

# CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION

## Council Report III

*“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.”*



As this year draws to an end, we hope to continue providing inter-departmental opportunities for all 8 departments of engineering student. As restrictions lift, we will be looking to assist our clubs & societies in transitioning back to normal. The CGCU will also look to hold its first in person event of the year when the risks are deemed to be sufficiently low. This year has been atypical, but we hope to return to our normal offerings next year by ensuring a good standard of handovers to the committee-elects.

## Goals Progression

Hayley Wong, President

Below is the progression on the 3 goals we have set for this year.

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.

The engineering alumni mentoring scheme pilot is ongoing - further details can be found in the 'Alumni' Section. Cross-departmental events has been held, with Faces of Engineering focusing on diversity in engineering. Intercollegiate Engineering Alliance is expanding and preparing for its next worldwide event.

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.

The handover process to next year's committee is being prepared. The standardised handover documents introduced last year will be updated and sent to the new committee members. We have negotiated with the OCTrust to support the CGCU in holding a committee training day.

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.

The management group team has continued supporting the CSPs in finance and constitutional matters, assisting them in starting to transition back to in person events where possible.

## Intercollegiate Engineering Alliance

Hayley Wong, President

The IEA has been ever expanding, inviting new universities to join our network. Again, we are in the middle of preparations for our upcoming conference and have various speakers confirmed. It will be an inter-disciplinary event, opened to engineering students worldwide.



*The Intercollegiate Engineering Alliance with its updated constituent universities*

## Activities: Faces of Engineering

Nadja Radovic, Activities Chair

This year, the CGCU's annual diversity-focused discussion panel was hosted online, on Zoom, in compliance with COVID-19 regulations.

The panel was attended by ten panellists from the Engineering industry, ranging from Aerospace to Software companies. The remote nature of the event seemed to attract a greater number of panellists than our prior in-person panels, likely due to its convenience. The increased uptake was unexpected, and led to a slightly larger panel of speakers than initially planned - many companies opting to send two representatives each. This change is something to be taken into account for future remote events of this nature, with a more staggered approach to contacting industry partners asking for their attendance.



*The panellists for the Faces of Engineering online event*

As well as contacting Engineering companies we have worked with before, the CGCU asked its DepSoc Industrial Liaison Officers to reach out to their industry partners. This process of inviting panellists was very efficient and successful, though it required clear event plans to be circulated beforehand. In future iterations, it is recommended to host a short meeting with said Officers so that they have a better understanding and clearer expectations of the event. Additionally, it is suggested to place a limit on the number of companies each DepSoc reaches out to, to preserve variety in the panel.

The event began with brief introductions to the panel, followed by 90 minutes of open discussion regarding topics of workplace diversity, guided by the panel Chair. Examples of the topics raised were:

- How has your company's approach to encouraging diversity in Engineering personally affected you?
- Have you had any experiences with unconscious or implicit bias during your career? What are some ways in which you challenge the biases you or others hold?
- How have the ways in which you champion diversity and inclusivity changed as your career has progressed?

Following on, the final 30mins of the event were held on the [Wonder.me](#) platform, which allowed students to converse with panellists in much smaller groups (including 1:1). This event segment aimed to recreate a more casual, networking setting remotely. While some students enjoyed this portion of the event, others were dissuaded by the switch between platforms (Zoom to [Wonder.me](#)). Breakout rooms could be used as an alternative, for future iterations.

Finally, in place of the usual catered networking session offered to panellists, each was sent a £20 Deliveroo voucher courtesy of the CGCU.

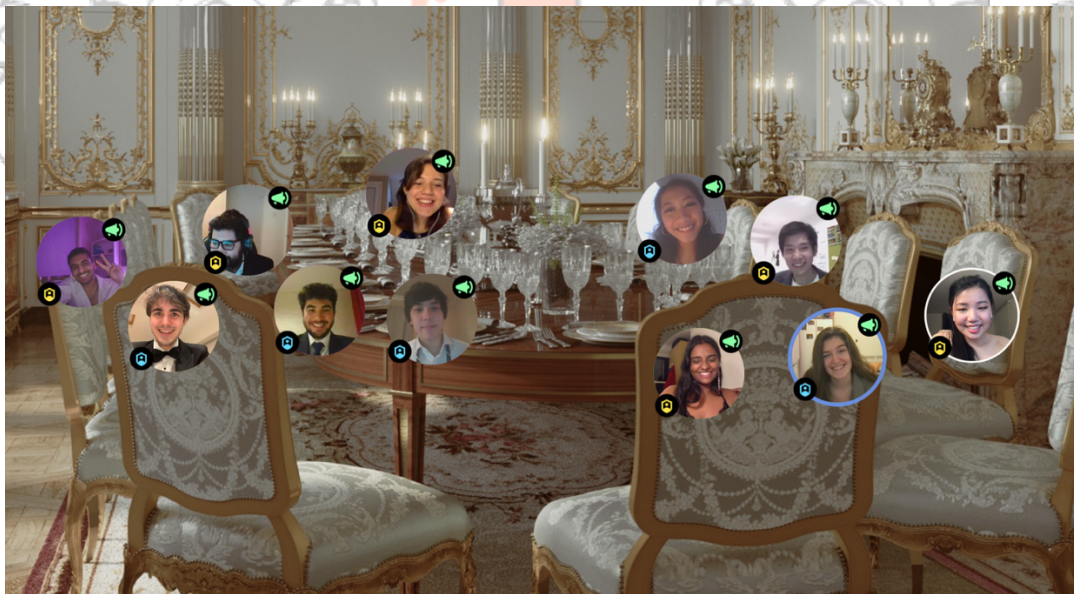
Overall, the event was well attended, with a steady turnout of over 70 students. Students who attended the event and filled in a survey about their opinion of the event received a £10 Deliveroo voucher. The event was well-reviewed; seen as beneficial and thought-provoking by most students. With the suggested improvements in place, Faces of Engineering can continue to be an excellent annual event for the CGCU.

### Activities: RCSU x CGCU Black Tie Dinner Event

Hilliam Tung, Vice President

For Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of March, RCSU and CGCU jointly ran a virtual Black Tie Dinner event as a substitute for the dinners and balls that both constituent unions were unable to run due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. This was held on Spatial.chat, a virtual chat room platform with a dimension of space to allow for users to roam around and join different conversations.

Attendees were able to buy tickets to the event, with the cost of the ticket paying for a 3-course gourmet dinner managed by ChefInMyKitchen. Both constituent unions subsidised a considerable fraction of each attendees' ticket due to the unspent grant allocated for dinners from their faculties. Attendees were also able to buy shakers and mixers for cocktail-making sessions that were mixed into the second half of the event after dining.



*Committee picture during the online black tie dinner in a Wonder.me virtual room*

The dinner saw a total of 177 participants attend the evening, with a lot of participants staying till the end. We received much appreciation for the event and its ability to still give people the feeling of inclusiveness.

## CGCU Colours Awards

Hilliam Tung, Vice President

The CGCU Colours Awards is done annually around June to reflect on the work of the students who have went above and beyond for their community, department or society. We have publicised nominations until the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, in which we'll then be awarding the different colours awards (half-colours, full-colours, President's Award) on an absolute terms basis so that all volunteers are judged only on their individual effort and merit and not in comparison to others.



*One of the pins and the certificates for the CGCU Colours Awards*

The CGCU Colours Awards last year were done virtually over Teams successfully so a similar process will take place.

## Clubs & Societies

Allan Lee, Treasurer

The management group has worked immensely hard throughout the spring and summer term. The management group supported C&Ss in their constitutional change, which is important as the pandemic has affected the recruitment of members, thereby a change in committee structure is required before the leadership elections.

Annual budgeting was also carried out in spring term, the management group supported and reviewed each C&Ss budgeting, in minimizing the financial impact of coronavirus has on the CSP, ensuring a prosperous financial situation for CSPs for the next academic year. The management group has also followed up the series of back-log of sponsorship contracts with the union and is happy to see that the union has implemented a new system in summer term to how sponsorship contracts will be signed and processed by the union.

By end of spring term, the UK is entering the ease of lockdown phase, allowing some of our CSPs to participate in certain competitions and events. Racing club being one of the CSPs to participate in an annual BUKC competition under government guidelines, the management group supported the CSP and ensured that the relevant documentations are completed and approved with the union, which allowed them to participate in the competition in mid-April.

## Finance

Allan Lee, Treasurer

In spring term, we have received the funding of £11,960 from the Faculty of Engineering. The funding will be used in various purposes, funding of the CGCU grant for associated CSPs, CGCU dinner which was organised in March, more social and wellbeing events are to be organised in the coming months as easing of restrictions proceeds.

## Alumni

Leah Redmond, Alumni Officer

As described in the previous report, the objective of this scheme is to connect recent graduates (<5 years since graduation) with more senior graduates (>5 years since graduation) for the opportunity for mentees to receive specialist careers advice from more experience graduates who were once in their position.



CGCA alumni mentoring scheme promotional post

Applications to the scheme came in thick and fast, with 48 mentee applicants for the 12 mentor applicants. These were carefully matched, resulting in 11 groups as two mentors specialised in the automotive industry yet only one mentee applicant shared this interest. Since the pairings were circulated in May, 10 out of the 11 mentor groups have been in contact both via email and zoom. So far the response from mentors and mentees seems greatly positive. The one group which did not receive primary contact from the mentee was in fact the group including two mentors, who have instead decided to mentor each other as there was a large age difference between them. The scheme continues to progress, with meetings scheduled at the convenience of the mentor and mentee. A short survey will be sent in June to check in with participants.

## Regalia

Fatima Khan, Regalia Officer

Due to the difficulty of distributing merch throughout the pandemic (and having experienced this first hand with CGCU cocktail kits), further plans were temporarily put on hold. However, due to the recent easing of restrictions now making it possible for students to collect merch from the office, focus is turning to regalia again. Since it is too late in the year for hoodie pre-orders, we are currently looking at more general merch such as academic scarves, which have been sold out since last year. Furthermore, as we are anticipating some return of students to campus in Autumn next year, we are looking to remake some promotional merchandise such as pens, stickers and oyster wallets.