



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on ESSCO AGM at the University of Toronto,

June 21-24, 2007

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1. Purpose of Conference

This conference was the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO). Its purpose was to share ideas amongst the member schools, elect a new executive and set the direction of the organization for the coming year.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

I hoped to gain a few things from this conference. The first was to develop relationships with the presidents from the other schools. I feel that this is important because we'll be meeting up a lot at other conferences throughout the year and helping to set policy for the external bodies that we are part of. Also, if I have personal relationships with the other presidents, it will be easier to ask for help if I come across any issues during the year.

The second thing that I hoped to gain was insight into transitioning and how to improve member relations. These are two areas that I feel our society could work on and I think that we can benefit from learning about how other schools handle them.

The third goal I had for this conference was to share my personal experience with team building with the rest of the schools. I accomplished this by hosting a session on team building. This way, I was able to share my ideas and also learn about methods used at other schools for team building with their societies.

3. Summary of Events

LIAC

This session was planned to discuss the report prepared this past year and to brainstorm ideas for next years report. The information that I found relevant from that session is as follows:

- past reports have not had many results
- faster start, more chance to put into action
 - this might be because of long response time to e-mails

- good responses from student survey
 - due in part to incentive prize (which was never purchased)
- when good results found (lots of results)
 - present to the Council of Ontario Deans of Engineering (CODE), so Deans already know if choose to approach them, but CODE won't let ESSCO in
 - this could potentially be solved by showing results to the Deans separately and having them discuss the results when they meet

This was mostly useful in the discussion for how the results will be presented to the Deans, as that will fall to me. Also, it was good to be able to participate in the brainstorming so that Guelph's needs could be taken into consideration, as we are a smaller school.

Transition

This session was helpful, but not overly, as it revolved mainly around hiring a permanent staff member to help with the process. This is obviously irrelevant for our society. It would be useful however to try to involve the administration more in some of the official things that we do, such as lab fund, to avoid transition problems in the future.

- memory – retaining information over long periods of time
- transition – making sure the new executive knows what's going on
- create a template for transition reports
- contact alumni to get memories
- create a "wiki" to keep memory – growth over time, part of a process
- binder full of stories – exec mandated to keep records

The Future of ESSCO

This session was designed to help direct the future of ESSCO. It was mostly about brainstorming and it was decided that the organization would head in the direction of student services. The following ideas were brought up:

- engsoc insurance – some have it set up now
- discounts on rented cars
- suppliers of "goods" – discounts on wholesalers, etc.
- textbooks – limits on revisions? – discounts
- support student run initiatives
- Professional Practice Exam prep sessions
- Pizza discounts (engg price cards??)

- cell phone discounts
- Masters programs database, summer research jobs
- job bank
- dealing with existing contract conflicts

While the direct information isn't necessarily relevant to our society, it will be once the exec begins to institute the program and figures out the details.

4. Evaluation

i) Conference Organizers

Overall, the conference was run pretty successfully. The accommodations worked out well and the food was good. The location for the sessions was good, air conditioning is key for a summer conference. One thing I would have done differently is make sure to have two seats per school at the plenary table so that the President and the VP External can both be seated.

Some of the big group sessions were a little discipline specific, which is unfortunate because then you lose the interest of a lot of the delegates. This is bad for the delegates who get bored, and also for the presenters who have to deal with a mostly unresponsive audience.

ii) Delegate

I believe that I performed well as a delegate representing the school. I always try my best to meet as many other delegates as possible and form relationships where I can. I also participated in as many sessions as I could, making sure that the Guelph name got out there. I didn't miss any sessions or social events and I hosted a session as well. I definitely achieved the goals I set out to accomplish and I look forward to representing Guelph at many conferences in the future.