

1. Purpose of Conference

The purpose of FYIC (First Year Integration Conference) is to allow first year representatives to be informed on various aspects of engineering. In general, it allows the student to become familiar with various types of ways to getting involved with engineering and why it is important, what the term “engineering” means, teaches how to succeed, and most importantly ; networking.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

To be honest, my personal goal for attending this conference was so I could gain motivation for my studies. Before attending the weekend, I had been in an academic slump having to juggle between the billions of assignments, quizzes, etc., and having not exactly achieving the greatest grades. I had hoped that I would gain insights on benefits and branches that I could receive from pursuing my engineering degree as well as learn about different organizations that student engineers could join. What I aimed to bring back to the University of Guelph is my enthusiasm towards my studies in this field as well as helping others become more motivated as well.

3. Summary of Events

- Arrival: meet and greet with students from other school/roommates in your hotel room
- The first night’s events consists of a picture scavenger hunt around downtown Windsor. (My team being the winning team receiving prizes such as t-shirt, water gun and tones of fun stuff)

Next day:

- ESSCO executives speak about who they are and ways of getting involved. They are a student engineering group for all of Canada.
- A professor from the University of Windsor gave an inspirational speech about his journey to becoming an engineering and reasons for which he became a professor. Also gave tips for school. This one was my favorite session since I felt like I could really relate to him and also because he made the talk very humorous.
- Frosh week presentations. During this segment we got to talk about all the different schools frosh week experiences and in some cases also got to watch videos from highlights of their weeks.
- The night’s social event consisted of a bar night where we got to socially exercise our fun qualities.

Last Day:

- PEO and OSPE gave talks about their organizations and benefits of joining them.
- Frosh Week presentations part 2. In this segment we shared what we liked most about our weeks and how we could improve them.
- Departures. After an exciting weekend full of information and fun, we come to realize that we got to meet lots of students with same interest from all over Ontario, and within all these students, these are the leaders who take initiative to become better and to improve themselves in the world of engineering.

4. Evaluation

- a) Overall the conference was very well run. Everything seemed to be always on schedule. The main strengths of the weekend was the enthusiasm from all the organizers, the professionalism as well as the night time social events. Weaknesses from the events would be the lack of enthusiasm from the actual presenters except for the certain few. All and all, there were no big weaknesses worth mentioning.
- b) My own personal performance at the conference would be a B+. Although I could have probably networked a little more, I feel as though I was truly proud of being a University of Guelph student and I did my best to intake as much information as I could from the lectures. I gained much needed motivation and inspiration from this conference for being an engineer and this will help benefit the University of Guelph, since it will also help motivate the students around me who are struggling. If I were to get another chance to go to another conference I would definitely make a stronger effort to create a bigger network.