

City & Guilds College Union Presidents' Report to Council

A note by the CGCU President Mark Mearing-Smith

Firstly I must apologise for not being able to attend this, the first Union Council of this year, due to a prior engagement a meeting of the Old Centralian's Trust. I have send my Vice-President(Finance & Societies) John James as my proxy.

I am very happy with what Guilds has achieved so far this year. I have been working since the last week of July thanks to a trust fund and some money from the Faculty of Engineering. But I owe a huge amount to the main officers, who have split their time between the motor clubs and Guilds (and nothing else), which I along with the whole of the Engineering student must be thankful for. Thanks go to Matthew Taylor, John James and Kirsty Patterson.

Building a Base

A lot of what we have been doing this summer has been to lay down a strong foundation for the year and for future years to come. My first task has been to guarantee our Faculty Grant and also to set up a system for the DepSocs and the FU to apply for the Grant during our budgeting round. I have also increased the amount he DepSocs get from £100 to £150 each.

We have done a large amount of admin tasks for the year. Meetings on our Clubs & Societies intranet, new set of elections, office clearout, setting up our meeting room, reordering some of our shop stock and many others.

Sponsorship

This took up a lot of time. We found that some of the very strong links forged last year where let to laps and many of the companies where not happy to sponsor again. Although we have secured £8600 from BP and £1000 from Mott MacDonald, and will be always looking for more advertising and sponsorship for the rest of the year.

Events

We have a number of events this term. Fresher's BBQ, City of London Treasure Hunt, Fresher's Bar Night, Cinema Night and the Masquerade Ball (along with the RCSU). The fresher's BBQ went very well and all the food was sold.

Masquerade Ball

Earlier in the summer it was decided that our usual Fresher's dinner will become a Masquerade Ball and that it will be done with the RCSU. RCSU has secured sponsorship from PWC which has brought both parties a huge relief.

Ticket count on the Guilds side is around 115, which is about the same number as in the last two years. Even with this high ticket count we will still be raining in spending as much as possible.

Reaching more students

Deep inside my manifesto I talked about being more in touch with student on the ground. So we are pushing two initiatives. Firstly is at all DepSoc events there will be someone from the Guilds Management committee to meet more students. It makes a huge difference to the amount of people you can talk to in a night if you are not organising the actual event. This does mean that roughly 6 people have to cover 9 DepSoc's events but I am sure that the officers will rise to the challenge. Under this I went on the CivEng pub crawl and met a good number of freshers in a relaxed setting.

Secondly I would like all year groups to be the Guilds committee. Now I am only asking for the year to be see be one member of the committee, because at 36 separate year groups (minimum) the Faculty of Engineering is quite large.

Council
13th October 2008

Freshers' Fair

At the freshers' fair we wanted to help the DepSocs and Guilds Clubs as much as possible. We wanted to show guilds being one unit and students seeing that engineering is guilds and vice-versa.

To this end we covered the Guilds stalls with red poster paper and had a CGCU branded name places.

Summer Stipend

As some of you will know the City & Guilds College Union President is paid to work over the summer by a trust fund raised about 4 years ago, a very generous donation from the Faculty of Engineering and the Worshipful Company of Carpenters. Strangely it has never been paid in the proper way so I have spend a large portion of time setting down a proper system for years to come.

Outreach

We are currently looking into turning our Great Egg Race into an outreach event.

Mark Mearing-Smith

President | City & Guilds College Union