

DEAN WOLF: SCHOOL UPDATE

MARCUS MICHELEN (BSE '14)

On January 30th, I spoke with Dean Wolf concerning ABET, the prospective announcements from the Board of Trustees, and other Cooper-related issues. The following interview is an abridged version of the discussion that took place. The full transcription will be available on pioneer.cooper.edu shortly.

The Cooper Pioneer: At the end of last semester, ABET came to evaluate our engineering school. How did that go?

Alan Wolf: We had an excellent visit. ABET reviewed 36 items and 33 of them required no change. The other 3 things are minor. ABET concluded their visit with a formal exit interview. Nothing particularly serious came up in the exit interview. There are some minor concerns that we are either obligated to respond to, or can choose to respond to. I'm very pleased. This is a good time to thank the faculty, students and staff who helped us in many diverse ways to show off the School of Engineering to its best advantage. Special thanks to Cooper students Andrew Crudge and Mike Palafax, who designed and built our new faculty web site, <https://engfac.cooper.edu/> Our visitors were impressed by the faculty and student work that is now on display there.

TCP: Do you think that the protests that occurred in early December will have any effect on our ABET results?

AW: No. I was at an AITU [Association of Independent Technological Universities] conference in San Diego recently. One of the speakers at the conference was the head of an engineering accreditation organization, but a different organization (not ABET). Someone from another institution asked the speaker: "Do accrediting organizations care about a college's financial weakness or internal debates?" Her answer was very similar to remarks made by the ABET team chair in our recent visit – such matters are not of direct concern. If, however, things like financial problems point to underlying institutional problems that affect the school's educational mission, then they will receive an appropriate amount of scrutiny.

TCP: Last December, it's my understanding that the engineering faculty prepared a document that was presented to Jamshed which was presented to the Board of Trustees.

AW: We prepared five reports, they've been posted on the web and otherwise widely distributed. We prepared an undergraduate tuition report, a graduation tuition report (that's a misnomer, it includes any program that generates revenue and is not an undergraduate program).



Photo Credit: Jenna Lee

We also had three committees that weren't about revenue generation – for example a committee on the engineering school's culture. The reports were given to the board with supplementary materials like Excel spreadsheets containing very elaborate models of revenue generation. Our five reports totaled nearly 100 pages. I was told by some trustees shortly after the December 5th meeting that they were very impressed with our hard work, our creativity, and with the sophistication of our models. I'm very proud of the faculty for mobilizing on reinvention the way that they did. The trustees are now studying our reports. We expect to hear back from them in March.

TCP: In March?

AW: We had originally expected to hear something in December. Then came the holidays, etc. Now they have to study our reports and our models. That takes time.

I'm still not clear what will happen in March exactly. Will they tell us our fate? Perhaps. Will they want to talk to us in March before deciding our fate? Ask more probing questions? Will we be contacted before March with those questions? I don't have answers to these questions.

TCP: Do you have any information about who our permanent dean will be?

AW: On February 5th, we're getting an update from the search firm that has been seeking out candidates. On that date, I think we're going to be generating a short list from the full list of plausible candidates. We will rank them based on lots of criteria. The firm has been helpful. Two years ago the Dean Search Committee did a search without the assistance of a search firm, and we didn't find anyone who really excited the faculty. The search firm hasn't just placed ads for the position, they went out to actively recruit candidates.

We have a timeline for the selection process. After we generate a short list of candidates there will be rounds of interviews, off campus and on campus. There will be meetings with faculty, students, and administrators, and

perhaps presentations to these groups. We recognize that finding someone terrific is a challenge given Cooper's current financial situation and internal debates. By the time we are closer to the end of the timeline, we will be past the March trustee meeting – so I expect that we will have some sense of the institution's fate. There are people who revel in addressing challenges like this. I hope we find someone like that – a fixer.

As for our financial challenges, Vice President Westcott is working very hard on a financial package that will keep us afloat until 2018 at which we get a few years of relief from the Chrysler rent bump. If anyone can do it, it's TC.

TCP: As head of the physics department, have you begun looking for a full time faculty professor to replace Professor Uglesich?

AW: No new searches for faculty members right now. We have a few departments in engineering that are losing visiting faculty or faculty through retirement, but until we know the fate of the school(s) it doesn't make sense to look for new full time faculty. I hope to revisit this after the March meeting.

CRYPTOQUOTE

MARCUS MICHELEN (BSE '14)

A Cryptoquote is an encoded quote. It is encoded such that each and every occurrence of a letter is substituted with a different letter of the alphabet. Using clues such as frequency of occurrence and placement, the original quote can be found. For instance, the word XBDIKCXXBZ could be deciphered to reveal the word LONGFELLOW.

“SDG CXYS GRQESELN JDPAYG SX DGAP

EL YQEGLQG, SDG XLG SDAS DGPAHWY SDG

CXYS WEYQXZGPEGY, EY LXS 'GIPGVA!' OIS

'SDAS'Y BILLU...' - EYAAQ AYECXZ

Last issue's solution:

“IT'S SO EASY TO LAUGH. IT'S SO EASY TO

HATE. IT TAKES STRENGTH TO BE GENTLE AND

KIND.” - MORRISSEY

KENKEN

MARCUS MICHELEN (BSE '14)

KenKen is a Japanese paper puzzle by Tetsuya Miyamoto much like Sudoku, only it involves both math and logic. It roughly translates to “cleverness-cleverness.”

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. For example, the “2x” rectangle in the top right corner can be filled in with a 1,2; or a 2,1.

This puzzle contains only one solution, which will be released in the next issue.

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 17+ | 72× | | 120× | 2× |
| 72× | | | | | |
| | | | | | 15× |
| | | 10× | 36× | 2 | |
| 8+ | | | | | 24× |
| | 4 | | 8+ | | |

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FEB CEB

YARA ELBOROLOSY (CE '14)

If you walked into the great hall last Friday night, you probably would have been shocked to find about fifteen tables lined up in the hallway, decorated with baby blue table cloth, plastic cups with bead necklaces, tissue paper, Styrofoam stars, and snowflakes with glitter glue. If you walked in early enough, you would have seen about twenty girls, from the basketball and volleyball team, setting up the hall for Feb Ceb. Feb Ceb, short for February Celebration, took place on Saturday night from 8pm to about midnight. It is essentially a spring party for Cooper and non-Cooper guests to have a good time with dinner and dancing. Music was provided by DJ and current Cooper student, George Holevas (ChE '14). The reason the celebration is in February is to remember Peter Cooper's birthday and his mission. This year the theme is winter wonderland, explaining the snowflakes that can be found everywhere while last year the dance was Valentine's Day themed.

Tickets were sold at the door for fifteen dollars each but if you bought them beforehand, they were being sold two for twenty five. Dean Baker who helps plan this event, along with Natalia Zawisny (CE '14), Ghazal Erfani (ChE '14), Alice Yang (ChE '13), and Stephanie Borches (CE '14), stays at Feb Ceb for a good portion, if not all, of the night to assure everyone is enjoying themselves and that everything goes well. Usually about eighty to hundred people attend, filling up all of the tables being set up and the stage in the great hall, which is where the dancing occurs. It is a wonderful way to meet new people and just have fun before the workload from the semester starts to pile. ♦

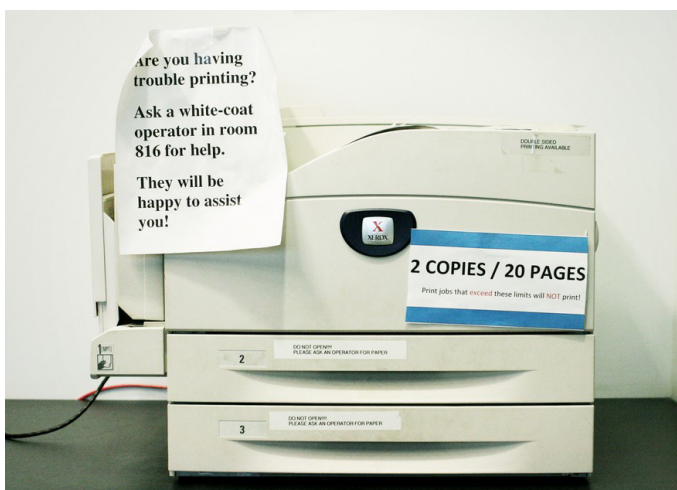


Photo Credit: Jenna Lee

NEW PRINTING LIMITS IN THE CUCC

CAROLINE YU (EE '15)

The Cooper Union Computer Center serves as a place every Cooper student can use to print out what they need. Fortunately, after the decrease of operators working per hour in the computer center, the amount of printing problems has not increased. However, around each printer, students have noticed the piles of paper that were printed but not picked up. Not only is it wasteful, Computer Center Student Manager Alexander Erb, says that because many of the papers left were printed double-sided, the CUCC could only throw these documents away.

“[By] printing out textbooks, they're leaving Cooper to pay for their books.”

The CUCC has now instituted a printing page limit. The biggest issue was the amount of printed pages left at the CUCC last semester. It was noticed that “more students seemed to have found their books online in the past couple of years and end up printing multiple copies and only taking one of them.” Alexander Erb also believes that “one thing people don't seem to realize is [that there] is a small fee for each page printed that Cooper takes care of. And now that people are printing out textbooks, they're leaving Cooper to pay for their books.”

Although there are only signs at each printer, the new limit is enforced by the means of a new system where printing several copies of the same document or a document over twenty pages is not allowed. If this new limit system works, the CUCC will not have to consider other options where students would have to pay an extra fee for printing or have a printing page limit as other colleges do.

Alexander Erb has advice for Cooper students: “print double sided when you can, try to print in black and white whenever possible, don't print textbooks all at once [it is] easier if you just printed portions you need every few weeks, and only print out sections needed for your class.” If you already have pressed the print button at a computer, don't press it again unless you are positive the printer did not receive the printing request!

NSBE'S CHARITY DATE AUCTION

YARA ELBOROLOSY (CE '14)

This past Thursday, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE for short), held the charity date auction to raise money for Socialite, a project led by Cooper faculty member Toby Cumberbatch to bring more solar powered lights to Ghana. These lights are carried around as lanterns to light the path at night since many of the towns there do not have sufficient lighting.

The charity date auction was held in the rose auditorium at 9pm Thursday, January 31st, and it was packed with not only engineering students but also art students as well. What was being auctioned off was a date for Feb Ceb, Cooper's annual spring party held in the great hall.

People who want to be auctioned fill out a survey about themselves. Everyone has a song playing in the background as they walk to the stage and has their introduction read out loud. Bidding for men starts at three dollars while for women it starts at five dollars. You can even be sold as a set or a couple if you are too scared or uncomfortable to go on by yourself.

“The auction raised money for Socialite, a project led by Toby Cumberbatch.”

Everyone in the audience has a paper plate with a number on it which is how they raise the bid. It's a pretty interesting way of bidding, with the risk of being offensive, insulting, or disrespectful. The students who did attend seemed to have no qualms with how the auction was in a sense selling humans as if they were cattle.

At the end of the night, this went on for about two to two and a half hours, over \$2000.00 was raised, which beat last years record of over \$1500. It goes to a wonderful cause but whether or not it is morally okay to reenact the selling of humans is a personal moral issue that each of you can determine for yourself. ♦

“At the end of the night, over \$2000 was raised.”

Peter Cooper
ON THE FUTURE



EPISODE FOUR

COMIC: PETER COOPER IN THE FUTURE

BY JAKE POTTER (ME '16)

