

THE COOPER UNION
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 26, 2013
12:00-1:50pm
Room 505 – 41 Cooper Square

Present:

Faculty and Library Representatives: Diana Agrest, Mike Essl (Chair), Atina Grossmann (Vice Chair), Daniel Lepek, Thomas Micchelli, Stan Mintchev (Secretary), Christine Osinski, Sean Sculley, and Mary Stieber.

Student Representatives: Oliver Antoniu, Jon Cuba, Asher Mones, Phong (Kiwi) Nguyen, Michael Pimpinella, and Osaze Udeagbala.

Ex-Officio Members: Dean William Germano, Associate Dean Steven Lam, Acting Library Director Carol Salomon, and Vice-President T.C. Westcott.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm.

MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting held on November 26, 2012 were presented for reading and discussion.

Revisions were solicited. Corrections were proposed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of November 26, 2012 as corrected.

Motion passed. (12 in favor, 0 opposed)

OPEN DISCUSSION

MEETINGS:

The Senate discussed protocol/procedure for scheduling regular meetings. The membership agreed that this should be done as early as possible in a semester, so as to ensure the greatest possible attendance and representation.

INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN:

The membership discussed the proposed Institute for Design. It was explained that this institute had come about as a result of discussions of the Revenue Task Force, as a proposed source of tuition revenue.

LEVEL OF ANXIETY IN THE COMMUNITY:

The Senate entered a discussion of the general level of anxiety in the community in anticipation of the upcoming meeting of the Board of Trustees in early March. It was remarked that there is much speculation and concern in connection with the decisions facing the Board. It was remarked that as an elected representative body, the Faculty-Student Senate is in a position to document and reflect the feelings of the community to the administration and Trustees.

REPORTS SHARED WITH THE TRUSTEES:

The membership was informed that the proposals submitted by the Faculties were shared with the Board of Trustees. The administration and the Board are working on addressing the short-term and long-term budget deficits facing the institution.

DEAN VACANCIES:

Members of the Senate expressed concern regarding the current vacancies for the position of Dean in the Schools of Engineering and Architecture. The membership was informed that there is a Dean's Search currently underway in the School of Engineering. The membership was also informed that plans are underway to organize a Dean's Search committee in the School of Architecture.

MEETINGS OF SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH BOARD MEMBERS:

The Senate discussed Article IV, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure, which stipulates, "The Executive Committee of the Faculty-Student Senate shall act as the liaison between the Senate and the Board of Trustees. The Committee shall meet quarterly, in concert with the board meetings, with the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee." It was remarked that the Senate leadership should contact the Secretary to the Board of Trustees regarding scheduling such a meeting.

DEFERRAL OF EARLY ADMISSION APPLICANTS TO SCHOOL OF ART:

The membership expressed concern regarding the deferral of early admission applicants to the School of Art. The concern focused on community feelings that the deferral was a punitive measure against the School, in response to its position on revenue-generating programs. It was remarked that the decision to defer these applications was financial rather than punitive.

REVENUE PROPOSALS FROM THE SCHOOL OF ART:

The membership asked the representatives from the School of Art to provide a brief overview of the School's proposals, as shared with the Board of Trustees on December 5, 2012. Some concerns were raised regarding the preliminary nature of the reports from all of the three Schools. Namely, the membership expressed concern regarding these reports presenting a basis for financial decisions, such as the one to defer applications to the School of Art.

DISCUSSION AND TASKING OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Senate re-entered discussion of the membership and tasking of standing committees to study and make recommendations regarding long-standing agenda items vital to the community.

A motion was made to dissolve the Student/Faculty Stress subcommittee, and to integrate its membership into the other subcommittees.

Motion passed. (9 in favor, 0 opposed)

The memberships and tasking of the three subcommittees are:

1. Class Scheduling:

MEMBERS: Mike Essl, Daniel Lepek, Shira Service, Osaze Udeagbala.

TASK: To interface with registrar/faculty involved with scheduling and develop recommendations to address current issues.

2. Cross-Disciplinary Studies:

MEMBERS: Diana Agrest, Oliver Antoniu, Atina Grossmann, Stan Mintchev, Asher Mones, Michael Pimpinella.

TASK: To investigate the possibilities of cross-disciplinary studies at the institution and develop recommendations in this regard.

3. Honor Code:

MEMBERS: Thomas Micchelli, Phong (Kiwi) Nguyen, Christine Osinksi, Sean Sculley.

TASK: To work off of the existing document addressing academic integrity so as to develop recommendations on an academic integrity policy and honor code for the community.

Meeting adjourned at 1:43pm