

The Pioneer

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FRIENDS OF COOPER UNION PIN-UP SESSION

CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13)

On Tuesday, February 21, 2012, Friends of Cooper Union, a group started by Cooper alumni after learning about the potential of charging tuition, held an open pin-up session with the goal of advancing ideas that were developed in the breakout sessions (group meetings to brainstorm solutions to Cooper's financial situation), enrolling more people in the development process, and developing actionable proposals that can help Cooper Union (enrolling and developing action actionable proposals is a result desired by the breakout process - see <http://www.theworldcafe.com/method.html>). There were more than forty attendees to this event and it was organized in a series of presentations. Two main organizers were Karina Tipton (CE '99) and Sean Cusack (BSE '98). Karina Tipton moderated the presentations. The following are excerpts from the complete article. The complete article, which discusses all of the presentations with detail, can be found on our website: <http://pioneer.cooper.edu>.

The night started with brief introductions and a presentation by Kerry Carnahan (CE '00) and Henry Chapman (Art '10). They presented the Friends of



Pin-up Session. Photo by Rocco Cetera (CE '99)

Cooper Union website, www.friendsofcooperunion.org, and discussed the purpose of this group and the event that night.

Tom Synnott, a former chief economist of the US Trust and a current adjunct professor of Cooper Union, gave a presentation. Synnott stated that once half of Cooper's primary deficit (non-interest deficit) is cut from \$6 million to \$3 million, that would show the world that the school is taking its financial problems seriously and enable us to go to foundations to look for grants and go back to MetLife and possibly renegotiate our \$175 million loan.

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WORK MAKES WORK EXHIBITION

JENNA LEE (ME '15)

Work Makes Work exhibition is the student-initiated show for a tuition-free Cooper Union was conceived as newly inaugurated president Jamshed Bharucha announced the Cooper Union's financial crisis. The exhibition calls for everyone's participation and addressing of opinions freely along with emphasizing the importance of collaboration of Cooper community.

The pre-session displayed several empty blackboards on which everyone could express their ideas freely. Whereas exhibitions in general require the viewers to be passive, Work Makes Work encourages every viewer to become a part of the exhibition; people write or draw on the board, and what they put up were automatically displayed to the others.

The opening of the first exhibition was performed at night in a fairly ritualistic manner. Everyone on the street was welcomed to join the performance; they joined hands, made a circle, and helped draw the "healing mark" for Cooper.

As Cooper's financial crisis needs everyone's attention, the exhibition unifies everyone on the common ground we know as The Cooper Union.



(Top and middle) "10/31/11" active documentation. (Left and bottom) Work Makes Work - first exhibition performance. Middle photo from workmakeswork.org. Top, left and bottom photos by Jenna Lee (ME '15).

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

YARA ELBOROLOS (CE '14)

The fight for the right to speak our minds without being prosecuted for our opinions has been going on for over centuries. In a country that prides itself on giving its people their natural freedom, it is often surprising to come across situations where that freedom is withheld. Since the financial situation was revealed to the Cooper community, students have been demonstrating their opinions through art shows and meetings. We have united against the idea of tuition as a solution. However, the opinions of our professors, the people we respect and view as role models, are practically unknown. In *The Pioneer's* quest to discover their opinions and hear their voices, we were met with opposition. In response, we at The Pioneer designed an anonymous survey that would reveal their opinion on the financial situation and how uncomfortable they are speaking about it. The survey consists of six short questions where the best answer would be circled. Every professor, including adjunct professors, was given the survey inside of their issue of the Cooper Pioneer this week. We are encouraging all professors to complete this survey and to drop it off in either *The Pioneer's* mailbox in the engineering office or in *The Pioneer* office in room 209. Even if the survey is blank, we would appreciate it if all surveys were returned. We appreciate the time and effort given by our professors. The results of the survey will be published and analyzed in an upcoming article.

JAC FUNDING

SAIMON SHARIF (CHE '15)

Rachel Appel, a member of Art Student Council, sent the chart shown on the back to *The Pioneer* and requested it be published. It would be far from fair to publish this chart without providing further analysis into club funding.

The statistics touted by Ms. Appel's chart are damning and suggest malice of some sort by JAC, the committee that appropriates club funding. How is it possible and fair that more than double the amount spent on Art students is spent on engineering students if something is not afoot? What of the school of Architecture whose students received a third of those of the engineering school? It should not be unsurprising that there are underlying issues

Ms. Appel's chart fails to take into account the request-reward dynamic involved with funding allocations. Architecture Student Council requested \$1,800 this semester for events and received \$1,250, 69% of their requested budget. Art related clubs requested \$2,210 for Art events and received \$1,920, 87%. Engineering clubs requested \$22,533 and received \$13,256, slightly less than 58%. Andrew Crudge (ME'13), student banker, stated "The average Art or Architecture club at Cooper actually receives a larger percent of its budget request than the average Engineering-run club. Also, no Art or Architecture clubs in the last three years have been denied reimbursement due to budget limitations."

There is a staggering difference between numbers of clubs between the disciplines and schools as noted by Mr. Crudge: "In the last few years, there has been a disproportionately small number of clubs and events run by students from the art or architecture schools. The amount of money allocated to engineering-run clubs is greater than what is allocated to clubs run by students from the other two schools. However, the amount of money

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PIN-UP SESSION

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Barry Drogin (EE '83) made a presentation on the finances of Cooper Union. He pointed out that each member of the Board of Trustees donated an average of \$75,000 a year for the past 11 years. In addition, he discussed the large increase in the number of administration employees.

Professors Richard Stock and Daniel Lepek (ChE '04) discussed the potential Cooper Brewery project. Professor Stock mentioned that this idea was brought up to Dean Ben-Avi and Professor Yash Risbud and they are supporters.

Paul Garrin (Art '82) then gave a presentation on entrepreneurship. The main goal is to create a program called The Peter Cooper Entrepreneur Society at Cooper that collaborates between the three schools and creates successful startup companies that will contribute \$1 million to Cooper Union over the next 5 years. Two art alumni collaborated with Paul and started their own startups recently. One is by Caitlin Everett (Art '08). Her startup is an art loan company called Artelicio.us / Artalyze.me. The other alumnus, Christine Moh (Art '95), presented her social media website for Cooper alum, called The Cooper Union People.

In the end, during a spirited closing discussion, Karina Tipton stated her reasons for working to preserve a tuition-free Cooper Union. Her reasons stem from preserving the existing admissions process and the unique Cooper Union alum she is “currently used to rubbing shoulders with,” and she believes this is a product of the Cooper Union meritocracy. After acknowledging the many contributions students have made to the discussions surrounding this issue and discussing the academic conflicts students may have in their availability to participate more directly in the Friends of Cooper Union discussions, she concluded, “the fact that they’re not going to be charged tuition [may] give them a level of distance that I don’t have as an alum because I’m looking down the tunnel and thinking, ‘should I just take Cooper Union off my résumé if they charge tuition because I think I might.’”

Overall, this was a successful event in informing the attendees. There were many new attendees who were open to giving their ideas with the main goal of helping save Cooper Union. I felt that the brewery idea is definitely promising in raising revenue, but the barrier of underage students would have to be overcome first. Entrepreneurship is a good idea, but we need the \$1 billion idea to really save Cooper. It was unfortunate that there were only about 5 students who attended that night, but with more student attendees in future events, the Friends of Cooper would have a better sense of what students are going through today in Cooper Union. The next event hosted by Friends of Cooper Union will be another breakout session on February 29 at 7PM in LL101. Food will be provided and all are welcomed.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, e-mail us at cooperpioneer@gmail.com. You may retrieve the presentations and view videos from this pin-up event on the following site (shortlink): goo.gl/ZWLmp.

JAC FUNDING

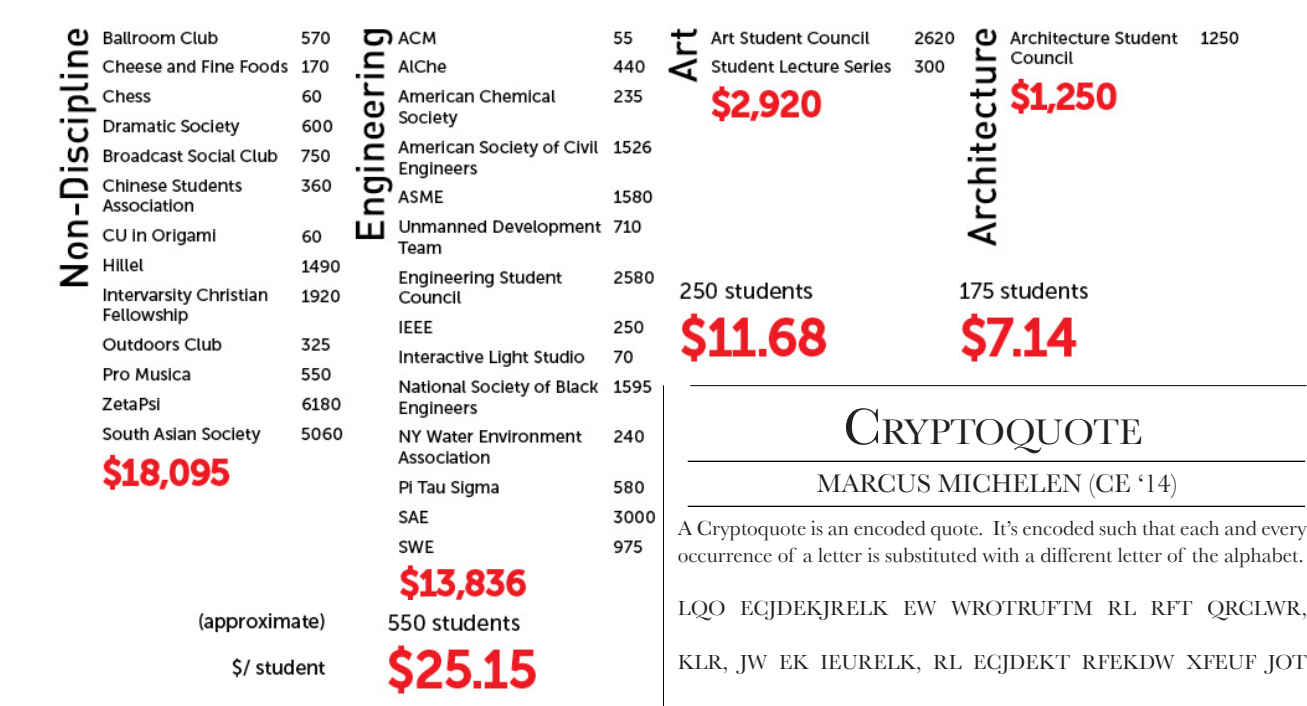
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requested by these clubs is significantly larger as well.” It is simply not possible to spend more per Art and Architecture students if there are only three discipline organizations in total. There are far more Engineering students and Engineering related clubs. Funds cannot be allocated to phantom Art and Architecture clubs.

For JAC to spend \$25.11 per Architecture student, Architecture Student Council would have to request and be rewarded \$4,394.25, but funds cannot be allocated when clubs do not have a legitimate outlet for them. The goal of JAC is not to allocate a certain amount for Art and Architecture clubs proportional to the size of their study body at the expense of “Non-Discipline” and Engineering

The Allocation / SPRING 2012

(chart organized by whether the club defined a relationship to a school’s discipline in their constitution)



KENKEN

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

Instructions: Like Sudoku, each row and column must contain the numbers from 1 to 6. The number in the upper-left corner of the bolded shape made up of squares is the number you need to get by using the operation next to the number. The solution to this puzzle will be released next week. The solution to the KenKen from Mini-Issue #8 is below.

7+		2+		5	3+
	6+		1-		
15×	6×		5-		5+
	3÷		1-		
6×	20×		2÷		10+
	6	12×			

5	1	4	2	3	6
3	5	2	6	1	4
1	3	6	4	5	2
4	6	3	1	2	5
2	4	1	5	6	3
6	2	5	3	4	1

Solution to Mini Issue #8’s Cryptoquote:

A TRUE HISTORY OF HUMAN EVENTS WOULD SHOW THAT A FAR LARGER PROPORTION OF OUR ACTS ARE THE RESULT OF SUDDEN IMPULSE AND ACCIDENT THAN OF THAT REASON OF WHICH WE SO MUCH BOAST.

-PETER COOPER

clubs. Clubs should not be punished simply because they relate to a school which has more students.

Furthermore, clubs that have previously displayed negligence are questionable. Unused funds, the limitation on the JAC budget, and the legitimacy of events accounts for any money not rewarded to a club, regardless of discipline.

The solution to the dollars per student problem, if it is a problem, is simple: Artists and Architects should actively begin to start clubs relating to their respective disciplines. Mr. Crudge states “JAC would like to encourage students from any school to start clubs and request funding. For more information on how to do so, visit jac.cooper.edu, or you can always email me at cooperunionbanker@gmail.com.”

CRYPTOQUOTE

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

A Cryptoquote is an encoded quote. It’s encoded such that each and every occurrence of a letter is substituted with a different letter of the alphabet.

LQO ECJDEKJRELK EW WROTRUFTM RL RFT QRCLWR,

KLR, JW EK IEURELK, RL ECJDEKT RFEKDW XFEUF JOT

KLR OTJNNG RFTOT, ZQR BQWR RL ULCYOTFTKM RFLWT

RFEKDW XFEUF JOT RFTOT.

-OEUFJOM ITGKCJK

STAIRCASE DESIGN CONTEST

This is a reminder that the staircase design contest deadline is March 6 at 12PM. The grand prize is \$50 and there are two runner up prizes of \$25 each. Please submit your designs to cooperpioneer@gmail.com. Visit our website to see the Valentine’s issue for full details.



Jenna Lee (ME'15)

FRIENDS OF COOPER
BREAKOUT SESSION #4 (FREE FOOD)

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 - 7PM
Room LL101 (NAB)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!
twitter.com/cooperpioneer



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
Shortlink: goo.gl/YkmW1



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13 YEAR OLD
GIRLS FOR
SEX \$50

Outrageous, isn’t it? It was so outrageous that every copy of this poster was removed 7 hours after it was put up. Truth is, “13 year old girls for sex \$50” is what’s being said and done in the **streets of NYC**, and you can now even order teenage girls **through the Internet** and get them delivered to your door. **The average age of entry into prostitution for girls in US is thirteen.** The statistics is quite baffling beyond our preconceptions about the billion-dollar sex industry. If you wonder how young girls are recruited, and psychologically and physically exploited and manipulated to stay, come to the following two upcoming events:

Screening: Very Young Girls (documentary on commercial sexual exploitation of teenage girls in NYC), THU, 3/1, 9PM, Rose Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Rachel Lloyd (featured in Very Young Girls), herself a survivor, is going to read a part of her recent memoir “Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not For Sale,” MON, 3/5, 6:30PM, Great Hall, open to public