineering Student body, CGCU this term stays very active. We are continuing to host events that involve all our Engineering CSPs, through the continuation of our tradition of C&G week, and through collaboration with other CUs. Similarly to last term, we are taking more active roles in contacting and collaborating with the CGCU CSP, Well-being and Academic representatives this term to better represent all our Engineering student in the Faculty.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- Daniel Zhuo

CGCU has had a good start to the term, and we have had many opportunities to stay active and build meaningful connections with our students and other CUs, all thanks to the hard work of our committee members and those from other CUs and from the Union. Similar to last term, we have held several effective meetings, worked together to introduce events, and represented the faculty students. Compared to last term, we have co-opted a new Welfare Chair and a new Communication Chair in place, who have worked hard to improve the general student experience on campus and stay connected with our students.

From the beginning of this year, we want to give special thanks to the ICSMSU, who collaborated and promoted the Phoenix Ball together with us. We have maintained the traditional events that the previous committee has left for us (including CGCU X DoCSoc Boat Party and Engineering Sport Day) and are building on new ones. This year, we reintroduced the Inter-Departmental Football Tournament, and we are aiming to reintroduce the CGCU Sport League again and play with other CUs. We also had the opportunity to host C&G Week this year in full swing with an event every day for 5 days during the week. We hope that by hosting these events, our engineering students will have a better student experience, and we are looking forward to hosting more events for our students in the future and better representing them.

Continuing to build strong connections with our alumni associations (CGCA and OC Trust) and Faculty of Engineering, we organized the Alumni Bar Night with the Alumni at the Union Bar. We hosted the night with over 30 alumni from the FoE and many students. It was the first attempt to make this kind of direct connection event between alumni and students, and we are planning to expand these kinds of events in the future. In addition to this, we also represented CGCU and invited our students to join us at the CGCA Dinner and OC Trust Luncheon, which were great successes, and everybody enjoyed the event with our esteemed alumni.

We have worked with the academic and welfare representative this term, including a survey sent asking for feedback and areas where we can better represent them. We



have managed to start fulfilling their requests, which included a bigger Welfare stall on Valentine's Day, where free teddy bears and roses were given away and a charity funding initiative for an LGBT Foundation Charity Organization was set by the Welfare Stall. We are currently discussing the support we can help and promote our kind DPW's plan to better inform our students about safe sex practices. This term, thanks to our LGBTQ+ Officer, Avi, we were able to keep contact with the Civil Rainbow Bridge LGBTQ+ society, which enabled us to promote their events. We will support all our disabled, LGBTQ+, and minority student groups through more events, feedback surveys, and the promotion of relevant posts and ideas.

In terms of CSPs of CGCU, we are re-establishing better connections with them than before. At the current stage, CGCU is actively making deeper connections with all our engineering CSPs, not only limited in contacting them for MG1 meetings, but discussing collaboration on the Engineering Hackathon and about inter-departmental sport events. We have also sent out CSP Feedback forms and initiated monthly CGCU interactive CSP discussion sessions open to all our students. Our aim remains the same – we want to build stronger connections with our clubs while hoping to help and support our CSPs to be stronger. We are currently working out our final budget for this year, and we are hoping to make some meaningful contributions to our CSPs if they are struggling by the end of this year.

We are also proud to continue the tradition of giving our CGCU awards to those who have made significant contributions towards the success of the Guilds, including in CSPs and to the student body directly. We are aiming to make this year's badges and awards more meaningful and plan to give more credit to our departmental and year reps who are helping our students to have a more successful past and the remainder of the year ahead. We thank all those students dedicating their time to make CGCU and our student experience better.

Overall, again it is very exciting to see CGCU doing great this term and building many meaningful connections. I'd love to sincerely thank the active committee members in the Guilds and all those who aided us in the process from the Union and from the Guilds, making all of this possible. We will continue to try our best to make this year the best one!



ACTIVITIES

- Sky Wang

Activities Report for CGCU

As we approach the end of spring term, it is with a sense of pride and reflection that we present this summary of activities that have shaped the essence of CGCU. Throughout the past months, our collective journey has been marked by challenges met with resilience and triumphs celebrated with shared joy. In the tapestry of experiences that define our community, we find a rich mosaic of events that have not only brought us together but have also strengthened the bonds that form the very fabric of our Imperial Students.

Review of the 2024 spring term:

1. Interdepartmental football tournament

Bringing together departments from various disciplines, the event transcended academic boundaries and fostered a sense of unity among participants. Against the backdrop of spirited matches, the atmosphere was further elevated with an array of delectable food, refreshing drinks, and wholesome fruits provided for all attendees. Laughter and cheers echoed through the park as teams displayed their skills and sportsmanship. In the end, it was a triumphant victory for the Chemical Engineering department, securing the coveted first place. The tournament not only showcased the athletic prowess of our academic community but also highlighted the importance of collaboration, fun, and shared experiences beyond the lecture halls and labs.

2. Phoenix Ball

It was an event collaborated with ICSMSU. It was a nice riverside place where students had black tie dress codes. I would say all the people enjoyed listening to the music and making new friends. Specifically, there was a roast marshmallow table that got tons of positive feedback!

3. C&G Week:

C&G week is a traditional week when serial activities are organized through that week. It is a good chance for students to expand their network. So, this year, we conceived memorable activities.

3.1 Tuesday - Bowling Night

We had a fun-filled evening planned. We started with a quick run-through of the basic rules for those who might be new to bowling. After that, we formed teams, hit the lanes for some friendly competition, and took breaks in between to relax, chat, and enjoy some refreshments. We also had some exciting prizes and awards to spice things up.

3.2 Wednesday - Dog petting session

The Dog Petting event emerged as a successful initiative, uniting participants in an experience marked by genuine joy, relaxation, and the therapeutic benefits of connecting with our canine companions. The atmosphere was filled with smiles and moments of connection, reflecting the positive impact of engaging with our furry friends. This reflection on the event highlights the importance of such experiences in fostering community well-being and strengthening the bond between humans and dogs.



3.3 Thursday- Alumni Bar Night

On Thursday, we provided a fantastic opportunity for students to communicate with graduated perceptual alumni. Students got useful experiences and valuable advice. Also, for alumni, they got familiar with current student situations and provided helpful methods.

3.4 CGCA Annual Dinner

The occasion presented a unique and highly esteemed gathering, with distinguished figures in attendance, including the esteemed President of Imperial College London, a myriad of respected professors, accomplished alumni, and the vibrant student body. This convergence of influential individuals created an atmosphere rich with intellectual fervor and collaborative spirit.

3.5 CGCU X DoCSoc Boat Party

We decided to end our C&G week with a spectacular boat party on River Times with Doc soc. We embarked on the luxury cruise, with the city's light as background and stars above. Students dressed fantastically to meet new people and discover the beauty of London. During the cruising time, abundant snacks and drinks are supplied ranging from raspberry whiskey and canapes.

Conclusion:

In general, all the events went successfully. People got relaxed, entertained throughout their whole terms. Much appreciation for our president and the rest of CGCU Committee members.

4. Future Events

4.1 Club Night Embargo: 21st March, weekends are preferred. We have started the negotiation with the venue that was reserved by the previous committee. The expected attendance of the event is roughly 150 people.

4.2 CGCU X RCSU X UCL – Pride Heaven Collab

The collaboration between CGCU, RCSU and UCL Union is currently being planned. Thanks to the effort from RCSU, and we will try our best to collaborate with them to make this event as fun as possible.



COMMUNICATION

General Update:

We are able to focus on sponsorship and promotion of our highlighted student through Guildsheet interviews and journals. Internally, we kept the CGCU Wikipedia updated with all feedbacks gained from the student and adding all the comment we have in organising the event for the future committee.

Review of the 2024 Spring Term:

1. Sponsorship Update

The sponsorship brochure for the Engineering Hackathon was created, and emails were sent out to potential sponsors. Currently we have 4 sponsors who are willing to make some contribution towards our Engineering Hackathon, which include IET and Aston Martin F1 (and from ADF that ICU generously gave us!). We are currently shifting the date of the hackathon back into early June, and we are looking for more internal sponsors from the College and doing collaborations with other sustainable and Engineering societies to make the event as fun as possible.

In dealing with the CGCU LinkedIn account being unusable, we have contacted the LinkedIn account and asking for password reset or delete of the account. Despite many emails sent and asking for this to be done as soon as possible, we are stuck with no response from the LinkedIn customer service team. If there is any suggestion of how to get this issue sorted, please let us know.

3. General Social Media Updates

Our communication teams continued creating interesting and eye-catching posts for the CGCU Social Media accounts. We are adding more stories and memories into the account for the future committee and our students to know who we are and what we do. We have also started the collaboration between our CSP Teams, and the marketing and communication team will be more involved in promoting events that these clubs and societies are organizing. One highlight of the social media publicity is that we have gained over 30% of followers on Instagram now comparing to the beginning of the year, which indicate a positive success from all the posts we are making for our student audiences.

4. Mascotry Tradition

This year, the team is focusing on making our students more aware of our mascots, which include Spanner and Bolt, Vintage Car Bo', and Motorbike Derrick. This term, we seized Theta from RCSU and have been promoting all of the mascot traditions with our student via emails and Instagram stories. We hope that more students can be aware of this fun tradition and enjoy it as part of their experience at Imperial.

5. Communication File Reorganization

Continue working on this year's focus on reorganising CGCU Internal Wikipedia, which was abandoned and had minimal usage last academic year. We are updating the files and the experience we have gained from hosting each event for the future committee to make their life easier. Hopefully by the end of this year we are able to complete the feedback and add all the experience we have for all the events we have hosted this year and update all the missing pages.



WELFARE

Review of the 2024 Spring Term:

We have organized one CGCU Free Breakfast session this year before the end of Christmas break. This free Stress-Period Breakfast supplies for students during the stressful exam periods in the morning. The goal is to offer students a healthy breakfast to better prepare them for exams. This initiative will be repeated during the End of March and early May exam periods, and CGCU will continue providing free breakfast for students.

We have also made the welfare stall bigger on the Valentine's Day based on the feedback from our Welfare representative from each year. This year we were able to give out free charity flowers and free teddy bears, along which we were able to fundraise for LGBT Foundation charity organisation. There is also a new initiative from our DPW this term to focus on the need and awareness of sexual health in our student body. To address this, CGCU aims to prioritize student well-being by providing sexual health and hygiene products in our office for private distribution. Rest assured, CGCU will continue actively promoting safe sexual conduct and consent culture.

Collaboration with Engineering Wellbeing Representatives:

In conjunction with the Academic Team, we sent questionnaires to students to understand their concerns and worries better, allowing us to provide more effective assistance. This has already been started, and this is how we gained more awareness of our students' need for a free breakfast session and the desire for a bigger Welfare Stall. Student stress, particularly regarding coursework deadlines during the Christmas break, remains a concern and will be discussed and represented in the FEC by the Academic teams. We will make sure that all our representatives are there by the Union Welfare discussion to promote awareness and the needs of our students.

CGCU Goals:

This term, CGCU has focused on multiple Welfare events, which include the Dog Petting session during the C&G week, Valentine's Day Welfare Stall, the support and promotion of our LGBTQ+ society (big shout out for our LGBTQ+ Officer and Civil Rainbow Bridge) to the broader Engineering student communities, and promotion of sport activities among our student body. Continue the work and plan we had last term, we will host more events that promoting healthy and eco-friendly food for our student body to eat well, sleep well and exercise well.

We are currently planning to host more of the similar subsidised dog café events for our students for their mental welfare. We have already contacted DogSoc and are planning to host more collaborative events with them for the overall mental wellbeing of our students through hosting free/subsidised dog therapy events.

Working on the CGCU hardship funding for students to afford and attend our events, we have made and spared some budget for this to be a reality as soon as possible. We aim to keep students informed about available financial support through emails and social media stories.



EDUCATION

Review of the 2024 Spring Term:

Continue the focus we had last term; we are staying active for smooth communication between our Academic reps and the faculty. We have opened forms to gather feedbacks from the reps and raise their concerns during the FEC and FTC meetings. The team's primary goal is to keep education reps informed about changes while understanding their concerns. Given the close connection with the Wellbeing Team, we are combining two teams to work together actively and gather comprehensive feedback on both academic and welfare concerns. Few surveys are currently to be periodically distributed to all Year reps for feedback, with discussions taking place during the SSCC meetings.

To facilitate better communication, we are continuing our casual conversation via WhatsApp group for open discussions. This approach aims not only to address department-specific concerns but also to identify common issues spanning multiple departments. From the SSCC of many departments and feedback from them, we note that our education and welfare representatives are doing a lot of work and the role can be incentivized through more recognition from the community, faculty and through CGCU. Currently, our Education Team is aiming to organize more recognition awards for our student year and departmental representative for their hard work.

We are also planning to re-introduce the Face of Engineering this year, and we were able to contact multiple graduates and companies (such as Rolls Royce Motor Cars and Red-Bull through the connection from AeroSoc and MechSoc) for a bigger and fun event. We are also able to contact members of CGCA and Post-graduate students who are willing to participate in the event and have some fun.

In terms of Hackathon, we are planning to make this as fun as possible but also involving student groups from various Engineering background to participate and learn about sustainability robotics together. This is a challenging event to host, but we are looking forward to make it better in June.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

- CSP Teams

Review of the 2024 Spring Term:

Recognising the lack of connection with our CSPs, we are currently making more changes and actively stay connect with our student CSP and include them in our Social Media posts and our events. This terms, we met all our CSP for their MG1 revision meeting after last year's meeting before the end of Christmas. We were able to discuss the needs from those CSPs and how we can assist them better in the process.

We are currently working on our new flagship event, the Engineering Hackathon, and collaborative with the CSPs. We spoke to all the CSPs and they are willing to host few workshops and providing stall during the hackathon to better promote their society but we would also include all of their society logos during the event.

We are also collaborating with them during the general events we are hosting, which include the Boat Party collaborated with DoCSoc, collaborating the Face of Engineering with AeroSoc, DoCSoc and MechSoc. We are hoping to continue featuring our CSPs to our student body.