



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.”*



OVERVIEW

This report provides a summary of all the activities that the City & Guilds College Union has focused on since September, as well as the general goals for the upcoming terms.

It has been a successful term so far, with most parts of CGCU running strong. This year, one of the main focuses is for CGCU to be more actively engaged with the Engineering Student body through an increased variety of social, celebratory, and mascotry events. The CGCU committee is taking more active roles in contacting and collaborating with the CGCU CSP, as well as the Engineering Well-being and Academic representatives.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- Daniel Zhuo

The CGCU has had a great start this year with many successful opportunities to bond with our students, all thanks to the hard work of our dedicated committee members. The committee has conducted effective meetings, working together as a unified team to improve the student experiences of Engineering students - something I sincerely appreciate. Despite a few members and chairs being absent, CGCU is still operating on a strong basis this term and is looking forward to continuing, or even strengthening, its success once we have more active chairs and members in the future.

From the very beginning of the year, the committee met and discussed our unified goals shared by each committee member. We identified that the goal this year is not only to increase the quantity of events but also to improve the quality of events. This year, we hosted our 125th Welcome Dinner at De Vere Connaught Hall with meticulously planned entertainment throughout the dinner for over 400 guests. It is evident that CGCU is becoming more active in rebuilding the sense of community through similarly dedicated events that celebrate our diversity, traditions, and friendships.

We are also building strong connections with our alumni associations (CGCA and OC Trust) and Faculty of Engineering. Faculty of Engineering and our Alumni Associations have kindly and generously supported CGCU financially to organize the Welcome Dinner, and have greatly subsidized the price for all its students. Unfortunately, despite OC Trust has been very generous in supporting our hardships students and funding meaningful trips, not many students know about them. CGCU is currently working with the Trust to distribute more relevant information and encourage its students to apply. Meanwhile, CGCU has scheduled multiple departmental-level Alumni Bar nights for its students and alumni to meet, and is working with the alumni groups to find an optimal date for another flagship Alumni Networking event involving all eight Engineering Departments.



We have created formal Teams and casual communication channels for our Academic and Wellbeing Representatives. Although VPW has not been active this term, we have managed to involve Wellbeing representatives in our discussions. We are currently organizing small Secret Santa events with our Wellbeing reps and creating a studying guidance booklet with our Education reps. CGCU will continue its support for disabled, LGBTQ+, and minority student groups through more events, feedback surveys, and promotion of relevant posts and ideas.

In terms of CSPs of CGCU, there is still a lot of work to be done to re-establish strong connections with them. At the current stage, CGCU is experiencing a lack of a sense of unity with its clubs and societies. To start working on this, we have contacted all the CGCU CSPs and initiated conversations about future collaborations. We have also sent CSP Feedback forms and initiated monthly CGCU interactive CSP discussion sessions open to all our students. In these meetings, we aim to build stronger connections with these clubs while hoping to help and support our CSPs to be stronger. This has always been the main goal of CGCU, and our committee this year is working towards a stronger CGCU with many prosperous Clubs and Societies.

Overall, this is an exciting and successful beginning of the year, yet there are still many things awaiting us to complete. I'd love to sincerely thank the active committee and all those who aided us in the process, making all of this possible. We will continue to try to make this year the best one!



ACTIVITIES

- Sky Wang

Review of the 2023 Autumn Term:

1. CGCU Riddle Contest:

The first mini-event of the year was held online during mid-September, drawing active participation from students to solve engineering riddles. The responses from students were quite positive, and winners received exclusive merchandise as recognition for their sharp thinking.

2. Summer Picnics

We have hosted a picnic for all the incoming and returning students by the end of the summer break. We hosted this event in aim of making CGCU more engaged with the students' Uni experience at an early time before the official lectures and Welcome Week took place.

3. Welcome Dinner at De Vere Connaught Hall:

One of the everlasting tradition of the City & Guilds is the its flagship event Welcome Dinner, which was held at the De Vere venue this year. It was held on the 21st of October, the traditional 3rd Saturday of October. It has been the celebration of the 125th years of the Guilds, and the freshers and returning students were not just welcomed but were embraced into the heart of our CGCU. The event was carefully planned out over the summer and many entertainments were included, in hope to make the night an enjoyable one. Our entertainment this year included the committee string duo pieces, piano solo, A Capella and Jazz Band performances, along with rounds of raffle, chocolate fountains and after-party. Overall, we have continued the tradition of the Guilds and were very thankful for everybody in CGCU, ICU, CGCA and our student participants who made all of this possible.

4. Halloween Pub Crawl

We hosted a Halloween Pub Crawl on the 30th of October, with a costume parade competition, where we gave out CGCU prizes. Many people showed out to the event and had fun with their friends! Of course, with many well-costumed talented member such as Mario brothers and Marvel Hero with us.

5. Karaoke Night:

Karaoke night was held on the 20th November, and it was proved to be a resounding success, echoing with laughter and songs. Members showcased their diverse musical tastes, and this event revealed many hidden vocal talents within the Engineering student community. The main focus of the event is to unify our students while hosting a relaxing environment for our students to enjoy singing before the end of the term.

6. International Snack Adventure

In alignment with our commitment to inclusivity, this event served as a unique platform to bring together students from various cultural backgrounds. We curated a delightful feast featuring snacks from eight different countries and highlighted the significance of celebrating diversity within our student body during the event. We as CGCU took pride in showcasing the unique cultures that contribute to the vibrancy of our engineering community. Attendees were provided with insights into the customs, traditions, and



culinary delights of the many different countries.

7. Pub Quiz & Cocktail mixing

We are planning to host the event on the 9th December this year at Metric Venue, and the pub quiz would provide an intellectual challenge that brought members together. In the meanwhile, we are also organising a cocktail mixing event was a hands-on experience that allowed members to delve into the world of mixology. From shaking and stirring to creating unique concoctions, participants not only learned new skills but also enjoyed a social setting that encouraged networking and friendship.

- Looking Ahead to the Future (More upcoming events) :

1. After-Exam Winter Carnival:

We are planning to host the Winter Carnival with all inflatable playgrounds and castles during the second weekend of January after everybody had their exams. The event would take place at the Prince Garden venue and would include various rides including mechanical bull riding challenge, surfing balance machine, Gladiator game, and much more. This event aims to bring a sense of warmth and community during the chilly season, when everybody comes back from the Christmas and had their (chilly) exams.

2. Flea Market:

We aim to work on the goal of sustainability this year, and one of the idea we have is to organise a community-driven exchange event to make undesirable items become treasures. On that day, students can explore their unused items and sell them if other students needs. It helps to build a sustainable environment not only for our union but also for the school.

3. C&G Week:

City & Guilds Week is a highlight of the next term, featuring an array of activities that aim to enrich the personal and professional lives of our engineering students. The current tentative proposed time of the week is from the 26th February 2024 to 3rd March 2024, and we are proposing multiple events during the C+G week including:

- (1) Bowling Night on the Monday, 26th February
- (2) Dog Petting Therapy Sessions on the Tuesday, 27th February
- (3) Inter-departmental Sport Tournament on the Wednesday, 28th February
- (4) Face of Engineering on the Thursday, 29th February
- (5) Boat Party on the Friday, 1st March
- (6) Engineering Hackathon (Very tentative), 2nd - 3rd March

4. Club Night Embargo

Mid-march, weekends are preferred. We have started the negotiation with the venue that was reserved by the previous committee. The expected attendance of the event is roughly 150 people.



COMMUNICATION

- Mahadi Hassan

General Update:

Following the resignation of the current Communications Chair, Mahadi assumed her duties. This included managing another media and marketing officer and sorting out account logins for CGCU on platforms like LinkedIn and Canva.

Review of the 2023 Autumn Term:

1. Welcome Letter and Q&A Sessions

The first task of the year was to welcome all the incoming students and started planning an hosting online events. In the meanwhile, the committee has started working on answering any questions that the incoming/returning students might have in form of Questionnaire in Instagram platform.

2. Sponsorship Update

The sponsorship brochure was created, and emails were sent out to potential sponsors for the Welcome Dinner and general events during September and October by Mahadi. After the bi-election, the task responsibility shifted to Advay, the newly elected Sponsorship Officer, who will focus on gathering sponsors for the Engineering Hackathon event.

One current issue with sponsorship is that the CGCU LinkedIn account is unusable, and we cannot contact HR from companies directly using the CGCU profile. It was noted that the account is not registered by any of the role accounts, which means we have to reclaim the account for easier communication with the HR of the companies for a higher rate of sponsorship success. Another issue is that the CGCU website is currently still unavailable, and it is something that urgently needs to be fixed as our Webmaster is not taking his responsibilities seriously.

3. General Social Media Updates

This year, the team has mainly focused on creating interesting and eye-catching posts for the CGCU Social Media accounts. This has discontinued the traditional one-background style of posts that were used by the previous committee. Moreover, the team in the past has only promoted general CGCU events, and this year's initiative is to reconnect and bond with our Clubs and Societies under the name of CGCU. With the collaboration of the CSP Team, the marketing and communication team will be more involved in promoting events that these clubs and societies are organizing.

4. Mascotry Tradition

This year, the team is focusing on making our students more aware of our mascots, which include Spanner and Bolt, Vintage Car Bo', and Motorbike Derrick. We have crafted the Spanner, the handouts for freshers to better understand the structure and about CGCU, with a heavier emphasis on the tradition of the CGCU and the importance of our mascots. One of the goals this year as the Communication Team is to promote this wealth of legacy and tradition that has made CGCU proud to be itself.

5. Communication File Reorganization

One of the focuses this year is also to organize CGCU content on OneDrive with conditional sharing. This is mainly because the internal organization of CGCU files is currently messy, and there are too many unused storage locations that the committee is not aware of, which would decrease their efficiency.



6. Increased Social Media Presence:

With the support of a new media and marketing officer, we are trying to expand CGCU social media outreach, including a new venture into TikTok.



WELFARE

- Daniel Zhuo

Review of the 2023 Autumn Term:

We have organized two CGCU Sexual Health & Hygiene Corners thus far, one in October and another more recently in November. The response to these events has been mixed, primarily due to some individuals feeling uncomfortable with publicly taking sexual health products. To address this, CGCU aims to prioritize student well-being by providing sexual health and hygiene products in our office for private distribution. Rest assured, CGCU will continue actively promoting safe sexual conduct and consent culture.

By the end of December, CGCU plans to initiate free Stress-Period Breakfast supplies for students during the stressful exam periods in the morning. The goal is to offer students a healthy breakfast to better prepare them for exams. This initiative will be repeated during the January exam periods, and CGCU will continue providing free breakfast for students during the first week of school after the Christmas break.

Collaboration with Engineering Wellbeing Representatives:

Following the Autumn Elections, we are reaching out to representatives in each Engineering department. Collaboration has commenced with departmental and year reps to organize a small Secret Santa event and is in preparation for a larger-scale event involving as many students as possible in the engineering departments.

In conjunction with the Academic Team, we aim to send questionnaires to students to understand their concerns and worries better, allowing us to provide more effective assistance. Student stress, particularly regarding coursework deadlines during the Christmas break, remains a concern and will be discussed and represented in the FEC by the Academic teams.

CGCU Goals:

This year, CGCU focuses on sustainability and healthy life habits. We encourage students to have more interactions with nature and collaborate with the Environment Society to promote Gardening Afternoon events. Additionally, we plan to provide students with healthy and eco-friendly vegetables after these events.

To promote awareness and support for the disabled student community, we are in contact with our Disabilities Officer and encourage student participation in Disability History Month. Working closely with the CGCU events team, we consider the accessibility of events for our students and plan to host more supports and events for our LGBTQ+ students in collaboration with the LGBTQ+ Officer.

CGCU is proposing hardship funding for students to afford and attend our events. We aim to keep students informed about available financial support through emails and social media stories.



EDUCATION

- Linmo Lin

Review of the 2023 Autumn Term:

The initial half of the term has been dedicated to familiarizing ourselves with the responsibilities of our roles, engaging with the CGCU committee, and establishing connections with Year Education Reps. Our primary focus has been active participation in key meetings, such as the FTC and the Union Council, where discussions regarding challenges and changes associated with enhancing students' academic well-being take place. The team's primary goal is to keep education reps informed about changes while understanding their concerns. Given the close connection with the Wellbeing Team, our strategy this year is to actively gather comprehensive feedback on both academic and welfare concerns. The team is currently designing surveys to be periodically distributed to all Year reps for feedback, with discussions taking place during the SSCC meetings.

In more detail, the team attended the Rep Welcome and Training Session to articulate the vision of the CGCU Education Team for the academic year. To facilitate better communication, the team crafted emails to all departmental reps and established a WhatsApp group for open discussions. This approach aims not only to address department-specific concerns but also to identify common issues spanning multiple departments. It was also noted that not all departments have organized internal SSCC meetings to discuss issues with all the year student reps, and this is something the CGCU Education Team is aiming to organize if the Faculty of Engineering approves.

One of the main concerns gathered so far is that our students cannot find enough studying and collaborating areas during stressful exam periods. CGCU Education Team is actively following up on this issue. To best assist our students in the meantime, we aim to create a guide for students to find appropriate working and collaborating spaces while we seek better solutions. The guidebook will be finalized as soon as possible once the faculty confirms the available areas for student self-study and information about the regulation of the room.

CGCU has also collaborated with the Imperial Career Service Team this term. We invited the Career Service Team to host an online panel session that explores ways to maximize our students' potential in effectively using the resources available to them. The feedback from the event is quite positive, and we are planning ahead to host similar panel sessions for our students.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

- CSP Teams

Review of the 2023 Autumn Term:

It was noted that during the previous year, CGCU lacked connections with the CSPs associated with us. To address this, we have created DepSoc and Clubs group chat communities with the CSPs under CGCU. We are also aiming to increase interactions with the clubs and societies via social media and host collaborative events together. Currently, we are re-sharing the stories of those CSPs and promoting these clubs and societies to our students. Conversations have started with the DepSocs, and we have received positive feedback. We will continue to be more engaged with the CSPs associated with us and offer our assistance.

One of the goals for the CSPs Team is to finalize the organization of a bi-monthly CSP interactive feedback workshop for the CSPs committee and members to discuss any concerns or issues they have encountered. This approach aims to enhance our understanding of the issues and enable us to provide better assistance. Similarly, we will also be sending out surveys for the CSP members and committee if they cannot attend any in-person offline meetings. Regardless of the platform, we aim to support our CSPs effectively.

Looking Forward to the Future:

We are currently working on our new flagship event, the Engineering Hackathon, and would like to collaborate with the CSPs. An effective promotional strategy is not only to promote the events organized by our CSPs but also to collaborate with them.