

1982
ELSOC LIAISON MEETING - SESSION 2
SPEECH – GARY KOPFF

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ELSOC has a 14 years history. It was formed, we believe somewhere around 1969. This year, we are proud to claim, ELSOC has been the most active it has ever been in the memory of its student members (some have been here for 7 years).

But the rebirth of ELSOC in 1982 may not ever have occurred for one untimely event – the loss of room 331; the student common room – the ‘ELSOC room’. There was a lack of space in the School and room was needed for computer terminals.

All catastrophes; the sinking of the Titanic; The Great Depression; World Wars, or even the subtle impending loss of a common room, have a way of fording people into action by giving them a common identity.

<Pause>

Room 331 was sinking fast. It had a quite large passenger list, but by the time the ice-berg had struck, the passengers had realised that Room 331 was a ship without a captain or a crew to save them. ‘Let them drown like rats, shouted the Computer scientists.

<Pause>

There’s an Ancient Legend that Engineers actually work better under a little bit of pressure – we’d all like to think that’s true – and in this case it is true. ELSOC was re-formed, the passengers chose a captain and voted in a crew. A liaison meeting held with the Academic Staff in Session 1 and with some help and sympathy a new room was found. – Room 501.

What was important was not that a meeting place for the ELSOC executive was formed – but that a student common room existed once more – for this had become the breeding ground for future ELSOC student activists. The guarantee that ELSOC would always have a supply of new blood and therefore continue to exist.

Did ELSOC do anything this year?

Yes.

I am proud to report to you some of its humble achievements and activities for the year.

- Two BBQs were conducted – one in each Session. The Session 2 BBQ was held in conjunction with the Computer Science Association and attracted nearly 250 people – most of them Electrical Engineers.
- As mentioned earlier, a Liaison Meeting was held with Staff in Session 1, and today marks the second Liaison Meeting for the year.
- ELSOC conducted a very successful “Welcome to First Year” gathering in Session 1. We are hoping that these will continue in future years to come.
- ELSOC produced and distributed its own Newsletter. This Newsletter was distributed to all EE Staff and students. A good deal of material was written with thanks, by members of Staff. I’d like to remind you that ELSOC is not a student group – but a professional society that incorporates both the School’s students and Staff Members – we are all members of ELSOC.
- ELSOC held a T-Shirt competition in Session 2. Nearly 30 designs were entered. An emphasis was placed on choosing a design which promoted a positive image for EE’s.

- Finally, the T-Shirts were recently printed. All work on the printing process was done by members of ELSOC. In a little under two days we had printed and sold over 130 T-Shirts.

I think I can stand before you today and make the claim with pride that in 1982 ELSOC did live up to its objectives as listed in its Constitution. Those objectives are:

- To promote and further a University Spirit among its members
- To unite and provide social, educational and cultural activities for its members
- To represent its members in all matters affecting their interests and to afford a liaison between members and the University Authorities
- And to stimulate an active interest in Electrical Engineering among its members.

So much for the year gone – what of the future? What of ELSOC in 1983?

The Annual General Meeting for the Election of the ELSOC Executive was held on the 21st of October as advertised. Professor Rees, academic staff, I'd like to take this opportunity to present to you the 1983 ELSOC executive and hope that you may give them the same co-operation as you did for us in 1982.

President – Tim Menzies

Vice President – Tony Norman

Honorary Treasurer – Pieter Bloem

Honorary Secretary – Ruth Hughes

Publicity Officer – Bret Swanson

Education Officer – Bob Smith

CASOC representative – John Olip