

Joint Statement from Faculty-Student Senate Executive Committee

We have called this open meeting of the Faculty-Student Senate in order to engage the Cooper Union community in a discussion regarding the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct, as recently distributed to students and faculty.

Before we begin, we would like to inform the auditorium that President Bharucha and Dean Dahlberg are out of town today and therefore unable to attend due to a previously scheduled fundraising trip. We felt it necessary to schedule this meeting with haste due to tomorrow's pending deadline for feedback on the revised Code of Conduct.

Since the draft's circulation to the various constituencies of the institution, it has been noted that the revision proposed on November 18, 2013 entails a substantial departure from the code that is currently in effect. Some notable changes to the document include the following:

- (1) A clause that modifies the governance procedure for future revisions of the Code, asserting that such changes will be entirely at the discretion of "the Cooper Union Board of Trustees"; previously, the language in question asserted that changes are at the discretion of "The Cooper Union;"
- (2) A clause widening the scope of the code to include behavior that occurs "off-campus;"
- (3) A clause stating that "conduct not found in this Code may still be deemed unacceptable and may be basis for disciplinary charges;"
- (4) Various clauses that grant authority to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs; these include a clause granting authority to "met out the sanctions of formal admonishment, warning, or loss of privileges," unilaterally "select members of student and faculty judicial panels," and act as sole arbitrator in cases when the decisions of such judicial panels are appealed;
- (5) A clause titled "Parental Notification," which grants the Institution the prerogative "to notify parents or guardians of any issues, disciplinary or otherwise, relating to a student's health and/or safety," independent of "limitations or any other terms of the Code of Conduct."

We would now like to open the floor for discussion. We kindly ask that members of the community willing to enter remarks into the record do so in an orderly fashion, one-at-a-time. In accordance with standard parliamentary procedures, we ask that you wait until the Chair calls your turn, and we ask that you address the Chair when making your remarks.

[In case of quorum] Since we have a quorum of voting members present, we advise that the floor will close at 1:25PM, so that the last 25 minutes of this meeting are reserved for deliberations among the membership and formal Senate business. We thank you in advance for your understanding.