On December 2, 2014, the Cooper Union Faculty-Student Senate held a meeting to discuss Title IX and Cooper Union’s current policy on misconduct based upon sex. The policy can be found here: http://www.cooper.edu/about/policies/sexual-misconduct. The meeting was held in response to a resolution passed at the Faculty-Student Senate Meeting in September.

Marjory Fisher, the Managing Director at T&M Protection Resources, gave a historical context on the Title IX Policy. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 governs the use of federal funds for educational programs, especially athletics, to make sure that no one is excluded from participating on the basis of gender. Now, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (DOE OCR) interprets Title IX as a school’s responsibility to take immediate and appropriate steps to investigate alerts of possible sexual violence. Investigations must be prompt, thorough, fair, impartial, and equitable; they must also be done by individuals trained in investigating and have credible witnesses. The school must then end the sexual violence, eliminate the hostile environment, and prevent its recurrence. Fisher showed a public service announcement and referred to several websites dedicated to stop sexual assault. Fisher also emphasized that federal grant money can be pulled if a college does not follow the federal policies associated with Title IX. In order to increase transparency to the DOE OCR’s work and to increase public awareness, the DOE OCR released a list of higher education institutions with open Title IX investigations earlier this year.

Next, Cooper Union’s Policy on Misconduct Based Upon Sex was presented by Bill Mead (VP for Finance and Administration), Ann Marie Gong (HR Manager), and Chris Chamberlin (Dean of Students). The policy is currently being revised and will become effective July of 2015. The process after reviewing a misconduct complaint is as follows: taking interim measures to protect the individuals involved, mediating a resolution between the two parties with the assurance of privacy, conducting an informal investigation, determining whether it is more likely than not that a policy violation occurred, holding an appeal period, and, finally, imposing sanctions if necessary.

Misconduct reports can be sent to titleix@cooper.edu. Any member of the Cooper Union community can also contact Nicole Struensee, LCSW (646-734-6140). Bill Mead emphasized that, while Struensee is not obligated to inform him or Gong about any misconduct events, Cooper employees – even resident assistants – are.

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OPEN FORUM EXPLAINS COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

PRANAV JONJIA (ME ’18)

Dr. Terrisa D’Alisberg, Dean of the School of Engineering and Chief Academic Officer, invited members of the Cooper Union community to an open forum regarding the introduction of the new computer science major. The forum was held on December 1 and was attended by students from all three schools.

Dean D’Alisberg brought with her three other faculty members who were instrumental in crafting the curriculum for the new major. These individuals include: Dr. Eric Lima, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Anita Raja, a recently hired Professor of Computer Science and the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs; and Dr. Bonnie John, a Cooper alumnus (ME ’77) and our newest faculty member.

The forum began with directly addressing the question of various new programs being introduced at The Cooper Union. Given the current state of our finances, Dean D’Alisberg said, “I want to start by answering the question that you probably have all been asking: ‘Why is Cooper Union starting new programs?’” The Dean cited the average annual operating budget deficit of $12 million as a problem that could be fixed by her proposed new programs.

The crux of her answer was that new programs are part of the financial sustainability plan to bring in much needed revenue to the school.

Next, there was a brief overview of the computer science major followed by a lengthy, in-depth review of how the new curriculum was developed. Dean D’Alisberg explained, “My style is to start with a relatively small focus group and create a ‘strawman’ - a draft proposal of the curriculum that was then iteratively improved and updated. This focus group included people from various related disciplines and academic backgrounds, such as experts working in the software industry, faculty members, former students and education professionals.

This mélange of people came together in the hope of creating a program that addresses the diversity and variety in thought demand-ed of computer scientists. Furthermore, their work in creating the curriculum was guided by the Joint Task Force on Computing Curricula of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), a guideline published by the preeminent computer science professional society.

Dean D’Alisberg explained further that, once the draft curriculum is proposed to the larger community, there are talking points on paper and “it becomes easier to say ‘I don’t like that’ or ‘I do like that’ or ‘Change this’”. This is easier than starting from scratch.

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with a blank sheet of paper and actually try to articu-
late [from scratch] what they want. The Dean went on to explain that the computer science major was voted on and rejected by the en-
gineering curriculum com-
mittee last year. Following that, she said the computer science major is going to be terminated in the long run, as students in that department have ultimate goal of launching an independent, fourth insti-
tute of The Cooper Union with approval of the Board of Trustees. While she conceded that starting new programs is expensive, she argued that the incremental costs of starting a new program are more than the current revenues. In other words, the operating budget deficit will increase in the short-
term as the school grows up to launch the new program. Dean Dahlberg added that these capital-intensive costs might include renu-
vating space, especially in the Foundation Building, and creating new space elsewhere. In the long-term, however, the hope is to re-
cover these expenses and make a break-even deal on the operating budget deficit. Given the tumultous cli-
mat of Cooper, clearly there are controversial claims. The Dean maintains that she is cognizant of community concerns, but that sometimes one key barrier is that faculty and students, understand-
bly, are opposed to any new program that increases the student enroll-
ment. That's exactly what I saw in the questions [asked by students beforehand]. We just started charging tu-
ition, we have a fiscal operat-
ing plan, with the goal of bring-
ing adding more students? I think that's a huge misunder-
standing in the community.

She reiterated that this is just the beginning of a longer con-
versation with the university and that many matters of concern can and should be addressed in the future.

**ART SENIOR SHOWS**

Evan Burns (Art '15)

What is the first thing you do when the clock strikes six on a Tuesday? Scour the build-
ing for shows, of course. Tuesday night is the time for art shows (and refreshments), and now that the end of the sem-
ester is in sight, graduating seniors are putting on their Senior Shows. The Se-
nior Shows are a part of an art student’s four years of school, and it gives the artist a chance to explore a specific topic or medium in depth.

This Tuesday, December 2nd, I began my trek on the se-
venth floor of the Foundation Building, at Davon Howard’s (Art ’15) show, “If we were the middle-
grounds of each other.” The flyer made note that this show contains sexually explicit material, and what I found was a wonderful example of what a show can achieve when it ad-
dresses sexuality head-on. On the walls were a series of tango-
graphs and engravings either mounted or printed directly on steel plates. They contained overt references to vintage gay pornography, preserved in such a way that the primary focus is on intimacy and mas-
culinity. When I spoke to Da-
von, he described the “middle-
grounds” of the project as an

### THE DYNAMICS OF GLASS CEILINGS

Brenda So (CE ’10)

A classroom filled with 20 boys and only 2 girls is a common scene at Cooper. Employment data shows that women in the STEM industries are underrepresented that keeps the uppermost women from rising to the upper range of the corporate ladder regard-
less of their merit. In regards to this issue, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) invited Profe-
sor Raja to the Associate Dean of Research and Gradu-
ate program, to talk about the glass ceiling.

The talk started with introduc-
ing the controversy of the glass ceiling. While we see more and more women, such as Virginia Rometty of IBM, occupying top-level positions in compa-
yes, the percentage of women entering the pipeline may never reach 50%. This stunningly low percentage of women continues to remain underrepresented despite all the support given. A range of factors, including gender bi-
ases against women, the lack of mentors, the difference in leading style between men and women, and inter-
family responsibilities has led women in the STEM industries to leave their careers.

Professor Raju also referred to her own experience throughout the discussion. When she started in the academy, she was the only female in her depart-
ment. Now, the department she works at has a female chair and 5 other fe-
male in the board—an indi-

cation of the progress in the glass ceiling. Yet, one thing to bear in mind is that the presence of women in top positions does not indicate that the path to it is any easi-
ter than before. There are still many different difficulties women in the workplace and it is up to us, the next genera-
tion, to make a difference. 

Since there were only two fe-
male participants, it was decid-
ed that the prize for women’s third place would be given to Gabi Fraser (CE ’18), who came fourth in the men’s race. Prizes include $20, $30 and $40 gift cards to Jack-and-Rabbit Sports store, a running gear emporium in NYC.

**LINKNYC PROJECT TO PROVIDE FREE PUBLIC WI-FI TO NYC**

Ruchi Patel (CE ’18)

Recently, the city of New York announced a revolu-
tionary communications network to replace the city’s increasingly obsolete pay-
phone system. The plan is to replace the 300 thousand public pay phones with up to 10 thousand public Wi-
Fi kiosks across all five bor-
oughs, offering the fastest and largest free public Wi-
Fi system in the world.

The kiosks are called LInks, and will provide gigabit Wi-
Fi, which is more than 20 times faster than the aver-
age home Internet speed in NYC. Each kiosk aims to have a connectivity range of about 150 feet, with a limit of 250 simultaneously con-
necting devices. Each Link should provide 24/7 Wi-
Fi service, and serves as a phone calls anywhere in the U.S., a charging station, and a touch screen interface with city information and directions, as well as advertising and public service an-
nouncements, for free.

It is really free if taxpayers will be paying more. Well, they won’t, because the city hopes to fund the proj-
ect through donations and make up for a probable deficit with revenue generat-
ed by lucrative advertisement.

First, it is free for the users as long as the user is willing to show advertisements.

Launching the project it-
self is estimated to cost over $200 million, although it is estimated to generate over $520 million in revenue for the city over the first 12 years, as well as create over 125 new full-time jobs and 620 support jobs, as reported by Forbes.com.

A similar network was launched by social entrepre-
neur and Cooper graduate, Paul Gaerin (Art’12), after communication networks failed during Hurricane Sandy. In 2003, he created the wireless broadband network, Wi-FiNY, which also offered free public ki-
osks with similar features as Links. In 2010, Gaerin proposed his idea to the Two Bridges Neighborhood Council, which now fund-
raises the Cooper Lumen Design Challenge, a project supported by community leaders and mentored by Gaerin himself to challenge Cooper Union students to design viable kiosk options with special attention to re-
silience, cost, and efficiency.

Last semester, the project was the focus of Professor Toby Cumberbatch’s Sustainable Design course. The Cooper Lumen Design Challenge still aims to collect $10 thou-
sand in order provide materi-
als for art, architecture, and engineering students to design advanced prototypes for public Wi-Fi kiosks that can benefit the community. 

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(Continued from front)