



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES Congress 2010 at McMaster University,
January 2nd-8th, 2010.

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1. Purpose of Conference

The main purpose of this conference is to have all the schools from across Canada present to be able to elect the new executive for the CFES, as well as set mandates for the CFES to follow during the upcoming year. This conference was the annual general meeting (AGM) of the CFES.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

At this conference I do feel that I achieved some of the goals that I had set for myself. I did participate in the sessions that I attended, and I came back with some good notes and ideas for Guelph's Engineering Society in the future. Some of these ideas are about just ways to better communicate within the engineering society council, and other ways to make working on Eng Soc activities and documents easier. One thing that I had hoped to do at this conference was to run for and be elected for the position of Ontario Ambassador. I did run for the position, but was not elected this year. I am hoping to run for this position again in the future.

3. Summary of Events

CFES for Dummies

- This session was about what the CFES does as an organization
- The 4 activities of the CFES are hosting CFES Congress, the CFES Presidents Meeting, the Canadian Engineering Competition, and running Project Magazine (or ProMag)
- ProMag is a magazine that any student in engineering from any school in Canada can submit content too, and is all student published in both English and French
- CFES is the liaison with Engineers Canada, and the official voice of Canadian engineering students
- The CFES also runs complementary education courses on many things like soft skills as well as advanced

bonding

- bonding is the German equivalent of the CFES
- bonding's main focus is hosting career fairs where there are between 60 and 255 companies that show up
- bonding is not directly affiliated with any of the universities, and develops all revenue by holding these career fairs

BEST

- BEST is another equivalent to the CFES only it is made up of European countries, and represents students in applied science as well
- They are a lot bigger than the CFES and have 2600 active members
- BEST's main focus is holding the Complementary Education (CE) courses that the CFES is starting to develop, and host about 100 courses a year, with at least 22 students
- There is lots of communication between the universities, and some of these CE courses can even be used as credit

Charity and Your Eng Soc

- Some good ideas that other schools do is do that works really well and raises a lot of money is to do a Locks of Love or Movember campaign
- Other schools do events on Valentine's day, where students can buy drinks that get delivered to other students, as well as pay to have someone serenaded in class
- Another good idea that I thought could be done at Guelph is to try and maybe do a charity show. This could be either a comedy or a music concert where the band or act is performing for free, and students pay to see it.
- One more aspect of charity could be more related to actually doing something. Examples of this could be to go to a soup kitchen and serve meals, or go to an old folks home and help clean.

Faculty Relations

- Some schools have forms that can be filled out by students if they have problems with something the faculty is doing. These are handled by the VP Academic, and brought up to the faculty by this person
- It is definitely a good thing that we keep up what Guelph does with the monthly executive meetings that we have with the director. A lot of schools do this, and they also see the benefits
- Some advantages to having a good relation with the faculty are money, getting good student space, and also allowing you to deal with academic more issues easily and without seeming just like annoyed students

Understanding your Students

- It is important to understand your students, since they elect us and they are the ones that we offer our services too. We can't give them the services that they want if we don't understand them and don't know what they want
- We need to respond to their needs by:
 - Identifying what they need
 - Offering new services, and determining how well they are utilized
 - Getting their feedback about these services and canceling ones that aren't used as well as others.

IT and Your Eng Soc

- Some schools have their email accounts carry over from year to year. This could be beneficial since you would not only have the emails related to that position from years past
- Another thing that some schools do to get information to their students, as most schools find that a website doesn't get used all that much, is they have a Eng Soc page on their Courselink. This just shows up as an extra course in all engineering students Courselink page
- Another thing that could be good could be to have Dropbox on the engineering society computer, so that these documents can be worked on by people no matter where they are

Engineering and Public Policy

- This session was done by Howard Brown, and was all about trying to get the students motivated to becoming more involved in public office
- There are not very many engineers involved in shaping public policy and the PEO as well as Engineers Canada is trying to get more people involved
- Public life can be exciting and you can make a difference
- The average term in public office is 7 years, so it doesn't have to become a career and could be done between other jobs

Drew Dudley's Talk

- Drew Dudley is a really good speaker who is very good at talking to engineers
- His talk was about making sure that you get involved and leadership
- Being a leader is not always about having a position on your eng soc, and can be based on a lot more than that
- Anything else I say in this section will not do Drew's talk justice, and I feel like you really had to be there for this one. It was the best speech I have ever heard though.

Diversity

- This session was broken into three sections. One was done by UBC, one Carleton, and one was done by a professional. This session was about how to get more diverse people involved with your Eng Soc, as well as what the professional world is like
- UBC
 - Trying to change traditions and get more people involved
 - Trying to get rid of "tanking" (stripping someone down and dumping them in a tank. Raise awareness so people are just doing it for fun)
 - Before running an event they look at the event from all angles, and make sure that no one could be offended, and that they are going to get the most people involved possible. Everyone is included
- Carleton
 - Found that lots of groups people weren't coming to events
 - Women in engineering
 - Getting guest speakers they are women role models
 - Helping out a group called q by funding and allowing them to present in frosh week
 - Intramurals are used to help promote involvement from international students
 - Clothes with Carleton engineering in different languages
 - Panel discussions are good events for people who might not come to other events
- Profession (Engineers Canada)
 - Created the women in engineering task force
 - Add more in here ask Michelle
 - The number of women in engineering is declining
 - Programs at Guelph are all programs pretty much that there are a lot of women in
 - Programs like electrical and software have the least amount of women
 - Grad students are different and female studies complete graduate studies
 - Also trying to do some outreach to indigenous people

Branding

- This session was about creating a branding policy for the CFES, and making sure that the logo is not being used in any way that makes us look unprofessional
- The idea to create this policy came from the plenary at CFES Congress 2009, regarding the CFES being involved on Facebook

- The current VP Communications has began creating a document about how the CFES logo can be used
- This document involves what it can be used on, how far away other text has to be, if the logo can be tilted, the colours of the logo, etc.
- All in all, this document will ensure that the organization is always seen as a very professional group, as our logo can't just be thrown on anything

4. *Evaluation*

i) *Conference Organizers*

In my opinion this conference was organized very well. The food was all very good, and well organized, and it was nice to not have to leave the hotel for lunch and dinner. The rooms that the sessions were hosted in were all very nice as well, and it was good to always see everyone dressed in business casual attire, which doesn't always happen. One thing that could have been improved was the number of last minute session changes. It seems like the schedule was never right, along with the session locations, and you were never sure if you were in the right room or not.

ii) *Delegate*

I feel like I represented the University of Guelph Engineering Society well at this conference. I was on time for all the sessions that I was asked to go to, and I was always dressed in my proper business casual clothing. I also felt like I contributed to the discussion that was happening in the round table sessions I attended, but I also did not "take over" the session and talk too much. I also ran for the position of Ontario Ambassador to the CFES, and even though I was not elected, I do feel like I represented Guelph well while giving my speech and answering the questions that were asked of me. From being at other Congresses, I have noticed that sometimes a lot of Ontario schools hang out together all the time, and that this is not always the best thing for schools from other regions to see, so I also tried to make sure that I was talking to delegates from other regions during meals, and sitting with delegates from other schools during sessions.