

# CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION

## Council Report I

*“The Aims of the City & Guilds College Union:*

- *To further the academic, welfare, sporting, recreational, and social interests of students of the Faculty of Engineering.*
- *To encourage, promote, and support our clubs and societies.*
- *To represent the needs and interests of Engineering Students to College, ICU, and external bodies.”*



This year, we hope to build on the success of the previous year and further increase its outreach and communication with the engineering student body. Despite the unprecedented situation that we will be facing next year due to the pandemic, we hope to continue providing that level of support for students in academic, wellbeing, and other areas of representation. We also hope to further assist our many Clubs & Societies in this difficult situation

## Goals for the Year

We are undoubtedly going into a year with exceptional circumstances, having to navigate the CGCU and its clubs through new uncharted territory. However, many of our goals still hold weight and can be applied in the situation we are in.

The goals we wish to set for the CGCU are as follows:

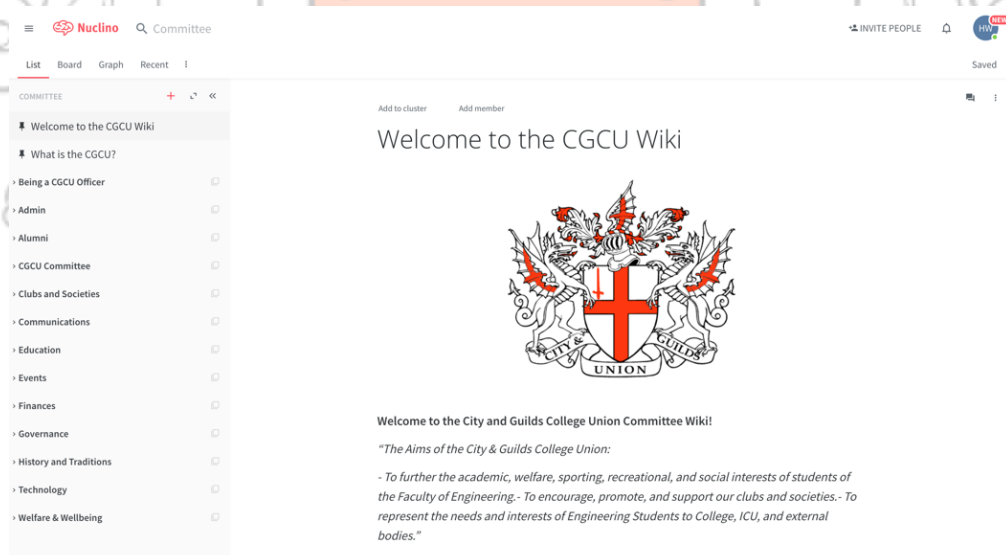
1. To increase the engineering identity and continue bringing attention to the Faculty of Engineering, the City and Guilds College Alumni Association, and the Old Centralians Trust.
2. Improve the committee handover process to make the transition smoother for future committees, alongside developing committee training to provide CGCU officers with the skills to take on their roles.
3. Provide our clubs and societies with the support they need to traverse through this period, acting as a channel to vouch their concerns and issues towards those higher up in the Union.

We hope that our work this year contributes to the reputation of the CGCU and works towards fulfilling these goals that we have set ourselves to strive for.

## Committee Handover & Training

We have introduced a standardised handover document in the CGCU for the first time for every single role. The documents were filled by last year's committee and then used in their one-on-one handover meetings with their successors.

We have also introduced an internal Wiki with the aim of documenting all the necessary knowledge for each roles to minimise the chance of the lost know knowledge during the transference between two year's committees, and as a contingency plan for the case if the predecessors are unable to give handover meetings.



*The CGCU internal wiki for committee members*

We have also bought in external training for the CGCU committee, focusing on soft skills such as inter-personal communications and how to work more effectively with different types of people. This was done in collaborating with the Imperial Career Service and Liebfrog Consultancy.

## Activities

In place of our historical CGCU Annual Engineering Dinner that usually takes place at the start of the year, Activities Chair Nadja Radovic has led the team in replacing it with a series of welcome events that adhere to the social-distancing guidelines. The aim is for engineering students to be able to meet people from other departments.



*CGCU Welcome Week event promotion*

### I. Coffee Table Games Sessions

We created an inter-departmental Discord and set certain times where students can come to the Discord and play popular games such as Among Us, Pictionary, Broken Picturephone etc. It was a great success with many freshers dropping by to play games with each other.

### II. Confidence: Level Up

We have partnered with the Girls In Charge Initiative to bring a workshop for all engineering students on the topic of confidence.

### III. Minecraft Build Battle

Participants put their creativity to the test when they had limited time to build according to the given theme, and everyone's creations are judged in the end.

### IV. Minecraft Hunger Games

We held a death battle for freshers - in Minecraft.



*Screenshots from the Hunger Games map*



## V. Cocktail Quiz Night

A Twitch stream of committee members making a signature CGCU Cocktail followed by an online pub quiz where winner gets 5kg of chocolate.



*Promotional photoshoot for the CGCU shaker kit*

Looking forward, we hope to begin our initiative of 'inter-departmental league table' where departments compete against each other in various social media or online competitions for points to their departments. We are also preparing to run an esports league. The sports officer is looking into the viability of the CGCU sports league for this year. We also will be continuing our collaboration with the Girls In Charge initiative in bring many useful workshops to the students.

## Communication

The CGCU comms team, directed by the Communications Chair Aya Rahmayanti, has been extraordinary this year, outputting the large number of promotional materials needed, especially now that everything is virtual. On top of the Welcome Fair video, a presentation video introducing the CGCU was created and distributed through the departments to the engineering students to introduce them to the CGCU.

In order to increase our social media reach and engagement we ran a 'welcome raffle' where we encouraged students to interact with our social media. This scheme proved to be incredibly successful. Several social media competitions are also being ran, including a pet picture competition and a meme competition. The bi-weekly CGCU newsletter to all engineers has also been resumed.

The Guildsheet Editors have been working to transition the magazine online, with a victual quiz trail called 'The Big Brain Trail' being published, and a first call for Guildsheet articles sent out in the most recent CGCU newsletter.

The comms team has also began thinking of more social-conscious contents to post, with further discussion of that being had in the upcoming general committee meeting.

## Clubs & Societies

All clubs and societies are experiencing a difficult year due to all the uncertainties around how activities would be run, and the many new restrictions placed on them. The management group team

has worked over the summer to support them in their various endeavours, establishing inter-MG communication channels. Meetings have been set up where difficulties that the C&Ss are encountering could be understood and discussed among the management group. The team has also assisted numerous C&Ss in finance, activities, and sponsors issues.

Moreover, in light of the reduction in promotional opportunity for our non-depsoc clubs that don't have set mailing lists, we have offered up our own in aid of promoting them and helping them gain traction for their mailing list. The feedback for that has been very positive.

We have also created a wiki for all members of our clubs and societies, detailing the finance and constitutional procedures they need to know for their day-to-day running.

Once the dust settles, we hope to be providing them more clarity on the various types of funding they can apply for throughout the year to support any initiatives or endeavours they may have, or to support them with any extra cost resulting from the current Covid situations.

## Education

With the most recent Autumn elections, we have been able to fill in a lot of our DepRep and YearRep roles, in addition to our Education Officer role being filled.

Our Education Chair has been proactive in meeting some of the existing DepReps and making sure that they are aware of the support, both financially and logistically, that the CGCU can provide.

We, alongside our partnering body, the OCTrust, have been adamant on being able to provide support in helping run events that DepReps may have for their department to ensure that these initiatives are not stopped at the drawing board due to a lack of funding.

We also are working towards finding a solution to making our industrial panel events work in an online setting, especially our Faces of Engineering diversity event.

## Wellbeing

One of the key concerns for this year, especially from departments and the Faculty of Engineering has been student wellbeing. This has been a topic talked a lot about with academic staff representatives on students that may have to isolate themselves at home or away from other students depending on the course of action they have taken to multi-modal or fully-remote learning for the 2020-21 academic year.

In reaction to this, the Wellbeing team have been planning for events such as interactive yoga. They have also been proactive in creating Wellbeing tips for our fortnightly Engineers Editorial, speaking about different ways to combat "zoom fatigue".

## Alumni

We are very thankful for our alumni networks playing a huge role in supporting us through being understanding of the situation for us students.

This term, the alumni network has been hard at work setting up new events regardless of the Covid situation. This has been apparent from the increased support from the CGCA and OCTrust to help provide funding for our clubs and societies for their new initiatives, alongside having them meeting alumni.

A quiz for recent graduates is to be held during November and potentially an open meeting in December, being hosted virtually. The annual DepSoc meet and greet is going ahead too to continue this tradition. The alumni officer has also working on a new mentoring scheme for recent graduates alongside a panel event for current undergraduates.

We have also been able to reach an agreement with the OCTrust in providing a summer sabbatical pay for the Vice President for their work with the President over the summer. The sabbatical aims to make it financially viable for the Vice President to take on CGCU work over the summer, especially handling the logistics of the Welcome Dinner and Freshers Engagement plan in future years.

## Finance

We began the year with £21,538 in the bank. As of the end of October we have £19,154, with the majority of the spending so far being on equipment purchases, licenses, and welcome week expenditures. It has also been spent on committee merch and the purchasing of goods for resale.

The CGCU has historically relied on funding from the Faculty of Engineering for our running. Unfortunately, this year there has been delays to the application and therefore grant is still being obtained. We hope to complete that in the very near future.

