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 in a fairly realistic solution 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.survey Monkey.com/methodology.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 ’08). 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 ’08) and Henry Chapman (Art ’10). They presented the Friends of Cooper Union website, www.friendsofcooperunion.org, and discussed the purpose of this group and the event that night.

Tom Symnott, a former chief economist of the US Trust and a current adjunct professor of Cooper Union, gave a presentation. Symnott 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.

(continued on back)
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 ’74) 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 Entrepreneurship at Cooper that collaborates between the three schools and creates successful startups 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 ’10); her startup is an art loan company called Artlend/Artalyze/me. The other alumna, 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 alumna 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 for 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 resume 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. It was unfortunate that each member of the Board of Trustees donated simply not possible to spend more per Art and Architecture clubs proportional to the size of their study body at the expense of “Non-Discipline” and Engineering 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 cooperpioneer@gmail.com.”

### JAC Funding

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

### The Allocation / SPRING 2012

(continued from front)

**Non-Discipline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>$13,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>$18,095</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 #9 is below.

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

Solutions to Mini-Issue #9’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

### Friends of Cooper Breakout Session #4 (Free Food)

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

**Shortlink:** goo.gl/YkmW1

Follow Us on Twitter!  twitter.com/cooperpioneer

Like Us on Facebook!  shortlink: goo.gl/YkmW1

The Pioneer is Online!  Visit: pioneer.cooper.edu

Be Part Of The News Revolution!  Join The Pioneer Today!

E-mail cooperpioneer@gmail.com