

THE COOPER UNION  
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015**  
**12:00-1:50pm**  
**Room 506, 41 Cooper Square**

Present:

**Faculty and Library Representatives:** Julie Castelluzzo (Vice Chair), Day Gleeson, Daniel Lepek (Chair), Stan Mintchev, Margaret Morton, Sohnya Sayres, Sean Scully.

**Student Representatives:** Harrison Cullen (Secretary), Diego Gonzalez, Jessica Marshall (alternate), Hunter Mayton, Andy Overton, Nick Pacula.

**Ex-Officio Members:** President Jamshed Bharucha (via telephone), Dean Saskia Bos, Chief Academic Officer/Dean Teresa Dahlberg, Dean William Germano, Vice President William Mea, Acting Dean Elizabeth O'Donnell, Acting Library Director Carol Salomon.

The meeting was called to order at 12:14pm.

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the meeting held on February 17, 2015 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 17, 2015.

Motion passed. (9 in favor, 0 opposed)

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

A number of community members were invited to meet with the Faculty-Student Senate. This includes Vice President of Enrollment Services Mitchell Lipton, Director of Computation and Innovation Bonnie John, Student Representative to the Board of Trustees Devora Najjar, Professor/Chair of Chemistry/President of CUFACT Richard Stock, and Vice President of Communications Justin Harmon.

Senate Chair Daniel Lepek opened the meeting with a short presentation recounting the role of the Faculty-Student Senate as defined in its charter, specifically as an advisory body to the Board of Trustees regarding academic issues.

## **WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE COOPER UNION?**

### *MISSION AND VISION*

A number of documents pertaining to the official mission statement of the institution were brought before the Senate membership. The documents were collected from a wide range of sources, and the distributed packets included, amongst other items, a Mission and Goals Statement from the 1988 Middle States Self-Study Report, a copy of the Course Catalog for the 2014-15 academic year, the current official mission statement of the Cooper Union, and excerpts from the "Mission and Vision," "Academic Vision," and "Facts About CU" pages on the school's website. Discrepancies between many of the documents were noted, and members discussed the importance of a definitive mission statement regarding the academic and cultural future of the school.

Vice President of Communications Justin Harmon clarified in regards to the Course Catalog's mission statement, stating that he was responsible for the revisions and that they occurred in order to suit the Catalog's nature as a contract with the students arriving in Fall 2014. Harmon stated that these changes were made in concert with Chairman of the Board Richard Lincer, and that they do not affect the official, legal mission statement of the Cooper Union, which does not yet reflect the implementation of tuition. This was said to be an effect of pending litigation against the school.

### *ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC PLANNING/ACADEMIC STRUCTURE*

When asked for an update on Middle States' reaccreditation visit, Vice President of Finance and Administration William Mea stated that preparations will begin in the coming fall semester, and that Middle States' visit will take place in March 2018.

Members noted that the Planning & Assessment Council (PAC) had been suspended in October 2014 by Chief Academic Officer (CAO)/Dean of Engineering Teresa Dahlberg without proper explanation. The PAC had been meeting regularly for three years in order to prepare the institution for reaccreditation, including members from all academic disciplines in its discussions.

Dahlberg stated that the PAC was suspended due to personnel issues that could not be disclosed to the membership of the Senate, and that she would be leading the school's reaccreditation self-study, as CAO. The Deans of Art, Architecture, and Humanities also discussed what their respective faculties have done to begin preparations during the PAC's suspension.

After giving a brief overview of his previously published “State of the Cooper Union” report, President Jamshed Bharucha outlined the plans for the Institute for Innovation, Design, and Computation, which had been approved by the Board in March of 2015. The Institute exists outside of all existing programs, and was stated to be “entirely self-funding” and “self-sustaining.”

CAO/Dean Dahlberg explained that the Institute’s B.S. in Computer Science program had accepted 31 students, drawing from the applicant pools of the existing EE and BSE programs. When questioned further about the recruitment process for these accepted students, Dahlberg denied further discussion due to pending litigation.

#### *ACADEMIC AND FACULTY GOVERNANCE*

While members noted that the Engineering Curriculum Committee had never officially approved the Computer Science program, Dahlberg stated that, because the Institute exists outside of any existing programs, its curriculum is not subject to the governance of the Engineering school.

When questioned regarding proposed updates to faculty governance within the Engineering school, Dahlberg stated that she would not relay the changes to the Board for approval because she did not approve of the changes herself.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was brought to the floor.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought to the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57pm