

# ESSCO AGM Delegate Report

Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>

Delegates:  
Jolene Funk  
Rob Kipping  
Natasha Niznik

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Ryerson Engineering Student Society

ESSCO AGM took place the weekend May 27<sup>th</sup>- May 29<sup>th</sup> at University of Ontario Institute of Technology and was attended by 16 of the ESSCO member student societies. The following is a brief overview of the sessions attended by the delegates, Jolene Funk (Head Delegate), Robert Kipping and Natasha Niznik.

### Ignite ESSCO

Consisted of each school making a presentation of what their school does well. Presentations on frosh week were provided by Carleton and McMaster. They both use positions for frosh and leaders to add more spirit and to get more people involved. Presentations on social events consisted of Lakehead's annual "Snow Golf" and Guelph's "Corn Roast" which are tailored to their location and always have high attendance. Presentations on services were conducted by Waterloo 'B' who runs a cafe, pub, resume critiques, and runs scholarships totalling over \$900 000, Queen's who runs an environmentally and fiscally responsible Tea Room, and U of T who runs several services such as Hardhat Cafe, textbook sales and swag sales. On the academic side of things Waterloo 'A' spoke on the representation of the student body when it came to appeals, co-op, and university policy, while Western spoke about the communication between the Society and the student body by having a comprehensive website and posting office hours online, something I strongly think we should do. UOIT has spent a lot of time learning from other societies as they are relatively new. Since they don't have the same size student levy from other schools (very little contribution from students) they have become experts at resource management. University of Ottawa works on its relationships with other faculties through round tables, events, networking, and a competition between business and engineering students. Finally Conestoga our newest ESSCO member school which has only had a society for a year is an expert at existing. They keep starting new events based on what their students want and have a great turn out rate.

### ACE and Nuclear Simulation Tours

UOIT has state-of-the-art facilities for the testing of vehicles, be it road or air. They have received funding from GM, but open their facilities to anyone who has interest, including student groups. They are built with support services such as fully equipped garage bays that would allow competing companies to be testing products at the same time without compromising their industrial secrets.

They have the only climate controlled wind tunnel in the world which is capable of yawing the vehicle. Important to the testing is the mechanisms to simulate the road surface under service conditions as well as the UV lamps which can simulate the effects of sunlight at the equator at high noon. They are capable of mimicking the entire range of light conditions, from dusk till dawn. They are also capable of simulating a variety of conditions found around the world, from the dry heat of a desert to driving snowstorms.

The Nuclear Simulation tour consisted of showing us some of the software in use at UOIT. It was developed over a period of over 15 years by the experts at AECL. The process modelling software is so precise, it can simulate the effect of switching a single valve on or off would have on the entire operation.

### PEO/OSPE/ OCEPP

PEO – Professional Engineers of Ontario. This the regulatory body responsible for the Professional Engineer designation. The three main goals are admission, discipline and enforcements.

There are 36 chapters in Ontario which allow student members, new graduates would do well to join the Engineers in Training program. They can take their professional conduct exam as soon as they graduate, when the information is still fresh. There are exams in April, August and December of each year. Another benefit of this program is that you will have access to people who can assess your experience and make sure you are on the right track to obtain your licence. It would be worth looking into asking a representative to come talk to our students, or perhaps create a bridge by which students would feel less shy about getting involved with local chapters.

OSPE – Ontario Society of Professional Engineers. This organization was created to help avoid a conflict of interest between the regulation and the lobbying for the advancement of engineering as a profession. They are responsible for making sure engineers' voices are heard in the political realm.

OCEPP – Ontario Center for Engineering and Public Policy. As of this year, OCEPP is part of the PEO. They promote the expertise of engineers and try to encourage engineers to participate in politics. Many other countries have a much higher representation of engineers in politics which makes perfect sense. A tangible example of the work done by these groups is the creation of the Engineering Policy graduate program at MacMaster University.

### Advocacy and LIAC

ESSCO's Lobbying and Issues Action Committee is remade each year to advocate for students, but the purpose of this group needed to specified so it could be more effectively used. In the end it was decided this committee would be put together on a need basis. Only once an issue arises that ESSCO agrees it should lobby for, will it be put into action.

### ESSCO Initiatives

The purpose of this session was to talk about ESSCO initiatives and how to improve them. The two main topics were E4TW and the Rube Golberg Machine.

E4TW is meant for both engineering students and to entice high school students to consider a

career in engineering. This causes a bit of a crisis of identity even in the minds of those involved in its production. This is similar to issues with the Golden Ram, which needs to maintain its humour but should contain serious or informative articles. Natasha hopes to balance this better, by greater distribution (faculty offices) and encouraging current contributors to write more serious articles. The solution though for E4TW was to write a mission statement, which could also assist the Golden Ram.

Discussion about the Rube Golberg machine centred around getting more high school participation and preventing embarrassing malfunctions such as what happened this year at the CN tower. At Ryerson, we always seem to end up doing the machine as a last minute thing, which totally rules out high school participation. Hopefully with the appointment of a NEW commissioner in the fall term as opposed to the winter, we will be able to plan this year better. This must be well planned and kept professional, this would also assist in high school outreach.

### Budget/PMRC/FRC

The budget presented by Stephen Schauer was reviewed and was in line with the initial proposal but Policy Manual Review Committee and Financial Review Committee failed to happen this past year. So it was decided that the timing must be more organized to give the committee time to review by using the Chair more effectively or mandating people to do it. Both committees have been filled and expected to complete their tasks this year.

### Randstand

Randstand is a large recruiting firm which has a specialization in placing engineers. They offered advice for students who are entering the working world. They explained that trends in the population mean that there will be deficit of skilled workers to fill engineering jobs in the next few years, at least till 2018.

Some career strategies offered to the audience were to choose jobs with room for advancement over a higher initial salary. They encourage students to choose a job where they will have strong mentors. They emphasize the value of co-op and internships, explaining that they might be considered working experience for job listings that require experience. Also important is volunteer work, including involvement in an eng soc, because they help emphasize that the applicant is a 'good citizen'. Grades are more important in areas of research and development. Finally, they explain that getting registered as an Engineer in Training is worth the cost because it shows potential employers that the applicant is taking initiative in their career and isn't just waiting for something to come along.

Of course, most recruitment firms specialize in contract work, so the speaker helped dispel some of the concerns one might have with the changing job market. They told us that it is a good idea to use contract work to "kickstart your career". Some contract work may become permanent as the project which was contracted out becomes profitable.

## Maintaining a Large Eng Soc

Complacency- make diverse events and publications, "everyone welcome".

Internal politics- various opinions, try to appreciate them all.

Policy- should be clear, readable, reasonable and reviewed every 5-10 years through a committee.

Management- Better transitioning, workshops, and accountability meetings

## Communicating with Admin

Howard Brown gave a very useful talk about how to be brave enough to approach the Admin and Faculty and how to be taken seriously by them.

-be professional

-bring business cards

-follow up

-introduce yourself to people organizing events

The following tips were given for communicating effectively:

- Get your thinking straight before
- Say what you mean
- Get to the point
- Be concise, don't waste words
- Be real, be natural
- Speak in images

How to make RESS more inclusive? He suggested we make sure we include the words "Everyone Welcome" on all our posters. We take those words for granted and just imagine that everyone else is as excited and engaged as we are. We really have an uphill battle to make sure we open RESS up to a whole new generation of students as well as engage those we already have. Hopefully his tip will help.

## Being a Good Leader

This session was presented by Jeanette Chau and offered some good advice on how to get things done and increase engagement. She mentioned tracking student engagement, and Natasha has done a great job by using the student survey!

Goals should be:

-specific

-measurable

-achievable

-realistic

-time-bound.

A way for RESS to benefit from this information is to hold an Open House after Frosh Week to invite people into the office and perhaps the room next door in order to make people feel more comfortable visiting the office during the year and talking to us about what they want to see. It would be a good way to reach out to the people who don't like parties, outdoors events or can't make it out because of other commitments.

Another idea which could be applied to RESS is the idea of Kaizen, or continuous improvement. Sometimes it's hard to implement the great level of change we will need to in order to turn this place around. However, if we take little initiatives everyday to engage someone who might not otherwise become involved, or to offer better services, who knows what we can manage after a year?

### Social Media

There are two main goals to using social networking for your engsoc, accountability and transparency as well as promotion. It makes our interaction with our peers more like an online conversation as opposed to a press release.

Benefits:

- Find new contacts and opportunities
- Clears up misconceptions
- Advertises events near the date
- Answer students questions
- Accountability

Posts must remain informative, light and professional

Specific to RESS, we should look into facebook ads to promote major events such as the AGM or the SemiFormal. Natasha is looking into smart phone scanning of posters as well as using flickr.

### GM Technical Session

Overview of Chevy volt.

### AECL Presentation

A really engaging speaker from AECL came in to talk to us about the future of nuclear energy, as well as to address concerns about the recent problems in Japan. Could be a good speaker for Ryerson. I'm sure he'll be of interest to all engineering students, especially the chemical engineers.

### Plenary

I cannot find the posted minutes for this, but can be made available when received. Most topics were small and will be dealt with by PMRC in the future.

### Elections

There were multiple nominations for the positions and some great presentations were made, but your ESSCO Executive for this year will be made up of:

President- Mauricio Cubrello

VP Finance and Administration- Mukhtar Galan

VP Services- Raquel Almeida

VP Development- Cameron Winterink

VP Communications- Shame Comello

This was a very productive conference, with a lot of information to take home, we hope that you can take away a few things from this report as it has given us many ideas to help improve the Ryerson Engineering Student Society