

THE COOPER UNION
MEETING OF THE FACULTY-STUDENT SENATE
Minutes

Regular meeting, September 26th, 2017

PRESENT:

Faculty and library representatives: Dennis Adams, Julie Castelluzzo, Sam Keene (Chair), Margaret Morton, Neveen Shlayan Diana Agrast

Student Representatives: Jacob Jackmauh, Parker Limon, Jeremiah Pratt (vice chair) Clara Zinky (secretary)

Ex-Officio Members: Dean Elizabeth O'donnell, Dean Richard Stock, Stan Mintchev

The first regular meeting of 2017-2018 academic year was held on Tuesday, September 26th, 2017 in room 506, 41 Cooper Square. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. The minutes of the last regular meeting, which happened on April 4th, 2017 were read and approved with a motion to clarify a point about wording.

Motion proposed to expand the minutes of April 4th to include the words "issues relating to gender diversity."

The motion was passed.

The Minutes were then passed.

Old Business:

We were given an explanation about the new Diversity task-force that is forming. This task-force is comprised of community members who showed interest when President Sparks sent out an email. The task-force will deal with a wide range of diversity issues throughout the school, and will serve as an advisory group to the administration. They will be calling a meeting soon.

New Business:

Point of clarification: we are including reps from the faculty unions as guests to our regular meetings.

There was a discussion about the status of Cooper as a sanctuary school. President Sparks sent out a couple campus wide emails explaining the school's policy towards immigration status, positioning the school as a sanctuary school in policy. There was a question about the legal

aspect of this status, and it was explained that in the legal world “sanctuary” is ill-defined and generally case-specific.

A brief discussion about the effects of recent federal policies already apparent in our hiring processes.

Questions about if there is something we can do, any sort of recommendations that can be made to overcome this sort of problem? Legal advice that we can give to applicants and interviewees about specific visas to apply for? HR had a plan to give resources to deal with visas and immigration at some point. HR is in transition right now.

Motion proposed to invite President Sparks and an HR representative to the next meeting. Motion passed.

Agenda points for next meeting:

- The question of freedom of speech in relationship to the Great Hall, which could be a potential problem down the line.
- The EE officer position which is now absent

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.