

THE COOPER UNION  
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 16, 2014**  
**4:00-6:00pm**  
**Menschel Room in Student Residence Hall**

Present:

**Faculty and Library Representatives:** Diana Agrest, Mike Essl (Chair), Atina Grossmann (Vice Chair), Daniel Lepek, Thomas Micchelli, Stan Mintchev (Secretary), Sohnya Sayres, and Sean Sculley.

**Student Representatives:** Daniel Hall, Yuta Makita, Hunter Mayton, and Andy Overton.

**Ex-Officio Members:** President Jamshed Bharucha, Dean Saskia Bos, Dean William Germano, Acting Dean Elizabeth O'Donnell, and Dean Teresa Dahlberg.

**Guest:** Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Lincer.

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm.

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the meeting held on February 18, 2014 were presented for reading and discussion.

Revisions were solicited. Minor corrections were proposed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of February 18, 2014.

Motion passed. (12 in favor, 0 opposed)

**CONVERSATION WITH CHAIRMAN LINCER**

The membership inquired as to whether the Board of Trustees (henceforth, BoT) would affirm a commitment to restoring the full tuition scholarship at the Cooper Union. Chairman Lincer began by noting that the institution's current financial circumstances prevent the Board from committing to a specific timeline for this. The chairman continued by noting that the board understands the importance of the full tuition scholarship to the culture of the school, and stated that he and other board members will have a long-term aspiration to restore the policy. He underscored that this would be a gradual process that can take many years.

Members noted that the institution's current mission statement is no longer compatible with the recent decisions made by the BoT, and concerns were raised that Faculty are not being consulted on modifications to the School's mission. Chairman Lincer underscored that the BoT understands the necessity to revise the mission statement, but that this has not yet taken place. He assured the membership that the BoT will ask the administration to initiate an inclusive process that engages the various constituencies of the Cooper Union community as the revisions are composed, revised, and ratified.

There was a discussion with Chairman Lincer about possible changes to the Health Insurance plan for CU employees as a cost-saving measure.

A member raised the concern that currently, as the reduction of the scholarship is being implemented, the administration seems focused solely on the admissions process and results in the School of Engineering. Chairman Lincer objected to this characterization, and President Bharucha noted that the last Senate meeting had also included an admissions update for the School of Art, as reported by Dean Bos.

#### **COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS**

The membership entered a brief discussion with the goal of determining a process for the selection of Commencement Marshals. It was noted that there are three such positions.

**Motion:** The Secretary of the Faculty-Student Senate shall send out a bulk mail communication to the community, wherein the descriptions of responsibilities for the positions are delineated; this communication will also constitute an invitation for members of the community to express interest in the position.

Motion passed. (12 in favor, 0 opposed)

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATES**

The student membership noted that the Joint Student Council ad chairs had met in order to initiate revisions to the Code (as per the proper procedure).

It was noted that the mandate to revise the Code is coming from the BoT.

The membership noted that the Code of Conduct only applies to students; it was remarked that this may warrant adding the qualifier "Student" in the title, so as to make this point clear to the community.

#### **CUAA RESOLUTIONS**

The Chair noted that he had been contacted by members of the Cooper Union Alumni Association with the request that the Faculty-Student Senate consider the adoption of their recent resolutions.

Several members expressed general reservations in supporting resolutions that do not originate within the Senate.

A motion was made to adopt the resolutions of the CUAA; the motion was not seconded, and the discussion was closed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business (outside the purview of the Agenda) was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought to the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm