

THE COOPER UNION
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 5, 2013
12:00-1:50pm
Room LL 101 – 41 Cooper Square

Present:

Faculty and Library Representatives: Diana Agrest, Julie Castelluzzo, Mike Essl (Chair), Anne Griffin, Atina Grossmann (Vice Chair), Samuel Keene, Stan Mintchev (Secretary), and Christine Osinski.

Student Representatives: Emily George, Yuta Makita, Hunter Mayton, and Andy Overton.

Ex-Officio Members: President Jamshed Bharucha, Associate Dean Stamatina Gregory, Dean Teresa Dahlberg, and Acting Director Carol Salomon.

Guest: Robert Spencer.

The meeting was called to order at 12:07pm.

MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting held on September 17, 2013 were presented for reading and discussion.

Revisions were solicited. Corrections were proposed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of September 17, 2013 as corrected.

Motion passed. (12 in favor, 0 opposed)

FINANCIAL PRESENTATION BY ROBERT SPENCER

Mr. Robert Spencer of Huron Consulting gave a presentation on Cooper Union's current finances. The presentation was approximately one hour in length and included answers to questions throughout. It was noted that a version of this presentation would be prepared for wider dissemination.

UPDATE ON RECENT HIRES AND NEWLY-ADVERTISED POSITIONS

The membership inquired regarding current plans for administrative hires. Particular consideration was given to the newly-advertised position for "Director Of Public Safety;" a copy of the posting for this position was circulated as the discussion

ensued; in particular, it was noted that the language for the posting was likely borrowed from similar postings at various New York City organizations. The update continued with a few details on the position for “Director Of Public Safety.” President Bharucha noted that the plans were to recruit someone from outside; this person would be trained in a variety of techniques, including conflict resolution, etc., and would begin the appointment by carrying out an assessment of the campus’ security needs.

President Bharucha shared with the membership that there is an ongoing effort to group various administrative responsibilities through reorganization, with the goal of increasing efficiency in a cost-effective manner. He gave as examples several positions at 30 Cooper Square that had recently been vacated, including that of former Vice President TC Westcott. The President emphasized that there would be an ongoing effort to consolidate responsibilities so as to minimize the necessity for external recruitment at a high level.

President Bharucha noted that the former Vice President’s position was too broad for an institution of Cooper Union’s size. He noted that the administration would look to recruit a CFO whose sole responsibility would be the institution’s finances. The President also noted the necessity for an administrator focusing on assessment, as well as a position focusing on community relations.

The President invited the membership to inquire regarding the progress of these efforts during the next Senate meeting.

The discussion turned momentarily to the investments through administrative hires in the Development Office. President Bharucha shared the results of an analysis from the last campaign; the analysis had computed the dollars spent per dollar raised efficiency measure at \$0.26, indicating that this campaign had been successful.

The membership expressed concern regarding the hires, particularly at a time of financial difficulty for the institution. President Bharucha noted that the efficiency measure indicates that the staff in Development raises its salaries, effectively paying for itself and thereby warranting the investment. The President remarked that Cooper Union needs to invest in the stewardship of donors, as this is an increasingly important part of maintaining an active donor base.

A member noted that Faculty are excited to actively participate in fundraising efforts, but that they don’t understand how Responsibility Centered Management / Incentive Based Budgeting is supposed to work.

President Bharucha addressed this issue: under the RCM/IBB model, if a specific school/department of the institution is responsible for a certain gift/donation, then it receives the credit.

REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

This agenda item was tabled until the next Meeting.

WORKING GROUP

This agenda item was tabled until the next Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm