

Resolution by the Engineering Curriculum Committee:

1. The practice of having contact hours necessarily match the credits for courses is not the norm at a number of schools that are considered peers of The Cooper Union School of Engineering, nor is it mandated by New York State regulations.
2. The reduction of contact hours in core chemistry, math, and physics courses will necessarily lead to certain topics being covered with less depth, or not covered at all. This will have a serious negative impact on the academic quality of the engineering programs, and will have repercussions throughout the engineering curricula because of the reliance on prerequisite material covered in these courses.
3. If such reductions are to be implemented, it would require significant planning and curricular development. Not only would the syllabi of the math and science courses directly affected have to be changed, but also those of many other required courses throughout the engineering programs. The faculty in the chemistry, math and physics departments were informed of the decision to implement these changes effective Fall 2018 only on January 30, 2018; the other engineering faculty as a whole were not informed (directly). This leaves insufficient time for preparation, and therefore will only exacerbate the deleterious impact on curriculum.