

THE COOPER UNION
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 30, 2014
12:00-2:00pm
Room 506, 41 Cooper Square

Present:

Faculty and Library Representatives: Diana Agrest, Julie Castelluzzo, Day Gleeson, Anne Griffin, Daniel Lepek, Stan Mintchev (Secretary), Margaret Morton, Sohnya Sayres.

Student Representatives: Harrison Cullen, Diego Gonzalez, Hunter Mayton, Andy Overton, and Karan Singh Gill.

Ex-Officio Members: President Jamshed Bharucha, Dean Saskia Bos, Dean William Germano, and Dean Teresa Dahlberg.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Daniel Lepek was nominated for Chair, elected unanimously.

Julie Castelluzzo was nominated for Vice Chair, elected unanimously.

Harrison Cullen was nominated for Secretary, elected unanimously.

MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting held on April 16, 2014 were presented for reading and discussion.

Members proposed that the minutes be amended to better reflect the content of the conversation with Chairman Lincer in regards to possible changes to the Health Insurance plan for Cooper Union employees as a cost-saving measure.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended minutes of April 16, 2014. Motion passed. (5 in favor, 0 opposed, 8 abstentions)

Minutes from the meeting held on May 14, 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 May 14, 2014.

Motion passed. (5 in favor, 0 opposed, 8 abstentions)

STUDENT CONCERNS – TITLE IX

Student members of the Senate came forward with concerns regarding the handling of Title IX Policy within The Cooper Union. These concerns related to both the circulation of information on Title IX procedure and the understanding of employee responsibility when faced with an instance of sexual harassment/assault or gender discrimination. It was noted that many students are not aware of the resources available when faced with such a crisis, and that resolving said crisis can still prove difficult when proper channels are utilized.

President Bharucha outlined recent changes to Title IX law and mentioned the recent appointment of Vice President of Finance and Administration William Mea and Human Resources Manager Ann Marie Gong as Title IX Officer and Deputy Title IX Officer, respectively.

Members expressed the need for a community-wide presentation allowing for the dissemination of Title IX information, especially when considering recent changes to Title IX policy.

Motion: A motion was made to adopt the following resolution:

"Due to growing student concerns regarding gender discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual assault/violence, and recent changes to the Title IX law, the Faculty-Student Senate resolves to invite the Title IX officers and the Dean of Students to give a presentation to the community on these topics. This will take place in an open meeting of the Faculty-Student Senate."

Motion passed. (13 in favor, 0 opposed)

It was agreed upon that a single presentation for all students, faculty, staff, and administrators would be preferred to prevent inconsistencies between parties and to allow for a more productive discussion. The Executive Committee agreed to organize a community forum with the Title IX officers and Dean of Students by mid-November.

STUDENT CONCERNS – CAMPUS SECURITY

Given The Cooper Union's recent change in security firm (from FJC Security Services Inc. [FJC] to Beau Dietl & Associates [BDA]), and the announced transition from BDA to an as of yet undecided security firm, members of the Senate asked for details on this transition and the level of community engagement to be expected in this matter.

President Bharucha discussed the results of a 2012 security audit with the membership. This audit, performed by an employee of BDA, resulted in The Cooper's Union campus being classified as "unusually vulnerable." The auditor recommended that FJC be reorganized or replaced. After training of security guards did not produce the desired results, BDA was hired in their place.

Members noted that New York Educational Law, Article 129-A, Section 6431 requires a committee on campus security made up of campus constituencies. It was emphasized by members that the involvement of the community in choosing a security company for The Cooper Union is vital in making a proper decision. It was understood that there exists a precedent for a committee similar to that which was proposed, but that this existing committee (Campus Safety) has not functioned in recent years.

Members noted the distinction between matters of Campus Safety and Campus Security. It was understood that the former generally referred to Fire Code and Laboratory Safety, while the latter refers to the security matters that were being discussed.

Members discussed a possible resolution regarding the current status of campus security. Further discussion regarding this resolution was tabled until the next Meeting.

Members agreed that a better understanding of current security measures is necessary.

Motion: A motion was made to invite Vice President of Finance and Administration William Mea to give a report on the status of Campus Security at the next Meeting. This report would outline the function of the Campus Security Committee and the status of the current security firm search.
Motion passed. (13 in favor, 0 opposed)

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 1:53pm