

THE COOPER UNION  
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

**MINUTES**

Thursday, November 10, 2011  
4:00-5:00pm  
Room 201, 41 Cooper Square

Present:

**Faculty and Library Representatives:** Jameel Ahmad, Mike Essl, Anne Griffin, Atina Grossmann, Daniel Lepek, Thomas Micchelli,

**Student Representatives:** Derrick Benson, Caitlin Correll Jenny Eagleton, Robin Kutner

**Ex-Officio Members:** President Jamshed Bharucha, Dean William Germano, Acting Library Director Carol Solomon, Associate Dean Steven Lam

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

**NOTES AND MINUTES**

Notes from the previous meeting (October 28, 2011) were read. No revisions were recommended. Approval of minutes from the meeting of October 4, 2011, was tabled until the next meeting (November 29, 2011) in the interests of time.

**FINANCIAL CRISIS**

President Bharucha updated the Senate on the financial crisis:

- **Revenue Task Force:** the formation of the revenue task force has been slightly delayed due to stipulations in the CUFCT regarding the makeup of committees. Resolution is expected within the week. It will be composed of faculty, students, alumni and administrators.
- **Government Officials:** President Bharucha had a very productive meeting with State Senator Dan Squadron. In coming weeks he expects to brief Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, City Councilwoman Rosie Mendez and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.
- **Board of Trustees:** Francois de Menil, an alumnus of the School of Architecture, has been elected Vice-Chair of the Board. Also, Ronald G.

Weiner, president of the accounting firm Perelson Weiner and a new Board member, will head the Board's audit committee. All externally audited financial statements will be posted online, or at the very least there will be a link to Cooper Union's 990s on the IRS website.

- **Operational Savings Working Group:** An additional group will be formed whose agenda will be to earmark areas in the daily operation of Cooper Union where costs may be reduced. Examples include HVAC climate control and Computer Center printing.
- **External Academic Reviews:** A decennial third party review of the college's academic performance. Unlike Middle States and specialized accreditation bodies, which set minimum standards, an external academic review would pursue the means of achieving excellence within the institution's constraints, and seek opportunities to maximize collaborative possibilities among the schools.

**Reponses** included:

- A seminar for the students on fundraising: both grant writing and person-to-person contact;
- The creation of a task force on quality of life in education;
- Morale survey to be conducted by the Student Council;
- Revising the college's exit survey to gauge students' attitudes toward the school after completing degree;
- Address the lack of student services such as: student health care, counseling services; housing options.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Micchelli*

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