



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES Congress 2009 at University of Carleton
January 4-10th.

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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 Carleton in Ottawa. The first half of the conference is used for accountability of the previous executive positions as well as hosting a variety of events to share government issues. The second half of the conference is devoted to plenary issues and updates to the Constitution as well as the election of the new executive members. Congress, being the national AGM for CFES, provides an opportunity for students to be informed on new initiatives, and have a say in current issues.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

Going to this conference, I hoped to learn more about what CFES does, how it works, and the opportunities it provides. My goal was to interact with other schools, meet new people and get creative ideas to bring back to use here, in our engineering society.

3. Summary of Events

CFES partners (Bonding and BEST)

- BEST organizes job fairs via funding from other companies
- offer complementary education courses related to engineering
- provide an online data base of job postings
- currently developing the International Engineering Challenge (IEC)

Engineering Arts

- larger engineering schools have an arts component dedicated to solely engineering students
- examples; bands, choirs, plays, logo contest, annual musicals
- engineering bands tend to be less formal and therefore do not require as much commitment

- offering free food and/or drink would draw more people to events held by a band or choir

Suggestions for CFES Congress

- less formal so participants are more comfortable
- better communication of what sessions are desired
- more round table discussions so students can talk about their societies' to on another
- discussion of whether or not the CFES should be trying to reach out to students in general or just their Engineering Societies
- concluded that it should be a two step process

Social Impact

- current ways of promoting engineering among children (ie/ building bridges, cranes, ramps)is too stereotypical
- new ideas that incorporate how engineering is applied are needed
- some new example; incorporate technology, stress the social implications, more field trips

What You Do Best

- some schools have numerous stores on campus (ie/ general, ice cream, merchandise)
- pub trivia night usually draw a crowd
- some societies fund their own clubs, in which they are branded with "engineering"

4. Evaluation

i) Conference Organizers

The conference did not run as smooth as it could have. The schedule had to be adapted numerous times. As well, the relevance of some of the earlier sessions was questionable. The night activities, however, provided to be an excellent opportunity to meet engineering students from all across Canada.

ii) Delegate

As a delegate, I feel that I represented the University of Guelph well. I was genuinely interested in most of the sessions I attended and really felt that I learned useful information at this conference. I think that I will be able to bring this information back to Guelph within my position on EngSoc, and how I approach planning and promoting events. My experience at this conference will assist me in getting more involved in future conferences. I feel I achieved my goals of learning more about CFES, bringing back new ideas, and meeting new people. If I were to do one thing different, it would be to contribute more during sessions.

