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Bharucha new Cooper Union head

By Jen Richman

NEW YORK — The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art has named Tufts University Provost and Senior Vice President Jamshed Bharucha its new president. Bharucha will leave Tufts after this school year. His top priorities in his new post will include strengthening education ties between Cooper Union and India, as well as continuing to ensure a high degree of diversity for the New York City college.



Bharucha

"The important thing as [I begin my role] as president is to listen first and pinpoint the very opportunities that exist," said Medford resident Bharucha, who will officially take up his new Cooper Union post on July 1.

Established in 1859, Cooper Union offers education in art, architecture and engineering. Founded by inventor, industrialist and philanthropist Peter Cooper, the college offers full tuition scholarships to every admitted student. The school has 1,000 students.

Bharucha said he is very excited to begin his work at Cooper Union and acknowledges there is plenty of work to be done to continue to further the school. In doing so, he said he will draw his experiences during his eight-and-a-half years at Tufts, which is located in Medford, Mass.

In order to improve ties between Cooper Union and schools in India, Bharucha said it is imperative to first patch the holes he says exist regarding potential two-way collaborations between India and the United States. In particular, he feels there are still colleges and universities unaware of the great potential that lies between the two countries.

"Anybody who is looking to engage in parts of the world different from ours here and would provide the greatest challenge in terms of learning about new cultures" needs to seriously consider looking to China and India — among others — as countries that will drive the kind of international engagement Bharucha is striving towards, he said.

Before joining Tufts in 2002, Mumbai native Bharucha served as Dartmouth College's John Wentworth Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences and as dean of the school's faculty.

Bharucha has a bachelor's degree in bio-psychology from Vassar College, a master's degree in philosophy from Yale University and a doctorate in cognitive psychology from Harvard University.

Bharucha misses teaching but sees a silver lining in his future presidency at Cooper Union. Although he misses the dynamic he got by interacting with his students, Bharucha says that because of the school's small size, he can still achieve strong relationships with Cooper Union students even in his administrative role.