



# Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES Congress at the University of Alberta, January 1-6, 2008 .

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## ***1. Purpose of Conference***

The Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES) Congress is attended by representatives for engineering schools across Canada. It is the annual general meeting for the CFES. This year, the conference was hosted by the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

During Congress a lot of major operational decisions were made, the new executive members were elected, and accountability sessions were held for the outgoing executive. Other sessions were run throughout the week, regarding initiatives of the CFES including a plenary session to determine the direction of the CFES for the upcoming year.

The CFES works improve communication between engineering students, as well as to help students to expand on a personal level. Congress was the national AGM for CFES, providing delegates from the attending member societies an opportunity to have a voice on current issues, become informed on new initiatives and help in the decision of the future direction of the organization.

## ***2. Personal Goals for Conference***

As a delegate of the Guelph Engineering Society I conducted myself in a professional and enthusiastic manner. Sitting on the Engineering Society as a class representative for a second semester, I represented the Society itself as well as a large portion of the undergraduate engineering student body. My executive position as social coordinator for the College of Physical and Engineering Sciences Student Council (CPES-SC) provided me with further experience within the college and the administrative structure that governs the Guelph Engineering Society and the School of Engineering.

Being a member of both the Guelph Engineering Society and the CPES-SC has given me an opportunity to understand the issues facing students and the direction of the current undergraduate population in engineering at the University of Guelph. My involvement with the School of Engineering enabled me to voice an opinion representative of my peers and to gather the appropriate information to enhance the undergraduate experience of Guelph engineering students.

Representing the fourth year class on the Guelph Engineering Society I have a responsibility to the graduating class. One of the projects run by the CFES is the CFES

Café, connecting all Canadian engineering students to entry-level job opportunities, graduate school opportunities and events such as career fairs and educational opportunities. This is one of many examples of how I hoped attending Congress and becoming involved with the CFES would enable me to help the undergraduate engineering students at the University of Guelph.

### 3. *Summary of Events*

Competitions (Stephanie Robinson)

- Many discipline specific competitions available;

#### **Engineering Competitions:**

**Grande course nordique de toboggan de béton | Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race**

<http://gnctr.info>

**| Canadian National Concrete Canoe Competition**

[www.cnc2008.ca](http://www.cnc2008.ca)

**| Canadian Mining Games**

[www.cim.org/students/miningGames.cfm](http://www.cim.org/students/miningGames.cfm)

**| SAE International**

[students.sae.org/competitions/supermileage/](http://students.sae.org/competitions/supermileage/)

**| North America Solar Challenge**

[www.americansolarchallenge.org](http://www.americansolarchallenge.org)

**| World Solar Challenge**

[www.wsc.org.au/](http://www.wsc.org.au/)

**| Robot Cup**

[www.robocup.org](http://www.robocup.org)

**Jeux de génie | Engineering Games**

[www.jeuxdegenie.qc.ca](http://www.jeuxdegenie.qc.ca)

**WEC 2008**

[www.wec2008.ca](http://www.wec2008.ca)

**QEC 2008**

[www.cqi-qec.qc.ca](http://www.cqi-qec.qc.ca)

**OEC 2008**

[www.eng.mcmaster.ca/~wwwoec2008](http://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/~wwwoec2008)

**AEC 2008**

[www.umoncton.ca/genie/cag2008/cag2008.html](http://www.umoncton.ca/genie/cag2008/cag2008.html)

**Canadian Engineering Competition**

[www.cec2008.ca](http://www.cec2008.ca)

**Contributions From UBC:**

- Human Powered Submarine
- Human Powered Helicopter
  - Sailbot
- NASA Centennial Challenges (Space Elevator)
  - Steel Bridge Competition

- Ontario Engineering Competition (and Canadian Engineering Competition) is more geared towards the general engineering population

#### Communication (Paul Sequeira, VP Communications)

- Accountability both internal and external issues such as e-bulletins and representation
- Communications oversees;
  - o IT Commissioner
  - o International Relations
  - o Official Languages (translations)
- Various ways to increase communication between VP internals and the CFES were discussed
  - o Teleconferencing
  - o Facebook or other forums

#### International Partners

- Bonding (German Student Society)
  - o Not exclusive to engineering students
  - o Independent of Universities
  - o Hold job fairs, competitions, lectures etc.
  - o All events are free of charge
  - o Meet more often than the CFES
- BEST (Board of European Student Technology)
  - o All of Europe (76 local groups across 29 countries)
  - o Includes all technology related disciplines
  - o Focus on presenting complementary education courses and events
    - [international@cfes.ca](mailto:international@cfes.ca) if interested in co-organizing a course or [www.best.eu.org/courses](http://www.best.eu.org/courses)
- SENZ (Student Engineers of New Zealand)
  - o Bridge the gap between students and professional engineering
  - o New organization

#### Alumni (Joel Mertens)

- Used to retain knowledge, past experiences and bridges with the rest of the world
- BEST alumni network is an example of a working Alumni network
- Bonding elects their alumni network
- Member schools tend to not have a strong alumni network within the school
- Need to establish a purpose for the alumni network before we can go about establishing one

#### Academics (Sara Dolcetti)

- Scholarships, internships etc. on a website
- Would require submissions from member schools
- CFES education conference in the works for summer '09
  - o Run in collaboration with BEST
- National Academic Issues Committee

- Reviews academic integrity, course/professor evaluations CEAB etc.
- Other endeavors such as special recognition for volunteer work
- IFEES
  - Ensure the quality of an engineering education is standard across the world
  - Still in the early stages and not yet a part of the CFES

#### CFES 101 (Joel Mertens)

- A national organization collaborating engineering students across Canada
- Provides events and services to the students
- Represent students within Engineers Canada as well as with international partners

#### NCWIE

- Conference discussing women's issues in engineering
- National conference traditionally hosted by Queens but will hopefully be passed onto other schools (Western is hosting it in 08)

#### CELF (Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum)

- Formal platform for several national engineering organizations including the CFES
- CFES provides student representation on a national level
- CELF summit in May 2009
  - Five streams; health, enviro, quality of life, competitiveness, safety and security

#### EngSocs 2030

- Group discussion on the future of EngSocs across Canada
- Identify the needs of members
  - Tutoring, learning skills, career skills, financial support, clubs
- Leadership training
- Effective delivery of ideas
- Bus owned by EngSoc?
  - Insurance, parking?
- Marching Band
  - Equipment required, knowledge!
- Gaining admin support
- Space issues faced by many societies
- Career services are provided by a few societies separate from the schools services
- Strengthen inter-year relationships and communication

#### The Sherby Way (Sherbrooke Engineering Society)

- Transition positions within EngSoc 3x a year (each semester)
  - Provide free beer and pizza to encourage involvement
- A transition document is added to with the completion of each position

- Have a part-time EngSoc employee and a representative from the past exec

#### The New McGill Engineering Career Center

- Created an engineering career center at McGill
- Provide resume writing skills, interview skills, on-campus recruiting etc.
- Companies can post directly onto the website
- Provide a speaker series by corporations as well as a technology fair
- Business etiquette courses

#### CFES Outreach (Connor Langford)

- Discussion on communication between members and the CFES
- Disconnect felt between the CFES and undergraduate engineering
  - o Suggestion; collaborate with other publications?
- Need to focus on why students should care about the CFES
  - o Form a committee?
  - o Use business students to aid with research and marketing?

#### Sustainable Development (Caitie Rosen)

- Discussion on the definition and applicability of sustainability in engineering across various disciplines
- Need balance and longevity
- Group discussed meaning and how it is applied in their personal field of study

#### IEC (Joel Mertens)

- International Engineering Competition
  - o The competition above the CEC
- Joint project being developed with CFES, BEST and bonding
- Memorandum of Understanding reviewed
  - o Regulates promotions, cooperation between organizations etc.
- First IEC scheduled for May 2010
  - o Still needing a logo, rules, sponsorship guidelines, working groups

#### Regional Meetings

- Discussed ESSCO interm report

#### Plenary

- Speeches and elections for new executive
- Review of proposed motions and countermotions
- Voting of motions

### ***4. Evaluation***

i) **Conference Organizers**

The conference ran quite smoothly. The conference stayed on schedule and provided sessions and activities suited to everyone's interests. Accommodations which could also host the banquet may be a future consideration.

ii) **Delegate**

As a delegate at the University of Guelph I conducted myself in a professional manner attending all of the sessions throughout the week. My attendance at the conference expanded my contacts with other schools across the country. It also expanded my knowledge of the CFES, allowing to me provide more informed information to students when encouraging their involvement with student engineering societies. I feel I met all my goals I previously established. If I was not graduating and would be able to attend more conferences I would consider getting involved with the CFES as a commissioner.