



# Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES Congress 2009 at Carleton,  
January 4-9, 2009.

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## 1. Purpose of Conference

The purpose of this conference was the annual general meeting for the CFES (Canadian Federation of Engineering Students). At this conference delegates attended sessions and talked about their engineering student societies and shared information that could help their members benefit. As well the CFES passed new motions for the following year and reviewed last year's motions. Delegates get to meet with delegates from other schools and socially network with them.

## 2. Personal Goals for Conference

My goals for this conference were to learn about the CFES and what it does. I wanted to learn about other engineering student societies and how they work. I hoped to learn how to make our engineering society a better organization, by learning from other schools. This experience taught me a lot about how engineering societies differ from province to province and by size. My other main goal was to socially network with students from other schools across the country.

## 3. Summary of Events

### Involvement in the CFES and EngSocs

- In this session we discussed how to get more people interested in the CFES and EngSocs
- CFES should advertise what they do and their positions in newspapers, school publications, and informal meetings
- EngSocs face issues of cliquiness
- CFES has issue of executive members quitting
- Their proposed solution is to restructure the timeline and work with students having work terms
- Another possible solution is financial compensation to executive members

### Advertising Events

- T-shirts and sponsorship from T-shirt companies could decrease cost
- Have a slide show advertising Engineering events
- Advertise engineering society in other campus publications

- Start up an “Event of the Month”
- Have events for charity. People love charity
- Naked events can be fun and there is less risk

## IT

- Versioning helps sites be better
- Work on development version before moving it to production
- Open source CMS using DRUPL is popular
- Many societies use a wiki
- Anyone can read the wiki
- Easy for students to update
- [www.jotform.com](http://www.jotform.com) is good for doing surveys
- Doodle can be used to organize times
- Google has many apps that are great for running an engineering society

## What Your School Does Best

- Mac runs downtown bar scrambles
- Western has Meatfest where they cook and eat lots of meat
- Some schools run formal dinners where industry members get to meet with students in a formal setting
- In Quebec they convert their lounge to a pub on Friday afternoons
- Some schools have liquor license in their lounge
- Some schools run “unofficial” off campus social events, independent of the university
- Some schools have partnerships with transit to help transport students
- Some schools have volunteer drivers
- Some schools form partnerships with other programs in the school to run larger events

## Songs

- Engineers love to sing
- All schools have their favorite songs
- Schools add their own verses to make songs their own
- Songs bring students together
- Engineering schools from all around the world have songs in different languages
- In Canada French schools have their own songs
- Songs are posted on engineering society websites so students can learn them

## Job Fairs

- All schools run job fairs for engineering students
- Some are more successful than others
- Some schools have formal dinners with their job fairs
- Companies are often willing to pay large amounts to come to job fairs
- Bonding is famous for job fairs

- They have waiting lists of companies that want to go
- Companies pay 1700Euros for a 4m x 2m table
- All companies treated equally at these job fairs
- They are run throughout Europe

#### **4. Evaluation**

##### **i) Conference Organizers**

This was an excellent conference. It was my first conference so I do not have much to compare it to. Some of the organization was a little last minute but the conference was run fairly well. The hotel and location of the conference was very nice, but seemed almost too excessive for the needs of the conference. One of the biggest strengths of this conference was that the conference was held inside the hotel so there was very little walking outside in the cold. Some improvements of this conference would have been not changing the schedule as often as they did, and having the sessions more planned out.

##### **ii) Delegate**

I think I was an excellent delegate at this conference. I represented the University of Guelph very well. I attended as many sessions as I could. I was able to learn many things I could bring back to our engineering society. I learned a lot about the CFES as well as other universities throughout Canada. From this experience I gained a lot of contacts at other universities. I met a lot of other university engineering students. I think I achieved all the goals I set for myself at this conference and even more. If I was to get another chance to attend a conference I would come more prepared for the sessions. I did not know what to expect when going to the sessions and now that I do, I think this would make me a better delegate in future conferences.