

THE COOPER UNION  
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

**NOTES\***

Friday, October 28, 2011

5:30-6:30 pm

President's Conference Room

Present:

**Faculty and Library Representatives:** Diana Agrest, Jameel Ahmad, Mike Essl, Anne Griffin, Daniel Lepek, Thomas Micchelli, Sean Sculley

**Student Representatives:** Jenny Eagleton

**Ex-Officio Members:** President Jamshed Bharucha, Vice President TC Westcott, Dean Saskia Bos, Dean William Germano

**Guest:** Associate Dean Steven Lam

Because a quorum was not present, no official business could be conducted.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting of October 4, 2011, were read. No motion was made to approve due to the lack of a quorum.

**FINANCIAL CRISIS**

Chair Thomas Micchelli read a letter from an absent student representative, Robin Kutner, calling on the administration to inform the student body in a formal manner about the crisis in order to quell the rumors and misinformation.

Student Representative Jenny Eagleton agreed that there is a sense of panic among the students, who are unconvinced that the tuition decision hasn't already been made. She added that the students were confused over why the timeline for a financial plan has apparently been shrunk from early December to early November.

President Bharucha replied that a community memo was being prepared. He also stated that the college planned to go public with information about the crisis within a week.

He confirmed that no decisions have been made, and that the Board was accelerating the process of developing a financial plan to address the deficit because large donors won't contribute without one.

He also itemized the ways that Cooper has plugged deficit holes in the past (selling assets, etc.), none of which are available today.

A general discussion ensued, in which various ideas were advanced to address the structural deficit. These included:

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Sliding tuition scale

Voluntary payments

Research contracts and sponsorships:

    Lend name to research groups serving vital markets

    Expand CURF and invest in Cooper's research facilities to attract grants

    Seek targeted grants for small projects

Seek state support -- possibly become a public or semi-public institution

Emphasize Cooper as a global institution while remaining a small-scale college:

    Partner with a foreign university

    Online classes open to students of other colleges (credit payments go to Cooper)

Program in public policy and engineering

Paid summer residencies in art studios\*\*

Continuing education in art practices\*\*

Tuition-based graduate programs\*\*

\* This was a special meeting; notes were taken in lieu of minutes because a quorum was not present.

\*\* These three ideas, from Steven Lam, were to be fleshed out at a School of Art faculty meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 1. 2011.

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Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Mitchell*

Thomas Micchelli