

2015

QEC Competition Report



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VP Sports and Competition

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Pre Competition Preparation

Prior to the competition, I have conducted a mandatory training session for all teams. Some teams even got two training sessions. My decision upon choosing who was required to have two training sessions was based upon experience. The junior design team and the re-engineering team were both relatively new to the whole competition experience. They needed to show that they were able to work as a team and fully understand what was expected from them.

The mandatory training session conducted a week before competition was organized to allow each team to practice before competition. For senior design, I have prepared a new problem for them to solve with the help of Lambert Le. It took an extreme amount of time to come up with something that had a proper level of difficulty in order to prepare them from what was coming. As for the other categories, I made them do pre-competitions from previous years.

Even though most cases are given during competition, there is always a way to prepare your delegation. After all, practice makes perfect. The problem with preparing your team before competition is that there is a very short amount of time to do so. Tryouts are held during the end of October because that is when the hosting University releases the documents. There is no way of choosing the delegation before because they are required to complete the pre-competitions prior to selection. Once the delegation is selected, it requires an extreme amount of planning to find a date that is suitable for everyone in order to organize a training session. Many students have midterms in October-November, then there are finals and holidays in December-January and the next thing you know, competition is right around the corner.

Also, practice takes motivation! It is not supposed to be up to the head delegate to always train the delegates. They have to be willing to practice on their own time with their team and try to perform better during the mandatory training session. Team work makes a dream work. Without team bonding the delegation will quickly fall apart and will affect the overall performance. I have organized two outings after the training sessions to allow the participants a chance to know each other. I strongly believe that knowing each other's strengths and weaknesses can help a team flourish.

Budget

A total of approximately 500\$ has been spent for the pre-competition because of the need for tools and materials for junior and senior design. The participants have been given different items to represent Concordia to a value of 20\$/participant. Overall, each participant had to pay the full 200\$ payment for registration before going to competition. The ECA agreed to reimburse the participants 100\$ given that they provide us with a competition report pertaining to their own experience.

During Competition

We arrived on Thursday January 29th 2015 at the Bonaventure Hilton Hotel. I held a team meeting to make sure that everyone was aware of where they had to be during the competition and to make sure that all the proper information was provided to them.

Every morning, I had a head delegate meeting with the organizers and the head delegates of each University. During this meeting, I was briefed on what was happening during the day, on where my delegates had to be for their competition and on all important information pertaining to that day. After the meeting, I would go see each team and relayed the information to them to make sure they understood what was expected from them during that day. All in all, logistic wise, it went by very smoothly. Everyone knew where they were going and what they were doing.

Some teams such as Senior Design, Junior Design, Re-Engineering, Consulting and Innovative Design had competitions until Saturday afternoon. Since my competition ended on Friday afternoon, it allowed me to attend and encourage the delegates during their competition if it was opened to the public. On Saturday, the presentations of Junior Design, Senior Design and Innovative Design were held at Complexe Desjardins which was interesting because everyone got to see the product they created. Finally, Saturday night, there was an awards banquet announcing all the winners of each competition.

Code of Conduct

During the competition, there were multiple incidents where a delegate was disrespectful to the head delegates. The person got so drunk that he was unaware of how disrespectful he was towards others. It is inappropriate to act in such a way at a competition where you represent your University. The ECA agrees to send participants to competition given that respect towards all participants is shown. It is unacceptable to act in such a way at an academic competition such as the Quebec Engineering Competition.

Tips

For the next ECA VP Comps, I highly suggest that the pre-competition be changed to a competition within Concordia. That will entail advertising the event as a real competition instead of a pre-competition. Many Universities such as Polytechnique and McGill already advertise is as so. It will most likely interest more students to participate and will allow the VP to pick the best of the best. There has been a decreasing participation rate in this competition throughout the years.

Also, in order to fully be able to train the delegation, it is best if the VP does not participate in any competition. First, the VP will not be able to fully prepare him or herself as well as he or she should because he or she should help train all teams. Second, it will allow the next VP to provide his or her undivided attention to the delegates and will allow them to be better prepared.