



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES PM at Gambier Island, Hosted by University of Victoria,
October 1-4, 2009.

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1. Purpose of Conference

This CFES president's meeting is meant to bring together students from schools across Canada to learn from each other's experiences how they can make their own engsoc better, as well as define the goals of the federation for the year.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

At this conference, I hoped to make contacts with people outside of Ontario (who I meet with on a regular basis), particularly other schools of similar sizes to Guelph and learn how they run things at their school. I also hoped to learn more about the CFES and bring this information back to the University of Guelph to make students more aware of what the federation does for them.

3. Summary of Events

Introduction to the CFES

- 47 members in 4 regions (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and West)
- Provides opportunities, education outside of the classroom, professional development, representation of engineering students and exchange of ideas
- Services provided: congress, Canadian Engineering Competition, Project Magazine, Complementary Education courses and the National Conference for Women in Engineering
- Congress provides an opportunity for engineering students to interact with other leaders across the country and motivate them
- Project magazine is written by students and looking for writers/help translating and editing; the fall issue will be about engineering and medicine

Administration Relations

- many schools engsoc's are incorporated, however this is not worth it if your school has less than a million dollar budget (like Guelph) as you have to get audited and pay insurance

- *benefits of being incorporated include not having to approve off campus events (as you are your own corporation) and helps for charity and tax benefits*

Sponsorship

- *many schools are sponsored by beer companies which helps save money at events (as we do with Sleemans for corn roast)*
- *some schools engsoc's are sponsored which helps with money for events*
- *good way to get sponsors is to hold a banquet which they sponsor and are invited too, which provides a great networking opportunity for students and the company*
- *could also sponsor engineering competition and come as judges*
- *alumni are a good resource for sponsorship*
- *going to a job fair and promoting engsoc to different companies is another great way to get sponsors*
- *approach faculty to get a better idea of what companies to contact*
- *when looking for sponsorship, think of services not just money (for example food, a free industry tour)*
- *Guelph has a big problem competing for sponsors with Waterloo, a well known engineering school; it is important to think of the demographics (we have environmental/water/bio engineering versus the classic types waterloo has); pitch differences*
- *It would also be beneficial to make connections with Waterloo and see how we can benefit from their sponsors and connections, share sponsors*
- *A good time to ask for money from companies is right before tax season as companies can benefit by sponsoring our events*

Delegating and Leading

- *volunteers are difficult to get; holding a volunteer appreciation party once a semester for all volunteers or giving volunteers swag is a good way to get people out*
- *another issue is people on council not getting involved and helping with events they are not running; if people on engsoc won't get involved, it's difficult to get other students to volunteer; changing the policy manual to ensure all of council gets involved is a solution to this problem*
- *avoid calling it 'volunteering' just say it's a fun night out, we'll grab some beers after or something to that like and you may get more volunteers*
- *the ranking system within engsoc also affects people's lack of initiative to get involved; putting everyone on the same level helps*
- *the University of Calgary has a contract with a responsibility portfolio for everyone to sign at the beginning of the year which holds them to their responsibilities; consequences of breaking the contract could be removing them from the position, banning them from engsoc events (a bit harsh)*
- *some schools hold leadership sessions to help develop leadership skills of councils or all students*

- *this can be done holding lunch and learn sessions or having someone come to an engsoc meeting for leadership development*
- *to encourage people to run for positions at some schools, people on council try to 'mold' another student who they think may be good for their job next year and encourage them to come out to their events*
- *another way to promote people to be on engsoc is to have the president to write a letter of recommendation after your term with a description of the position, the leadership qualities involved and the hours volunteered*

Charity Ideas

- *looney line (get a kilometer of loonies/other coins lined up from passer byers)*
- *movember*
- *hair dye/head shave for charity*
- *take advantage of frosh week to raise money for charity*

4. Evaluation

i) Conference Organizers

The conference was run very well. Travel to and from on the ferry and pick up/drop off at the airport was run well. Food was very good. Most importantly, it was run with a very flexible schedule which allowed delegates to really take advantage of the sessions and continue discussion to further benefit from them. Feedback from all delegates was very good and everyone took a lot back to their schools

ii) Delegate

I believe I represented Guelph in a good manner at this conference. I took advantage of all the session and went to sessions that would particularly benefit Guelph. I brought back a lot of valuable information that could improve Guelph's engineering society, particularly during this time of expansion.