

THE COOPER UNION
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
1:30pm
Benjamin Menschel Board Room

Present:

Faculty and Library Representatives: Diana Agrest, Jameel Ahmad, Mike Essl, Anne Griffin, Atina Grossmann, Sharon Hayes, Daniel Lepek, Thomas Micchelli, Sean Sculley.

Student Representatives: Rachel Appel, Loretta Barrera, Caitlin Correll, Matthew Wieder, Jesus Yepez, Stephanie Yeung

Ex-Officio Members: President George Campbell Jr., Vice President TC Westcott, Dean Saskia Bos, Associate Dean Elizabeth O'Donnell, Lawrence Cacciatore

The meeting was called to order by President Campbell. He explained that the Faculty-Student Senate has not been active at The Cooper Union for at least 15 years. He stated that he began having conversations with people about reconvening the Senate for a number of reasons and then proceeded to enumerate several: the increasingly regulated environment for higher education and the increasing use of technology in the field of higher education, in a general sense. More specific to The Cooper Union, President Campbell stated that there is a growing need for cross-school conversation and improved communication, in particular, on curricular issues, intra-school opportunities, allocation of the capital budget and on issues pertaining to the operations budget.

President Campbell stated that the responsibilities of the Faculty-Student Senate are to act as an advisory body to the President and to attend to academic questions and concerns that lie outside of the CUFCT contract.

President Campbell stated that there are many models of university senate structures. He suggested creating a group to draft a constitution and by laws. He further recommended that this body include more constituencies than just Faculty and Students. He recommended a single Cooper Union Senate that might include representatives from each of the staff units in addition to the academic units.

Election of officers

President Campbell then opened up the floor for the nomination of officers.

Given that this is the first meeting of a newly constituted Senate and most of the members don't know each other, Diana Agrest expressed concern about the vote for officers. It was recommended that the group elect interim officers. It was stated by President Campbell that we must elect officers first and then designate the term of office.

Atina Grossman nominated Anne Griffin for Chair. Daniel Lepek seconded the nomination. Diana Agrest nominated Sharon Hayes for Chair. Sharon Hayes nominated Thomas Micchelli for Chair. Mike Essl seconded the nomination.

It was suggested that the nominees introduce themselves which they did. Thomas Micchelli and Anne Griffin introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their experience at the Cooper Union. Sharon Hayes introduced herself and suggested she was a better candidate for Secretary than for Chair owing to her relatively new relationship to the institution.

A vote for Chair was taken. Thomas Micchelli was elected.

Sharon Hayes nominated Anne Griffin as Vice Chair.

She was elected.

Sharon Hayes was elected as Secretary.

The term for these officers was determined to be one quarter, or until March 1st.

Constitution and by-laws

Thomas Micchelli continued the business of the meeting and proposed a subcommittee be convened to draft a constitution and by-laws. He proposed one Faculty and one student from each School and one faculty from HSS for a total of 8 people including officers.

President Campbell raised the issue of whether other administrative constituents should be included on that subcommittee for deliberation on the constitution and by-laws.

Atina Grossman asked if it was correct that only Bargaining Unit members can vote in this Senate body. President Campbell and TC Westcott answered that it is now true but need not be the case as we move forward.

Diana Agrest suggested that the subcommittee meet and discuss, as a first order of business, whether and what other constituents should be included.

There was some discussion about the CUFCT contract and the relationship of the union to the Faculty-Student Senate. Anne Griffin stated that this body will address

issues that fall outside of the terms and conditions of employment but nevertheless the Senate does fall within the language of the CUFCT contract.

TC Westcott stated that there is reference to this body in each of the governances.

President Campbell stated that one of the issues he would like the Senate to address are the contradictions and inconsistencies across the governance documents.

Lawrence Cacciatore stated that the by-laws should address membership, terms and conditions for meetings and the structure of the Senate body.

A motion was made to create a subcommittee to draft by-laws and a constitution. Diana Agrest seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TC Westcott stated that the subcommittee will write the by-laws and that draft will have to be voted upon by the Senate.

Tom Micchelli asked for volunteers for the subcommittee. Diana Agrest, Daniel Lepek, Mike Essl, Matthew Wieder, Anne Griffin volunteered.

Sean Scully made a motion to accept those volunteers. Rachel Appel seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

Sean Scully asked for a contact list. Lawrence Cacciatore stated that he would send it out.

A date for the next Senate meeting was discussed and set for December 15 at 2pm.

Atina Grossman asked if we should discuss the agenda for the next meeting. TC Westcott suggested bringing semester-long items to the agenda. And added that once the Senate has a constitution and a set of by-laws, those documents will have to go to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Hayes