



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on Ontario Engineering Competition at University of Waterloo,
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1. Outline of the Competition

Our diverse team of undergrads competed in the consulting engineering competition. It was the first time any of had competed in this competition at OEC. The consulting engineering competition was run starting on the Friday night with the release of the problem statement at the UW campus. The teams were give 45mins to ask questions about the problem statement and then were each escorted to their own room (in our case a dingy old lecture hall) to work on the project for the next 6 hours. The UW provided us with wireless internet access, along with a coffee and slice of pizza. The team was required to deliver a power point presentation and report to the competition organizer by the end of the six hours and then all teams took the school bus shuttle back to the hotel for some short sleep. The team presentation times ranged from 9:00 the next morning to 2:30 in the afternoon; taking place at the UW campus again. Our team was assigned the 2:30 presentation and like the other teams given a target presentation length between 12 and 15mins. Other teams were not permitted to attend the presentation of another University. The winner of the competition was announced at the banquet that night.

2. This Year's Task & How the Team Approached It

In the consulting division we were asked to improve upon the ridership of Detroit's "People Mover". The "People Mover" is downtown Detroit's skytrain system, but does not reach much of the city, and is poorly used, with only 2.3% of it's capacity being used daily. The team was asked to research and analyze the problem and construct a fitting solution in the form of a report and PowerPoint presentation. After research was done it was found that the city of Detroit had planned on putting a light rail system throughout the city but had the funding reneged in the middle of a presidential change. The ideas that the city of Detroit came up with seemed to be fitting to the metro regions. The team decided to extend the design to reach the suburbs of Detroit in order to allow the residents that work in the city, but don't live in the city, a chance to use the system as well. This would create less cars downtown, and less need for parking lots and room for green spaces to alleviate the hot island effect of cities. Since we were not able to sit in on other presentations and the weekend was packed full, we were not able to see what the other ideas of groups were.

3. Evaluation of Performance

i) Conference Organizers

From my experience at the conference, I believe it was run very well. It was very convenient that all the meals and the banquet were at the hotel that we were staying at. The shuttle system that the organizers had provided worked excellent and got us everywhere we needed to be with ample time to spare. The directions to the actual presentation area were somewhat confusing; however there were plenty of people around to help us find our way. One thing that could be done to improve the experience would be, to not have food and drinks during the late night competition be an afterthought, seeing as the competitors cannot leave to get their own food. Also it would be nice to be able to see the other teams presentations.

ii) Team

The team believes that it represented the University of Guelph with respect and dignity. Our conduct during the competition and throughout the weekend was a good representation of the respect that the University of Guelph School of Engineering deserves. Though the team did not place in the competition, we are proud of the work that we did, and the solution that was demonstrated. Starting over, the team would have focused more on the economic aspect of the report and solution in order to justify our design. When asked to come up with a solution, a report and a presentation in such a short period of time, managing the six hours is arguably the most important part of the night. Going into the competition, the team already had a repore with each other, having worked several times together in the past. This is what I would tell a team going into next years competition; build a relationship with each other before getting to the competition. This helps with talking and dealing with differences of opinion.