



# Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES Congress at University of Alberta,  
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## **1. Purpose of Conference**

*This conference had many purposes, being educational, an opportunity for networking as well as a place for CFES administrative events to occur. There were a variety of sessions offered on a variety of topics touching on issues engineers face in the profession and issues engineering societies face within their schools. A career fair was also offered, another educational event. As a national conference, it had students from across Canada and was therefore a great opportunity for networking and learning about how other schools do things, getting ideas for how we could be more efficient within our own engsoc. Other CFES administrative things were done including voting for the new executive, the choosing of commissioners and the plenary in which many motions were put in for change and in hopes of improving the CFES council.*

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

*Going to this conference, I hoped to learn from other schools and get ideas to bring back to the Guelph, to learn more about the CFES and to meet new people. I definitely learned a lot from international opportunities, strategic planning, getting people involved and engineering as a profession. I also learned a lot about what the CFES does, how it works and the many opportunities they offer which before congress I knew nothing about. There were so many opportunities at the conference to learn so much, having people from across Canada in different programs and doing things different ways. I also met so many fantastic people.*

## **3. Summary of Events**

### International Relations

Why do we have international relations?

- Knowledge transfer
- To expand services
- To provide international opportunities for members

How we keep in touch

- Conferences (international members in attendance)

- Mail/online meetings/ email
- Joint projects eg. International engineering competition

#### CFES Partners

- Bonding (Germany)
- BEST (Europe)
- NAESC (United States)
- SENZ (New Zealand)

#### Future International Possibilities

- International Engineering Competition
- Joint educational conferences
- Unified international co-organizer systems

Overall from this session I learned about the many opportunities that are available internationally. It was interesting to find out about how other countries organize their national councils and what kind of conferences they hold. I learned that it is very difficult to uphold international relations because in order to be a part of their conferences it usually involves us missing lots of school and vice versa so it is a big commitment, however there is so much to learn about engineering from schools worldwide.

#### Strategic Planning

What is it?

- An outline of priorities and principles
- A road map for the year ahead (offers a framework)
- Where are you now and where to you want to go?

Why do we use them?

- Keeps you focused/working towards objectives
- Easy to communicate what you've done

Includes:

- Vision statement
  - What would happen in a perfect world
  - What the group should become in the future to best deliver its mission statement
- Mission statement
  - Overall objectives
  - What, why, how
- Analysis

- Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT)
- Setting goals
  - Integrate SWOT and mission statement while ensuring objects are achieved
  - Markers to asses success
- OGSM analysis
  - Objectives
  - Goals
  - Strategies
  - Measures
- Action plan
  - What you'll do and how you'll do it
- Timeline
- Budget

The strategic plan is something that Queen's University has all of their engsoc members write and I think it is a great idea because people then know what they are accountable for and are likely to stick to it. Plus if they write it earlier right after they get their position, they are likely to have lots of new keen ideas and if they write them down earlier it will be easier to execute them later in the year when you are dealing with schoolwork along with engsoc. I think implementing a similar system at Guelph would be very beneficial and could potentially replace the transition report system.

### Opportunities for Involvement within the CFES

Positions available:

Executive

- President
- VP Communication
- VP Services and Development
- VP Finance and administration
- National councilors

Commissioners

Regional VP's

Become a member of a committee

Write for promag

Run a complementary education course

Bid for an event

There are so many ways to get involved with the CFES, with a huge range of responsibilities. If you are looking to really get involved you can run for

an executive position which involves a lot of work but is very rewarding. Smaller positions are commissioners who organize smaller events and are still very involved, but have a little less work cut out for them. You can hold a CFES event at your school or run a complementary education course. If you are looking for minimal involvement you can write for promag, the CFES magazine.

### Charity Work

- CFES has a charity commissioner
- This year created a CFES charity cup which is won by a school each year at congress (this year competition was a charity poker tournament)
- Created a charity cookbook which anyone can submit too, and buy books to sell within school

The biggest problem found with the charity commissioner is finding a national charity that is engineering related and worth giving money too. Other charities considered included EWB, but they already get a lot of support from engineering schools.

### CFES 101

- Collaborates engineering societies from across Canada

### Events:

- Congress
- Canadian Engineering Competition
- Presidents Meeting

### Services

- Complementary education courses
- Project magazine
- International relations

### Professional Relations

- Engineers Canada

### Engineers Canada 101

### Boards

- Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB)
  - Accredits Canadian undergraduate engineering programs
  - Currently developing a new system

- Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board (CEQB)
  - Guidelines to promote consistency in licensing

### Programs

- Government relations
- National communications (awards, National Engineering Week)
- Official marks (engineers Canada owns the right to words such as engineering, etc. so companies and people cannot misuse the word and claim to be in the profession)

### Current Issues

- Immigration (transfer of license)
- Infrastructure (want the government to look at long term solutions)
- Climate change adaptation
- Influencing the federal government
- Aboriginal outreach task force
- Canadian engineering leadership forum (CELF)
- National and international mobility

### CFES Activities

#### Bidding

- Congress
  - Larger schools usually bid/host
  - Provide information about the city, school, tourist attractions, the budget
  - Team of organizers
  - Support from dean
  - Bid 2 years ahead (involves 2 years of planning)
- CEC
  - \$200 000 + budget
  - Need sponsors (internal from school + external (returning and new))
  - Bid 2 years ahead
  - Need support of school/Dean to bid
- Project Magazine
  - 3 year mandate
  - 6 people on team executive
  - \$8000/issue budget
  - 2 issues per year
- PM
  - \$5000 budget

- Smaller than most conferences
- Bid at congress

### Engsoc Issues

- Getting people involved
  - Offer rewards such as food
- Transition
  - Reports
  - Meeting between old and new council
  - Documents such as strategic plans or a 3 year plan
  - Hiring a part time employee who attends all meetings for years if possible to create institutional memory
- Security
  - Get approval of security before events by giving them a report on plans for the event
  - Meet with security and staff, take initiative and they will be more lenient with your events

### CFES 2037 (the future of CFES)

- How can we make students more aware of the CFES and what it does? (this is the main problem now and something we'd like to see fixed in the future)
- Possible solution is the creation of an advertising commissioner, someone in charge of promoting the CFES and with a council to help show engineering students what the CFES is all about (a motion was submitted and approved for the creation of this commissioner position)
- Should the CFES be more public or focus more on helping students and engsocs?

### CFES Outreach

- Overall there is a disconnect between the CFES and undergraduate engineers
- Collaboration with other publications could help increase outreach of the CFES
- Currently, information moves from the CFES to engsocs, and then from engsocs to the students, but is it always being delivered to the students successfully?
- Who should the CFES target?
  - First years?
  - High school students?
  - Professional organizations?
- Could create a section on the website as an introduction to the CFES, informing students how they can get involved

- Could take advantage of media involvement, for example get CBC to do a story on CEC and attend the conference
- Could take advantage of business programs within our schools to help with marketing as oppose to spending money hiring someone (for example a 4<sup>th</sup> year final project could be to advertise engineering)
- Members of the CFES could come do presentations to first year design classes to promote it early on

### Getting Volunteers

What do you want in a volunteer?

- Dedication
- Someone who wants to be there
- Time management
- Independent/responsible
- Open minded/diverse
- People skills/social
- Organized
- Skilled
- A leader

How to get volunteers

- Bribery/rewarding people
- One on one approaching people
- Putting out information (the perks of the job, what's available to you)
- Looks good on a resume (need to be careful with this one that you are still getting people that are dedicated and not taking the job just to be able to put it on their resume)
- Holding a school wide volunteer 'bash' for everyone who volunteered at the end of the year/semester
- Social networking

Overall, it is very hard to find good volunteers, particularly in such a school work intensive program as engineering. It is very hard to find people to give up their time and put in that extra effort be it volunteering to be on engsoc or simply volunteering to help out at an event. The biggest attraction is to reward people, but in the end you want to be sure you have people who are really motivated to be there and want to help or make a difference because when you get people simply looking to beef up their resume, they won't do as a good a job as someone who really wants to be there. Its an issue that will always be faced and in the end, you just need to find the right people to do the job.

## 4. Evaluation

### i) *Conference Organizers*

I found this conference to be run very well. The fact that all the sessions were held at the school, which was a bit of a walk from the hotel and that breakfast was also at the school I think motivated people to actually attend the sessions and get involved in all the activities, just not the event events. I found the conference had really good evening events that got everyone involved, social and meeting each other which is part of what conferences are about. I found the sessions to be well structured and organized for the most part by the people running them, some of which were a tad last minute but all seemed to work out. There were also a variety of sessions so everyone was bound to find multiple sessions that were of large interest to them. One of the biggest problems I found was I was often out of the loop about things such as where something was happening, when a bus was coming or what we were going to be doing as the schedule was often changed. I think better communication, for example making announcements at every meal to keep everyone informed as oppose to on a guessing basis or hearing it through the grapevine would increase participation and ensure we stuck on schedule.

### ii) *Delegate*

I think my personal performance at this conference was good as I was involved, attending all sessions and participating in them as oppose to bringing a laptop or finding other distractions. I was sincerely interested in many of the sessions I attended and really felt that I learned so much useful knowledge at this conference. I think I'll bring a lot of this back to Guelph within my position on engsoc and how I approach planning and promoting events, as well as simply promoting CFES to other students now that I know so much more about who they are what they do. I think I achieved my goals by learning so much, being an active participant in all events and just being an approachable and social person meeting so many people. I think as a whole, Guelph was represented very well by its delegates and got along well with all schools. Honestly, if I went to another conference I'm not sure what much I would do differently, except maybe try to meet even more people.