

Dear Professor,

The Engineering Student Council has been made aware that inappropriate comments joking about suicide have been made in class by professors in the engineering school. Students have brought forward reports of professors making jokes encouraging students to 'kill themselves' if they do poorly on an assignment or classroom exercise. These crude, sarcastic comments diminish the gravity of a very serious issue that has shaken the community not so long ago. Students come to this institution to learn and rely on professors to uphold a healthy and academically challenging learning environment. We hold the faculty responsible for being aware of how their words affect students and thus, there is no place for jokes like these in our community.

As a council, we take all of these claims seriously and will not tolerate any jokes about suicide made by the faculty, or the student body for that matter. These comments are absolutely unacceptable, especially given the pressure and stress of being a student at the Cooper Union. There is no way to tell who is dealing with mental health issues and jokes of this type could propel a student into suicidal thoughts. We therefore ask the faculty to categorically avoid making such remarks in the future. We hope that our position is understandable to you and we hope that the Engineering Faculty can help the Engineering Student Council foster a healthier learning environment on campus.

Best,  
Engineering Student Council