



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES PM at University of Sherbrooke,
October 2nd to 5th, 2008.

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1. Purpose of Conference

The purpose of this conference is to meet with the other presidents or VP Externals from the member schools of the CFES. This is part way through the national executives' term and is a good chance to make sure that the CFES is going in the right direction. There is a plenary session where motions can be passed if members feel they need to mandate the executive to complete certain tasks.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

For this conference my main goals were to meet people from the CFES member schools outside of Ontario. I have already had a chance to meet most of the presidents and VP Externals from Ontario schools at ESSCO AGM as well as ESSCO PM, but have not gotten the chance to meet the people from schools outside of Ontario. This is the only opportunity that I will have to meet these people before congress, and it would be nice to have made some contact with people from outside Ontario, so that I don't write motions that apply to only Ontario schools, or that schools outside Ontario don't necessarily agree with.

3. Summary of Events

CFES 101:

- There are 4 main activities that were talked about in this session, and those were Congress, CEC, ProMag, and CFES PM.
- The CFES is the liaison to Engineers Canada, and therefore the accreditation board
- This year Congress will be held at Carleton University, and CEC will be held at the University of New Brunswick
- The CFES is partners with other international organizations, for example, BESST, which is a European group of engineering students, and bonding, a German organization

Strategic Planning:

- This session was about easy ways to get a strategic plan filled out and working. Also outlined what is important about a strategic plan.
- Strategies include a SWOT analysis and others

Charity:

- This was basically a session where members could talk about the charities that they run at their schools
- Some that sounded interesting that we don't do at Guelph were
 - Pancake charity breakfasts
 - Turing the frosh week head shave into a charity head shave
 - movie nights
 - car smash
 - Prof tricycle races
- This year's CFES charity initiative is for the schools to make a collage about charity events run at their schools, to be made into a large collage so that everyone can see what other schools do.

CELF (Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum):

- This is a 3 day conference in Montreal from May 19th-21st
- There will be 5 streams of sessions each presented by different groups
 - Health Stream (NCDEAS)
 - Environment Stream (CAE)
 - Quality of Life Stream (CFES)
 - Competitiveness Stream (ACEC)
 - Safety and Security Stream (EIC)

New Website:

- The VP Communications for the CFES has been hard at work getting the new CFES website set up and better organized than it was previously
- The new website has contact information about each school that can be updated once you have logged on and set up an account
- There is also a new version of sharenet, which is a way to share CFES files. Examples of CFES files that are on sharenet are minutes from sessions as well as presentations

NCWIE:

- This conference will be held at the University of Western Ontario, and is the 18th annual National Conference on Women in Engineering
- This is the first time that the conference will not be held at queens
- A part of this conference is going to be an outreach program, where delegates will be going to a school and talking to girls about engineering

and doing engineering related activities, to promote women in engineering

PRO MAG:

- PRO MAG is the magazine of the CFES
- They publish two issues a year as well as special issues at Congress and CEC
- The entire magazine is bilingual
- Articles are written for students and by students
- The new direction for the magazine is to make it a very unbiased source, more focused on journalism, rather than just reporting the good things

Innovations on Engineering Education:

- Some schools incorporate management courses into certain programs, since a lot of engineers become project managers when they have started careers
- CE courses run by the CFES are a good way to learn about something that you might not learn through regular school courses
- Some schools are setting up engineering specific counseling services
- Some session on “soft skills” (public speaking, networking skills, and tips on talking to industry people) could be run after class hours at schools
- Many schools have student representation on faculty councils as well as on committees about curriculum changes

NOTE: There are session summaries on the CFES website for more information. The website is www.cfes.ca and they are under Sharenet under PM documents.

4. Evaluation

i) *Conference Organizers*

This conference was run very well in my opinion and was one of the best ones that I have gone to. The setting was very laid back, and I found this more productive and I took more away from it than I have from the more structured conferences. The whole idea of letting the members picking/running sessions on what they thought was important was also a really good idea. Some things that could have been improved about this conference could have been getting the schedule out earlier, as well as sticking to what the schedule was said it would originally be. Originally it was said that we would be getting back to the airport for departures no earlier than 12, but it turned out to be 1030. Had I know this, I would have booked a different flight.

ii) Delegate

I do think that I did network and got to know the students from schools outside of Ontario, although there is still room for improvement and further networking. Congress will be a good opportunity for this. I feel like I am now confident in writing motions and in being the head delegate in general at conferences, which I was beginning to feel at the last conference that I was at, but it really sank in at this one. I feel that I will be able to do a good job as head delegate at the other conferences I will be attending as VP External, and if I am attending any more in the future.