

THE COOPER UNION
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

12:00-2pm

Benjamin Menschel Board Room

Present:

Faculty and Library Representatives: Diana Agrest, Jameel Ahmad, Mike Essl, Day Gleeson, Anne Griffin (Vice-Chair), Daniel Lepek, Thomas Micchelli (Chair), Mary Stieber

Student Representatives: Rachel Appel, Jenny Eagleton, Matthew Wieder

Ex-Officio Members: President Jamshed Bharucha, Vice-President T.C. Westcott. Dean William Germano, Dean Anthony Vidler, Associate Dean Steven Lam, Acting Library Director Carol Salomon.

Guests: Lawrence Cacciatore, Diana Pearson

The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm.

MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting on February 7, 2012 are presented for discussion.

Revisions are solicited. No changes made.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of February 7, 2012.

Motion passed. (10 in favor, 0 opposed)

SENATE WEBSITE

The Senate Chair reported that the Senate website is now live on the Academics drop-down menu of the Cooper Union home page. All of the agendas and minutes from academic year 2010-2011 and the agendas for 2011-2012 are now available. The minutes for this academic year will be posted soon.

FACULTY MARSHALS

Six faculty marshals are needed for this year's commencement exercises. While the upcoming commencement was too soon for the Senate to consider a range of nominees, one name was put forward and the rest will be chosen by the Administration. However, the Senate will take on the task of choosing the faculty marshals for future commencements.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

President Bharucha updated the Senate on Cooper Union's financial condition:

TASK FORCES:

The Revenue Task Force and the Expense Reduction Task Force have submitted interim reports.

The Expense Reduction Task Force has formulated the target of a 12% aggregate reduction in the operating budget (excluding debt service and benefits).

The President is taking the lead in cutting on the administrative side. Each dean has been given a cost reduction target that will result in college-wide cuts of 12%. This target begins with 6% across the board with the remainder of the cuts based on the rate of budget increases over the past 6 years relative to HEPI (Higher Education Price Index).

The firm CDG has been helpful in identifying where to make cuts.

The hiring freeze (including three Development positions) and attrition rates have already yielded significant savings. One position in Development, on planned giving, was deemed too important to leave unfilled, and so someone was hired for that.

The Revenue Task Force is pursuing three tracks: educational, research and development, and space rental. The educational programs include master's degrees in the three schools as well as a fourth combining those disciplines. Proposals also include professional, certificate and pre-college courses, and a learn-now, pay-later option that is being explored at the University of California, Riverside.

RESPONSIBILITY-CENTERED MANAGEMENT:

Educational programs are the domain of the faculty, and so it will be up to the four deans and their faculties to determine what types of programs they would like to pursue.

However, to avoid further budget cuts, it will be necessary to raise the \$6 million per annum by 2018 that has been projected as the potential revenue of these programs. [The full long-term revenue target, as formulated in a subsequent analysis by CDG, is in the \$12M range. However, it is realistic, reasonable and practical to expect that only half that amount could be raised by FY2018.] The apportionment of that sum will be based on the enrollment and budget of each school, which is roughly Engineering 50%, Art 30% and Architecture 20%.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08pm

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Micchelli
Chair