

The Cooper Union Alumni Association  
Election Responses Subcommittee

2015 Election Responses – Detailed Report  
June 13, 2015

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Comments in full, sorted by category

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# Introduction

## **“What instructions or advice would you like to pass on to this incoming year’s Council?”**

In the 2015 Cooper Union Alumni Association Election, the alumni body was given the opportunity to respond to the above prompt. Shortly after the ballot deadline, a special subcommittee was formed to dig into the numerous responses and come back to the Council with their results.

We began by reading the first few together and collectively deciding on some general categories to sort them by. Our goal was to recognize patterns, but also to not allow for too many groups. We then continued to sort individually in a collaborative Google Spreadsheet. Afterwards we realized that it would be helpful to go back into four of the categories and conduct a rough sentiment analysis around the topic that grouped them. Additionally, as each of us sorted responses, we also highlighted those that stood out to us; responses we thought our fellow council members should read. They are featured in bold throughout the document. Word clouds were generated for each of the comment categories. Author’s names were removed to preserve anonymity.

Although we did our best, the sorting process was not by any means objective and we do not hold these categories to be 100% accurate. We fully acknowledge that, for the most part, these responses were subjectively analyzed by a single individual.

Although we highly encourage the council to read as many of the comments as possible, we recommend extra time be spent in the first two groups, CUAA, and Questions, Comments, Suggestions. It is full of actionable steps and insights the council can use across the board.

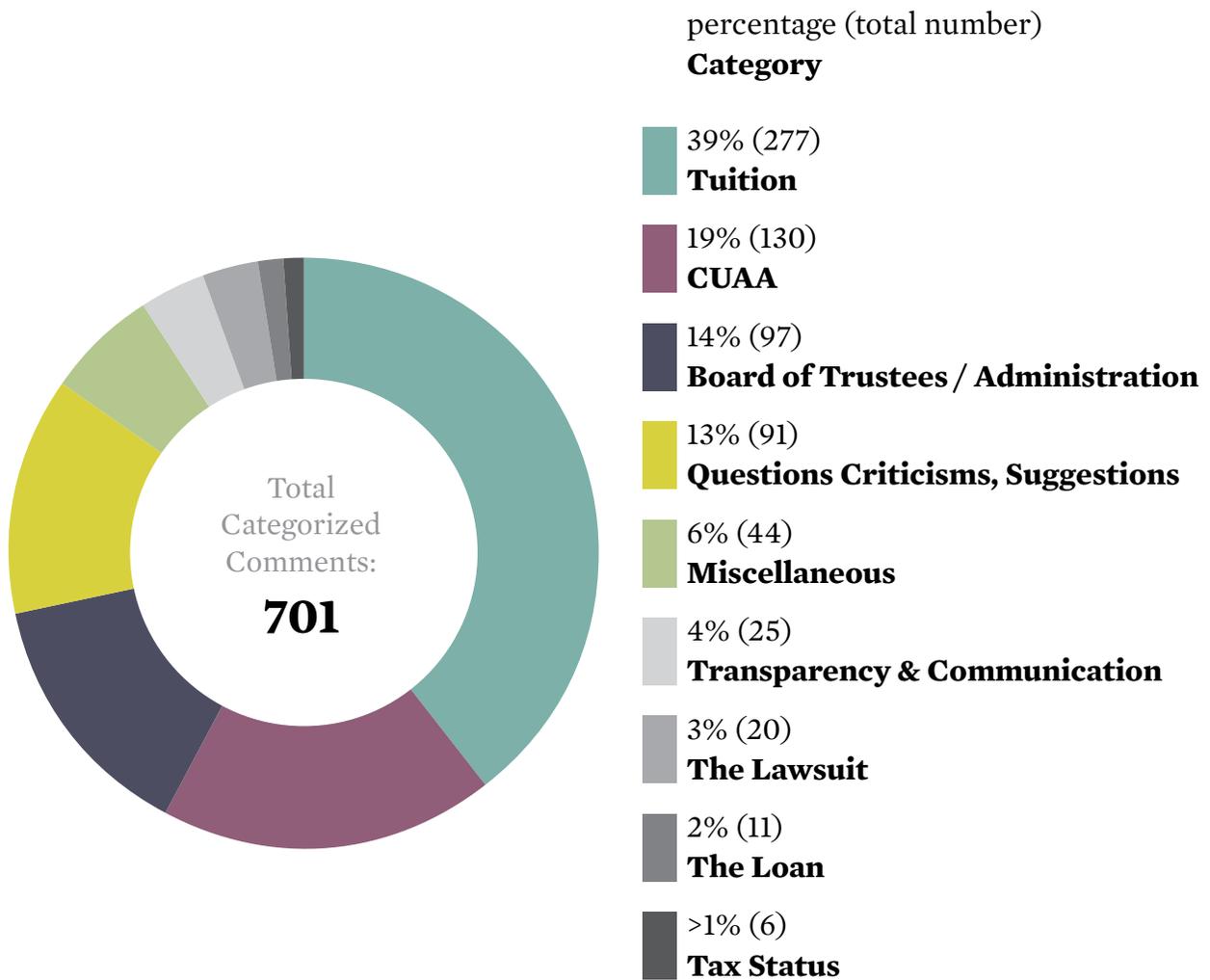
Cooper Union Alumni are a thoughtful, sincere, and above all passionate group of folks. This document is a clear testament to what they care about, and we hope it will help our fellow council members to better understand their concerns and how we can serve them.

Happy Reading!

Rachel Appel, chair  
Edmundo Majchrzyk  
Sangamithra Iyer  
Karina Tipton  
Darrell Low  
Kelly Smolar  
Athena De Nivo

## Chart: Overview of All Comments

A total of 594 comments were submitted, representing approximately 35% of all voters. The Comment Subcommittee categorized each comment by the subjects it mentioned. Oftentimes comments covered more than one area, in which case the comment was copied into multiple categories, thus the number of categorized comments totals 701.

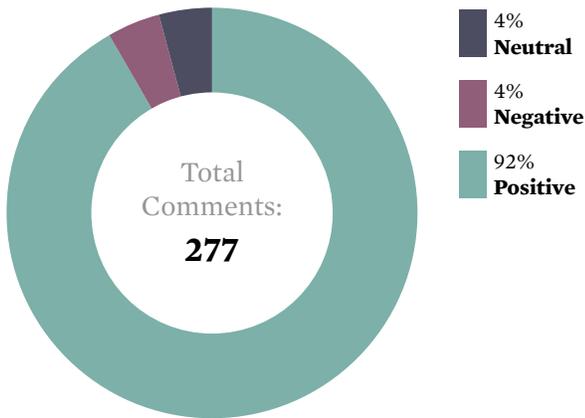


# Chart: Sentiment from Top Categories

In order to gain meaning and insight from the responses, the committee found it to be useful to add sentiment analysis in the following 4 categories: Tuition, General CUAA, The Board of Trustees / Administration, and The Lawsuit.

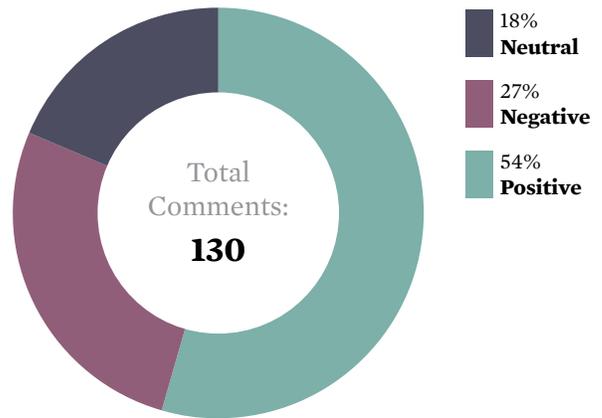
Category: Tuition

**How does this person feel about returning to free tuition?**



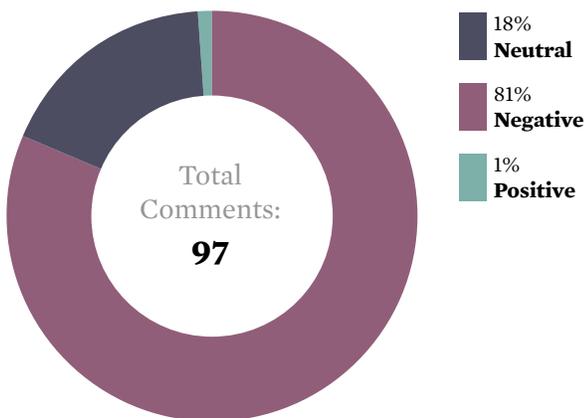
Category: CUAA

**How does this person feel about the CUAA?**



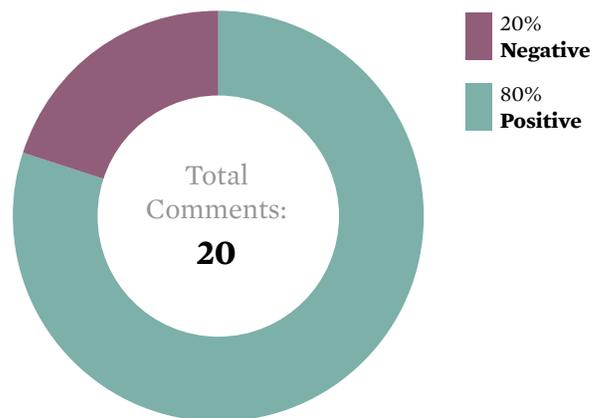
Category: Board of Trustees / Administration

**How does this person feel about the Board and/or Admin?**



Category: The Lawsuit

**How does this person feel about the Lawsuit?**



# CUAA

A word cloud visualization of comments for the CUA category. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with 'cooper' being the largest and most central word. Other prominent words include 'all school', 'union', 'work', 'good', 'administration', 'keep', and 'alumni'. Smaller words like 'mission', 'continue', 'past', 'vision', 'efforts', 'back', 'think', 'possible', 'cu', 'board', 'restore', 'about', 'more', 'peter', 'better', 'give', 'future', 'way', 'needs', 'long', 'fight', 'one', 'education', 'help', 'just', 'luck', 'without', 'support', 'take', 'pay', 'please', 'students', 'tuition', 'need', 'thank', 'council', and 'cooper's' are also visible.

cooper  
all school  
union work  
mission continue  
past vision  
efforts back  
think possible  
cu  
peter  
board restore about more  
better give future way needs  
long fight one  
education  
help just luck without  
support take pay please students  
tuition  
need administration  
thank council keep  
cooper's  
people  
alumni

Thanks for running and best wishes on a tough problem. The first criteria has to be attracting excellent students and merit based admission of these. Next additional fund raising through the various means that have been discussed and elimination of unnecessary expenditures. Don't forget that attracting and retaining qualified faculty has to be on the list too. Good luck.

Restore the night school. Peter Cooper is turning over in his grave.

dont give up.

no more waffling

**The Cooper Community is so fractured - I hope you can mend our broken hearts. Wish I was closer to help.**

Hold steady against the turbulent tides!

Please keep me on the mailing list, as I would like to continue to help work towards a free Cooper Union if possible. I appreciate all of your hard work.

get sleep and eat breakfast, it's going to be a tough year.

Get beyond emotion and do the right thing.

keep up the good work

Save Cooper!

Stay strong

Stand up and be heard!

STAND YOUR GROUND.

Thanks for all you do!

Thank you for operating this organization using volunteer resources, and for representing us (the alum) even as the administration has tried to silence us. I'm very grateful, and if I didn't live so far away, I'd love to help..

Thank you for your service.

Keep at it!

Good luck and keep pushing.

SPEAK SOFTLY, FACTUALLY, UNEMOTIONALLY, DETERMINEDLY

Please keep fighting.

The vision of Peter Cooper is more relevant today than at any other time since WWII.

Cooper Union has stood on its own for so long because of the rare combination of its integrity of spirit and discipline of thought. This is not something, which occurs naturally in the world; it is something that has only arisen out of the commitment and vision of its founders yet is the gift they have given us. It remains today despite the challenges and setbacks, which the Cooper community has faced

Do not get angry with those who disagree. Do not attempt to demonize those who disagree. Just stay focused on the goal. This is not personal. Good luck.

empathy and balance over vitriol

**Keep your goals in sight and do not use antagonistic rhetoric that will alienate the people you need to work with**

give em hell

Thank you for all the dedication and hard work!!!!

Thank you in advance for helping Cooper!

Thanks for your willingness to serve.

Unity works better than disunity. Remember, it is Cooper UNION.

Thank you for the work you do for CU!

Oh lordy keep on fighting that good fight.

I do not know any of the people on the ballot so will not vote for them.

please help the Cooper Union return from the chaos created by those who wanted change but were willing to alter the nature of our school forever.

Keep up the good fight.

keep up the good work

Keep Cooper authentic to its purpose...

Keep up all of the good work on behalf of the alumni. Your efforts and dedication are very appreciated.

Keep up the good fight!

dont fuck it up

Let's get back on the right path.

**Give'em hell.**

"Keep up the good work that's been started. Thank you all. :)"

Don't use surveymonkey.

Good luck - it won't be an easy fight.

Try to matter

Right on target, folks. Thanks for all of your hard

work! Let's take our school back-- free as air and water.

Keep up the pressure!

No quarter.

don't take it personal and good luck

The past has stood Cooper in good stead. Stay with Cooper's past principles and our future will be bright

Thank you for leading the efforts to bring back the school as we knew it.

Keep Up The Good Work

Take shit from no one, and question everything. Better to be late and get it right, than to be on-time and incorrect.

Pay it forward.

7. CUAA should not become The Associates.

Clearly, CUAA has not been willing to take the kind of positions that The Associates will be

expected to stand up for. 8. **Stop making**

**excuses for CUAA failures to**

**act. Start representing the**

**views and wishes of the elected**

**officials, and stop bending over**

**backwards to accommodate**

**the suspected wishes of silent**

**people,** people who don't show up, and people

who don't actually care what happens to the future of

the school. "We just don't know what people think" is

an insult to anyone elected to the Council.

I have seen alumni (non-Council members) on

Facebook discussing a plan to turn the CUAA into the

"Cooper Union Alumni and Associates." I think this

idea runs counter to the mission of the CUAA, and does not align with the description of the Associates presented in the founding documents of the school. I think it is an odd, self-serving idea that borders on a power grab, and I hope it is not entertained...at least not without open and vigorous debate. The Associates should be formed, but it should not be one and the same as the CUAA.

I would like to see the bad publicity for Cooper kept to a minimum.

Once CUAA can demonstrate representation of the majority of alumni, and only then, will it have the authority to negotiate with the Board regarding its relationship with it. Until then, it is merely a clique.

**Having attended a single council meeting and attempting to raise a point during the time allotted for new business I was immediately met with opposition, and to be frank, a very rude demand for an explanation of what I expected the council to do about my concern despite acknowledging I was new to the association and unaware of the existing mechanisms and avenues available. In light of the schism with the administration the council should make it even more of a priority to engage more of it's constituents and**

**be a welcoming body that encourages new participation, otherwise we are bound to failure with neither administration nor alumni support. I understand as well as everyone else on council that this is a tense point in Cooper's history and while tensions are running high, we still need to have a council that is polite to one another, and especially new comers. We need to be a cohesive group that alumni want to work with and participate in and feel comfortable raising their concerns without fear of hostility in response. If our council isn't a place that alumni can be open in and bring their concerns to, then our association isn't performing it's most vital function.**

Less confrontation and more constructive problem solving.

Attempt to re-engage with the administration in a more positive tone. I believe that this divisive situation cannot turn out well for the school or the alumni association.

I do not support using the media as a 'medium' or 'weapon' to publicize the various poor decisions of CU's past leadership. While it may appear to put pressure on the administration in the short term, I feel it simultaneously devalues the CU brand even more than the tuition does. It also harms the credibility of the CU Alumni.

We must work constructively with the Board of Trustees to set a path to a 100% full-tuition scholarship. The current militancy is engaging with a relatively small but vocal minority of alumni while the vast majority remain disengaged at best and some actively turned off to the activities of the CUAA due to the current situation.

Stop fighting with the administration and work together.

Don't forget about alumni who don't live in the northeast!

Regardless of whatever side of the Cooper debate you're on – please people – less divisive tactics and less inflammatory rhetoric.

don't be divisive, bring everyone together

Work better together. Some council members are not good at listening, cooperating, putting aside their specific agendas. The dysfunction of the Council is one of the problems of Cooper Union that must be resolved.

**Please find a way to fully cooperate with school administration again, as this split between CUAA and the Alumni Affairs Office is confusing and annoying.**

patience. respect each other. get rid of bad actors. no

snark.

I applaud efforts to bring new people into CUAA; keep it up.

Continue Peter Cooper's vision

Keep pushing back and fighting for a voice.

Keep Peter Cooper's desires and philosophy intact.

You are doing a great job in supporting Cooper. I commend you and will continue supporting you!

I applaud the efforts to use technology better, evidenced by the videos, debate stream, etc. There are hundreds of non-NYC, remote alumni and the option for virtual participation should be standard in all events, proceedings and engagements.

“GET EVERY ALUM TO “PAY IT FORWARD” - SCHOOL NEEDS 100% PARTICIPATION.... Alum also need to become more involved with current students to emphasis not just career planning and the academic prestige of the school (which is well known) but the NEED to pay forward the gift they are given. Not asking for \$1,000s of dollars - just \$10 is helpful. Fund raising needs to focus on % of Alumn participation.... Credit cards...auto pay... crowd source funding for specific causes. I think people are very willing to give if its specific and easy to do. I know I just mentioned the total dollar amount is not as important as the % of Alumn participation - but if you do the math its pretty interesting to note that if every living alum gave aprox \$102 /month, merely the cost of one fine dinner in NYC! (\$1,230./annually) - the school would nearly even its structural deficit. [13,000 alum x \$1,230 = \$15,990,000.] 1 + 2 + 3 + 0 = TUITION FREE”

“Change the rules so that past officers can't vote. Take action, worry less about if the administration or board are annoyed.”

Continue!

Fight for us!

“I urge the council to take every step possible to restore Cooper to its original mission: 1. Advocate for a meritocracy through free tuition. 2. In addition to forcing Bharucha to step down immediately, I want to see all the trustees who voted to institute tuition to be removed. The school may need to shrink to meet its budget in order to survive, but shrinking its size should NOT include the elimination of the art school. Let’s keep the advancement for Science and Art in place. 3. If Cooper Union can be returned to its original mission, the case needs to be made to those with the power to provide financial assistance that their help is essential. The bad leadership in the past could not make this case to wealthy philanthropists like former Mayor Bloomberg because those leaders (Bharucha & cohorts) did NOT BELIEVE in the school’s fundamental mission of a meritocracy. Let’s try to make this case again.”

The financial mismanagement and resulting decision to impose tuition were ill advised and quite possibly violated our school’s charter. I don’t believe that tuition-for-some is a fait accompli. Regardless of the lawsuit outcome and investigation of the NY State AG, I will judge all future actions of the CUAA by its effectiveness in agitating for a return to free. I expect nothing less!

**“Please fight for us. Fight for our voice. Ask for our help when you need it! We are here to roll up sleeves to get the school back. Long Live A Free Cooper Union!!! Thank you for all of your hardwork so far!”**

“Support the mission of Cooper Union: Free Education to All Represent and support your constituents: THE ALUMNI. You do not

represent the Board of Trustees, The President and the administration. They are paying many “professionals” millions of dollars to represent their position. They don’t need your help.”

Please continue to do the good work of the Alumni Association: Honor and recognize Alumni, support and promote the Cooper Union and its reputation, coordinate networking events among Alumni and raise funds for the benefit of the School. Thank you for your dedicated efforts.

“Without free tuition, Cooper Union opens itself up to the same-ass bullshit every other university suffers. I attended Carnegie Mellon University for a master’s degree. There I saw a student body completely apathetic to the fact that its tuition had nearly doubled in just twenty years. Their celebrations of a \$40m student center expansion blew my mind - something like a third to half of undergrads were paying \$60k \*per year\* to be there, with many more paying most of that amount, and they were excited that their money was being dumped into a studio for spin classes? I don’t mean to suggest that a strong academic atmosphere cannot flourish with tuition in place; if anything, CMU is a testament to the opposite. But that experience highlighted for me just how important Cooper Union is as a free school, and not a cheap school. At other universities, students have zero clue that they’re getting second and third buttholes (plus interest!) ripped open for something that would have cost them the inflation-adjusted equivalent of \$25k per year when they were born. In the CMU newspaper, students talked about their tuition hikes being “an investment in our future”. So when I hear the people in charge of Cooper Union prattling on about Developing the Schools and Raising Cooper’s Profile, I worry that students who come out of Future Cooper will never look at the educational system in this country and see how unbelievably fucked-up it is. It’s one of the great injustices of our society. I used to post on the Facebook groups about how we can’t make this about free education for all, it has to be about a free Cooper, blah blah blah. I still think that this fight is for one institution, rather than the principle. But

over the last 30-40 years, tuition inflation at basically every school everywhere has made Cooper a model of how it could be done if we just gave a shit. I really want the people in charge of Cooper to get back to giving a shit. Will it fix everything? I don't know. The collapse of the education ""market"" is inevitable, and it can't be far away. But Cooper needs to be around to help universities recalibrate when it's over. I know you don't need to hear any of this from me, CUAA, but there's a whole country out there that's got no idea what Cooper Union is, and I want it to be something we can talk about in the present tense."

Focus on a return to tuition-free education. Cooper Union does not exist as long as students are being charged for education that should be as free as air and water.

"Cooper Union was a wonderful influence on my life, and I have always been proud of it. Please strive to allow future students to say that."

The alumni are essential to continuing Peter Cooper's vision for the school. I have never felt that the CUAA have done a very good job at working with or involving alumni, and this needs to be addressed asap. Social media and the ease of long distance communication off no excuses for alienating or keeping those at arms reach who care for the institution, and for everything to run in a healthy way, we need voices on the cuaa from a wide swathe of backgrounds ethnic and economic, and a mix of age, profession and gender. More opportunities need to be created to draw alumni in, and a more welcoming environment needs to be made. I think some headway is being made here already, I myself have become much more involved of late, due to initiatives and efforts of others,, but the trustee's lack of respect for alumni sentiment (not to mention student and faculty sentiment) needs to be turned around, undone and a strong core of talented, caring and hardworking people needs to be brought in to help reinforce the talented, caring and hardworking people already on board here. The Council needs to listen carefully to these voices and to creatively find solutions to the

recent ills Cooper now suffers under.

The most important skill is to listen to all sides and communicate the willingness of Alumni to participate in a viable solution to Cooper Union's problems.

"We need alums with strong financial experience to steer the school back to financial health before we can restore the tuition-free policy. It's not just a debate on ideology. It has to be backed up with practical proposals, convincing arguments, decisive actions and concrete results. I do applaud everyone's efforts at CUAA to keep Peter Cooper's vision alive."

## **I am looking forward to getting involved in the Alumni Association at this critical time of Cooper Union.**

Create one or two social gatherings per year to bring alums to CU. Preferably weekends. Weekday nights work primarily for those who live in NYC.

"Be strong. Don't give into the current administration's ""corporatization"" of Cooper, as one candidate put it. It's our school, and we want it back. I don't support renegeing on the promise of free-tuition, no matter what. If the administration can't run it the way Peter Cooper envisioned, then they should step aside and hand the leadership over to people who can. Please try to be as inclusive as possible of all alumni. Cooper Union is and always was a great place. Let's do what we can to make sure it stays that way."

**GODSPEED! KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT AND DO NOT, WHATEVER YOU DO, ACQUIESCE THE POSITION TO UPHOLD PETER COOPER'S VISION AND MISSION, TUITION-FREE FOREVER!!**

Keep up the good work keeping our Alumni involved, and informed. Big and little get togethers are good.

Work with the school - your efforts can ONLY serve to

destroy it, no matter how well meaning.

## **Keep active and keep the communications coming.**

“The task in front of you is a challenge, but the support is there. We need to return Cooper to its mission, and restore its reputation. “

Alumni fundraising is #1. Cooper cannot sustainably return to a tuition-free model without more alumni donations. We need to “pay it back” so the next generation can benefit from tuition free education. Cost management can surely help, but it will never be enough in the long run. We desperately need higher alumni donation rates. This will require trust, lots and lots of trust. The role of the CUAA should be to (1) publicly support the school by visibly building trust with the administration and the board, and (2) increase alumni fundraising success.

“I am so proud of so many alumni stepping forward to put in the long, hard hours to support our Alma Mater. Thank you for doing this difficult work for all of us. In the future, please give us more information on the actual roles and responsibilities for the Council and the Nominating Committee so that we can understand better the match of persons to tasks. Cooper Union gave me a future that would have never been possible without the education and prestige of the institution. Actually, without money or prospects, I would never have gotten to or through college. Please keep Cooper Union FREE!”

Mend fences with the administration as much as possible.

With the president and engineering dean already on their way out, efforts should be focused on re-building a useful and constructive relationship. Emotions run high amongst many of us and being aggressive with new people who are (hopefully) trying to help will be counter-productive.

“- Regain the cohesiveness among the alumni, with the Trustees, and to extent possible the Administration (including revisions necessary therein). - Identify the mistakes, and the viable paths forward. - Regain the full tuition scholarship “

Work towards healing the rift with the Administration and Board, but maintain the operating principal that free-tuition must be a visible and meaningful goal.

Remember that the more stridently the administration claims that it must continue with the self-destructive policy of Cooper tuition, the more desperately they need our help to do the right thing. Inside, they are quivering children acting out of their desperation born of profound fear.

Good luck!

Keep up the good fight.

Thank you, and keep up the good work.

Work better with the existing administration. CUAA's goals do not represent the views of all alumni. All the public bickering on the 100% tuition issue does not help anyone. Whatever happened in the past is water under the bridge. CU has real financial problems that will not be solved by a return to the past; idealism does not pay the bills. People should get real.

Thank you for sending me so many emails about this! Seriously. It made me remember to vote.

Please save our school!

The institution that is Cooper Union is very different from the very large University and cannot be managed in the same way, by an administration paid in the millions. It is a treasure to protected for many future classes to come. Please try to work cooperatively; but don't let the administration overstep its boundaries.

God Bless Y'all.

**Alumni are a legacy force and must be duly represented and heard. We cannot allow Cooper Union to be diminished by mismanagement and those without vision or plan for its future. We must remember why CU exists!**

“Try to restore good working relationship with the Cooper Union Administration. Keep up the good work”

Congratulations on your fight against the unbeatable foe (greed for power and the Almighty Dollar). Keep up the good work.

Continue to engage, be passionate but not dogmatic. Thanks for your work on behalf of future students and Peter Cooper’s legacy!

Do whatever you can to restore the central operating cache of this school.

get ‘er done.

Keep up the good work! Find more ways alumni can get involved.

Keep up the fight. An entire generation of engineers and architects depend on what you do.

SOS!

Good luck!

SAVE COOPER

**Never give up.**



**Alumni Trustees should clarify their role on the BoT. Who are they loyal to? Who do they answer to? Who's interests do they represent? I am troubled by recent statements that they are not "alumni" trustees, but "regular" members of the Board. What, exactly, does that mean???**

I feel the Chrysler building deal was carried out in complete conflict of interest. How deep has this deal ever been examined?

"Instead of rhetoric, please concentrate on the main issue of CU finance and how best to deal with that bad bridge loan and effect some kind of fiscal control over the Board's shortsighted, reckless spending. Also, I hope the newly elected officers will not let betray the mission to save CU for personal gain – whether it's power or money. Peter Katz, I am voting for you and entrusting you to use your know-how and experience to help put CU on a sustainable path. Please do not be tempted by anyone offering you lucrative deals if it does not benefit CU. –from a 75-year-old alumnae ('63) who loves CU."

**Greater efforts should be directed toward raising money from existing alumni and other like-minded benefactors to pay off existing debt and to rebuild the school's endowment.**

re examine all real estate involvements for potential income.

encourage CU alumni to hold senior admin. positions at below-market salaries, e.g., after retiring from well-paying careers.

Don't listen to excuses from big spenders in the administration. They should focus on teaching Cooper students, not high living or political agendas.

Fight hard to make Alumni be a voice included in the current/future planning of the school. Seek out the skills in the Cooper Alumni which could benefit the current students. We can help more in career skills to help guide next steps post graduation.

"Engage the Alumni to return Cooper Union to tuition free. There has not been a legitimate appeal to 1) provide hope that the situation can be turned around with a carefully executed plan 2) ask the alumni body to step up, embrace that plan and get behind the institution which finds itself at a true turning point in its history"

"Engage the alumni community. Hold events concurrent with Board events so that our numbers are seen and our goal of returning CU to 100% full-tuition scholarship is known and publicized."

Be tenacious, strategic and thoughtful.

Actively increase membership and awareness.

I think that the CUAA must stay constructive in its push to return to free tuition. We are where we are. Let's figure out how to move forward in a realistic way to eliminate tuition.

**The Alumni Association must raise its PR awareness about the positive aspects of Cooper. So far the only fact that the public is aware of Cooper is the current negative press. Cooper is the**

best kept secret in higher education and that position must change. With all of the current talk about the cost of higher education, the effect of first generation college students on campus (see this week's NYTimes Education Life section), no mention is ever made of Cooper's role with these problems. The profile of Cooper must change to make the alumni's efforts and the school's succeed. Thank God Jamshed's days are numbered maybe there's hope on the horizon.

I have stopped donating to Cooper while the legal issues persist but would like to keep supporting Cooper. My allegiance is to the school but I don't know who to trust or believe. Could you set up a fund that alumni can make contributions? All money should be kept in escrow until the legal issues are worked out or have the alumni vote on what to do with the funds. Or set up scholarships with it - every 10k and another student goes tuition free.

To push for a fair turnaround of what has happened to the setup of Cooper Union and to drive home the accountability and right for fair representation from the alumni

I would advise the Council to take all reasonable steps to re-establish a working relationship with the Cooper Union Alumni Office and Administration. We must all be part of the future of Cooper Union.

Work with the Board to Provide absolute transparency of income, costs, savings, endowments and all obligations, assets and endowments of The Cooper Union.

Focus on making the best of the current situation. not on holding grudges or trying to undo what has been done.

## **Work with the student councils more closely!**

Delve into their development/fundraising habits, which are clearly not working. I believe the first

item of work in this regard is to convince the Board of Trustees that they must make the first small step towards a successful campaign.

“ Make the CUAA totally independent of the Administration (you're already on your way) “

Try to do all that can be done to preserve Cooper Union as a special place among the colleges around the world.

Find Consensus within The Cooper Union and The Cooper Union Alumni Association Communities!

Please embrace the new mission. It is the only way for Cooper to keep up with the rest of the country.

“Bring our school to the attention of the Gates Foundation. The Alumni Assn should act independently of the Cooper Union Development Office to solicit support for Cooper and Cooper's concept of free access to learning independent of a means test.”

Create a CU community that is beyond NYC and Florida. If possible, please consider activities near Philadelphia.

Look also to Accreditation Board (or Governing Board, if applicable) for advice.

Keep providing the path /services for what we believe is the correct option for school legacy regardless of politics .

Find a way for Alumni to give to the school that is not supporting the Trustees. Maybe something designated for classrooms or studio activities only.

Be relentless.

## **I'd like to see an alumni method for supporting the school, yet**

## **demonstrate “no confidence” in the BoT or administration.**

... and more informal meet ups and events with cooper alum would be nice.

Be persistent in pursuing your goals for the Council.

“Why are people running for officer and Council, and nominating committee at the same time? Need to diversify council - need more voices - few persons do all the communication, events, etc. Publish a calendar of meetings and events. Term limits for officers other than President, members of council, and trustees will help force diversity. More trustee reports.”

Do more

Restore At Cooper Union publication. It is the best way to best ensure the alums know what is going on.

Be more active. Show a greater presence and a purpose to the current student body. When I was an undergrad, the CUAA seemed irrelevant, like an organization who were an alumni association only by name, but with no real purpose. Even now as a new alumnus, the CUAA appears to only be latching onto the recent outburst of publicity, and hasn't been a catalyst for any of the changes/news pertaining to the school and its new policies. In other words, it appears that the CUAA is just going along for the ride. I'm not trying to completely blame the Council for inaction because I know the Council has been working hard to re-establish itself after Cooper tried to cut ties with the association, but as a new alumnus and a very recent former student, this is the perception that the CUAA gave off for the past few years. I hope for the CUAA to become a more powerful voice in the Cooper community.

## **Get rid of the apparent animosity between the activist**

## **alumni and the institution. It will more harm than the economics will.**

Communicate with alumni, faculty and administration

Host events that engage the alumni community.

## **Strive to lift every voice in the room, in particular those heard from not as often. Above all, be kind to each other, but be ruthless in your pursuit of what is right. You are a representative body, the vote count is irrelevant -- now that you're there, stop hand wringing about representation and work with the people in the room. Real, meaningful work by you will bring more voices.**

make sure of legitimate financial advice

Stay focused without getting angry!

Stick as close to the ideals of Peter Cooper's mission for the school as is humanly possible. Generations of students will thank you for it.

My advice to the Council, Trustees and Administration is to DO WHATS BEST FOR THE STUDENTS. I come from a very poor background. Without Cooper Union's Day Gleeson, Bobby Bordo and David True who all saw something in me and chose me I don't know where I would be. They always put students first, not what they will get out of a

situation. And that's what we need in leadership at Cooper's Council right now and in the rest of higher ed. Institutions are charging their students exorbitant interest rates on their loan packages while big banks have leaner interest rates on their loans. Let's stop killing our middle class and the Cooper Union by charging tuition and going back to Peter Cooper's Dream. Long Live Cooper Union

Don't just make noise, be pragmatic and pick tactics which will bring about the change set out in your vision. Work together and build consensus to be strong.

Be adults, be rational, face reality, learn from the past, and move forward.

Fix Cooper

Associate the schools more closely with actual professional employment.

Bring the alumni together.

Please be rational, objective, and courteous.

Step back and review the big picture before you are swallowed by the details!

Don't alienate the alumni of this school! We have a solid idea of what Cooper is meant to be.

As a non-profit, past Council members did not seriously perform their responsibilities as reviewers of financial and educational decisions made by the Board. My advice would be a Council equally engaged in these decisions.

Save the school! I'm thankful for all the hard work and sacrifice that so many people have contributed in an effort to save the school. You do not need fancy buildings or highly paid administrators, just wonderful teachers and serious students. Rent some loft space with chalkboards and get the best teachers. I have educated architecture students for twenty

years; you really do not need a lot of infrastructure. I thought the mission of the school was to educate bright students from economically challenged backgrounds. Creating another elite college for the privileged seems unnecessary. I did not think the school was only about educating extremely academically prepared students. The school is special because of its tradition of identifying gifted students who otherwise would be unable to access higher education. I hope you can keep that tradition.

patience and diligence

"1. Periodically broadcast brief instructions to alumni on important actions to take (like this vote) or what alumni can do to help the school. A short email works. Starting a YouTube channel may work better, but is obviously a lot more effort. 2. Start a forum for alumni to ask/answer questions about Cooper's finances and the effort to restore free tuition. I don't know how difficult this is to implement, but the format here <http://stackoverflow.com/> works."

Return Cooper to tuition free. Keep us informed. Ask us to do something. Gene Boylan ME '73

"It is imperative that the CUAA be a voice of a rational but passionate force to restore cooperation and common purpose to the CU community."

**Maintain the vision that Pete Cooper promoted. Encourage the Alumni to support the school that treated us all so well. Encourage the school to run itself more like a business and less like those that are entitled.**

Follow the recommendations of the Committee to Save Cooper Union.

I attended the School of Engineering and Science, not the School of Engineering which did not exist from 1973 - 1977. Please do not forget the forgotten constituency of Phy and Math alums.

In addition to showing support for a return to tuition-free academics, would like the CUAA to solicit an independent review and recommendation on Cooper Union's financial plan from respected financial consulting company. Then issue press release on result regardless of where it stands on tuition. Financed by alumni.

**I served on the Council for several years and was always surprised by how little engagement the Council truly had in school matters and how little communication there was between the Council, the administration and the alumni body. With my long history in the non-profit world -- much of it spent on governance matters -- this detachment was always curious to me. My advice to the Council would be to continue to proactively pursue opportunities for meaningful communication and transparency. My heart still aches at what has transpired. I hope the Council can help guide**

**us through the rhetoric and to the ultimate return to a Cooper Union as we have always known it.**

More communications with alumni - straightforward and direct.

More coalition building between schools, students and alumni..

“As often, and as eagerly as you can, reach out to fellow Councilmembers, fellow alumni, and friends of Cooper wherever you can find them. Keep up with Council communications the best you are able. Volunteer for active roles in the Council efforts and, if you are local to NYC, be sure to spend as much time in and around the Cooper community as possible. Look for trouble, ask good questions, and research the answers. Most importantly, don't give up.”

Try to find common ground and heal Cooper community. There is no “union” in Cooper Union today. Don't know what can be done to change it but lease arrangement and the funding of new engineering building were totally botched and I'm being nice.

“Initiate a pledge, to be entered into by alumni who benefited from free-tuition, to support the school with annual donations that are a fraction of what student loan payments might look like. (include a side by side comparison for typical private and state schools). For instance, for alumni 1 to 5 years out would pledge \$500 / year. This amount would go up in 5 year increments as employment gets more stable and incomes increase. \$1,000 / year may sound like a lot, but it pales before the hundreds of dollars per month that a comparable education at any other university would cost in student loan payments. Folks ought to be able to set aside more as they become more financially secure. Until Cooper Union returns to being a tuition-free institution, donations should be made to a non-profit, tax-advantaged entity and

held in escrow until the time when free-tuition is restored. The track record of this campaign could later provide incentive for a “white-knight” donor who would consider a large gift only AFTER the Cooper community and the alumni who benefited so handsomely from full tuition scholarships 1) began to give back in a meaningful way and 2) paid closer attention to the financial governance of the school”

Since Cooper Union graduates are for the most part quite successful, asking each one for a donation (in a specified range) to be set up as a scholarship fund separate from the operating fund would help to perpetuate Peter Cooper’s fine dream of tuition-free education.

Keep the communication flowing to the alumni, where’s the big savior like M Bloomberg to demand a shrew board and put up \$ . The capital campaign needs to hit way outside the immediate connection to Cooper and attract the wealthy New Yorkers convincing them of the noble cause and getting the house in order.

**“Remember that bringing public light to this matter is only helpful if people understand the impact Cooper Union has had on their lives.**

It’s great that this issue is getting so much publicity, but most of the country does not know about what cooper has ever done for them and will just ignore the issue. Also think about the point that Cooper is really the pinnacle of what’s wrong with the current state of higher education in this country and we can be a turning point for much more than just this one particular school. In this light, you may be able to engage more of the general populus for change and not just have to rely on the few individuals that are active in the free cooper union community. More alumni events, tight knit community of alumni. Other great schools have alumni “clubs” in major cities. Why

doesn’t Cooper even have one in NY?”

Create an alumni fund where donations are earmarked to pay student tuition

I’d like to know whether past board members and presidents can be held accountable for decisions that led to the current crisis. A tremendous amount of focus has been on the current board and president in their mishandling of the situation. It would appear that the proverbial train had left the station when the decision to proceed with the NAB was made.

In addition to the Annual Fund donations solicited by the school, please consider having the CUAA “impose” a special “assessment” on all alumni to assist in preserving free tuition. Although not mandatory, if couched in terms of an assessment, it could stimulate a much larger percentage of alumni donations. Every single alumnus or alumna owes a tremendous debt to Cooper Union, and can certainly afford to pay back a portion. It’s time.

Be ever conscious of why and how The Cooper Union was created.

Reinstate the Alumni Website access.

Let us know what we can do to help return Cooper to it’s founding vision of free tuition based on merit alone!

Take your membership seriously. Learn the issues to the extent that you will not be relying on the opinions of others.

Make recommendations as to what is best for the school, not in ideal, but in reality.

Work better with the existing administration. CUAA’s goals do not represent the views of all alumni. All the public bickering on the 100% tuition issue does not help anyone. Whatever happened in the past is water under the bridge. CU has real financial problems that will not be solved by a return to the past; idealism does

not pay the bills. People should get real.

Send more details about the financial situation to the Alumni for all to see, including statements on how many living alumni we have, how many we're in touch with, and how many can be relied upon for donations each year. It's my belief that the school has the most selfish alumni on the planet. There are alumni with contacts to an extremely successful fundraiser with several decades of successful work with non-profits. This is a necessary step towards bringing the school back to the financial strength necessary to return to the Vision. To date, no one has ever been open to discuss. Why not?

Make every effort to NOT commodify Cooper Union.

work to return the school to responsible financial management. It should be able to accommodate to societal change without overreaching its capabilities and responsibilities to promote Peter Cooper's vision.

My extensive financial support was put on hold upon CU's tuition decision. I suggest compiling commitments to returned financial support if CU returns to a no tuition status.

Help insure the CU stock portfolio is more intelligently managed.

**We are Alumni and the only ones that can truly appreciate what Cooper has given us. Fight to protect it for the next generation because so many that didn't have our collective experience have had no issue with squandering something so valuable.**

“Show new doc film on honesty: (Dis)Honesty by Dan Ariely (available in late May online and for screening) [www.theDisHonestyProject.com](http://www.theDisHonestyProject.com)”

have alumni art shows so students can see what their elders are up to in the real world.

# Tuition

cooper  
union education  
current return tuition-free  
full years  
good work support again  
institution union's please  
only financial need board  
school help future one any all  
cu mission just  
about make students back people  
vision way plan restore trustees more  
keep full-tuition quality  
alumni status fight peter cooper's

tuition  
scholarship  
free

Oppose any attempts to change the Mission of the school, without first affirming Cooper's basis in "Free for All who Attend". DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO REMOVE THE STATEMENT ABOUT BEING FREE FOR ALL WHO ATTEND. Immediately stop all current/future financial support of the school if that statement is ever removed. Being on some sort of community-wide "Mission Committee" just to give "input" is not acceptable. People are openly attempting to obliterate the founding mission of the school, and CUAA should not take any part in that.

**Please keep Cooper Union small, focused on the quality of the education it provides and on returning the school to long-term financial stability and the full expression of Peter Cooper's vision of free education for all students.**

Fight to re-establish Cooper Union's 100% full-tuition scholarship.

Be fair and be good guardians of the principles laid down over 150 years ago by our founder, Peter Cooper. All qualified candidates should be able to attend and prosper under the Cooper Union style of teaching regardless of financial status; that is, the school must remain tuition-free forever. Nothing less is acceptable.

KEEP COOPER UNION TUITION FREE. KEEP PETER COOPERS VISION ALIVE.

"My husband, an economist, suggests the following idea for reducing expenses which he calls ""By the Students, For the Students:: In return for merit-based full tuition, Cooper can reduce staff by approximately 95%, leaving only a few managers in place and have students work a designated amount of hours per week or month to keep the school clean, cafeteria

serviced, etc. Students and alumni volunteers can even staff some of the offices such as Admissions, Fundraising, possibly others with the help and direction of knowledgeable managers. Cooper needs a strong business manager who knows how to balance the books and can come up with a suitable plan for our situation. Elaine Beckman Maldonado Art 1968 currently runs the CET (Center for Excellence in Teaching) at FIT (where I teach) and is great at getting grants. At the very least, talk to her."

If free tuition is not restored and the school goes broke, so be it. If Cooper Union is not a pure meritocracy, then it doesn't merit continuation.

A Tuition FREE Cooper Union!

I couldn't have afforded to pay tuition; Cooper made it possible for me to get a degree, to go on for a PhD in physics at a top Grad School (U. Mich) and have a successful career. I hope we can restore this opportunity to future students, based only on the objective measures of capability that Cooper has always used.

Don't back down. Don't compromise. A Tuition-free school of excellence is our legacy.

A tuition free education has made a significant difference in my life.

Be free tuition superheroes!

Returning CU to the 100% free tuition scholarship mandate of Peter Cooper is essential to the existence of CU.

Restore tuition-free education.

Fight like hell to restore tuition free CU and force transparency on the corrupt trustees

Follow Peter Cooper's intentions.

Lose the religion. Tuition -free is the way to go,

but recognize the economic realities. Costs are up. Endowment mismanaged. It will take a long time to re-establish the endowment if at all possible

Keep up the good fight!!! Cooper needs to be free to be Cooper.

Keep fighting for return to tuition-free status and removal of current President and all Trustees

Keep it small, keep it free, keep it close, choose your incoming students properly.

Return Cooper to 100% full scholarship.

“A sound financial plan and a committed board of trustees are more important to the school’s future than blind devotion to “tuition free”. Someone has to pay the costs of operating Cooper Union. If not the students or alumni, then who?”

Do whatever it takes to make it tuition free.

Make everything possible to restore Cooper Union’s mission of a free education.

It is crazy that full tuition colleges have so much more alumni support than Cooper. I think some tuition is necessary and it needs to support more extra curricular activities which are needed to build spirit. As a mostly commuter school, Cooper comes across as an extension of High School rather than the start of a new life.

How responsible is it, to consider returning to 100% scholarship, until the school is on a more solid financial footing, and can afford it?!

Honor our legacy. We must return to tuition free. Fight for us. Truth to power.

keep the goal in mind : to bring us back to full tuition

If you don’t return the school to fully tuition free status, Cooper will no longer exist.

The return to a sustainable financial tuition free model is paramount.

Repeal the tuition

Free Cooper~

“Try to keep a tuition free scholarship school so the brightest will be admitted and keep the reputation of CU high.”

please keep fighting for the return to the tuition-free model

Can we find a benefactor to help return Cooper Union to all scholarship college?

## **Tuition free or no alumni support.**

Please keep fighting for the return of Cooper Union’s 100% full-tuition scholarship.

“I agree that all steps are needed to minimize both tuition but and administrative expense but it is reasonable to expect that some tuition may be needed to maintain the high standards that define Cooper Union. The problem was evident when many years before the current administration, the board sold the primary revenue producing asset - Chrysler Building real-estate.”

I strongly support a return to Cooper Union’s 100 percent full-tuition scholarship status

I believe it is the Board of Trustees decision on setting tuition policy and if one or more alumni believe that a 100% tuition free policy is mandatory, then he or she should pursue becoming a Trustee and then vote accordingly.

Keep up the good work of returning cu to its tuition free status and overturn the wasteful policies of the recent past that have destroyed this tradition

“Priority should be given to return the school to free tuition. Priority should be given to Peter Cooper’s original focus of providing school access to local area residents. Priority should be given to restructuring of the school’s finances, management and educational goals to fit resource availabilities.. Do we really need all the current brick and mortar facilities to achieve our educational goals?”

Keep Cooper tuition free

Push for schools better financial governance and return to 100% full tuition scholarship.

RETURN TO A 100% TUITION FREE SCHOOL AS PER THE MISSION AS PER PETER COOPERS WISHES AND DESIGNS.

Free Cooper

Support 100% the Free Cooper Union organization.

Please fight for a tuition free institution, and a smaller administration as a way to get there.

Stay committed to Peter Cooper’s vision! Keep up the fight for the school and it’s future alumni!

The return to tuition free education has to be the primary goal. It is what has made Cooper Union unique.

I definitely support a return to full scholarship

Find A way for free tuition. How about corporate sponsorship.

Fight tooth and nail for a free Cooper and to free Cooper. Stay the course for architecture as a learned profession.

## **That returning Cooper Union to 100% full-tuition scholarship**

## **should be the #1 priority.**

Look at alternatives to return to 100% tuition-free education.

Please continue to fight the good fight for the return to a FREE COOPER UNION.

100% working towards revoking tuition and all other goals as outlined in the Committee to save cooper union, as priority.

return to Cooper Union’s 100% full-tuition scholarship

Only Free is Free.

## **I look forward to CUAAs strong support of a Free Cooper Union.**

The most important issue the school faces is a need to return to providing a 100% scholarship as was done in the past. Continuing to charge tuition will create even more hardship for the school as it will lose its tax exempt status, creating a need for even higher tuition and putting the school on the road to no return

At a time when the country at large is experiencing a crisis of unsustainable-huge-tuition-increases and a crippling-oversized-tuition-loan-burden, Cooper Union should be leading a national discussion on affordable education, instead of heading in the opposite direction and charging more tuition.

Cooper Union \*must\* return to a tuition-free school!

Return CU to tuition free.

Cooper Union with tuition serves no one but an increasingly bloated administration.

“While I support a no-tuition Cooper Union in principal, I believe that it is more important to have

a sustainable Cooper Union for the future. We have to accept what was done in the past and concentrate on the future. I do not support wasting time and/or money concentrating on past policies and looking for scapegoats. If tuition is indeed the only way forward to keep Cooper Union solvent, I prefer it to the option of no Cooper Union future students.”

**Although I am not familiar enough with those in the ballot, I only ask that they love my school (CU) as much as I. Also that they continue to maintain the free education that make us unique and a gift to those talented but without reserves.**

Get rid of tuition!

Please work towards making Cooper tuition-free

Get back to free tuition

Work to eliminate tuition.

Please work on a real plan for restoring free tuition

Make pushing for a tuition free Cooper Union a top priority.

Get Cooper back to 100% scholarship.

fight or a return to a tuition free education for all students

Do what ever it takes to change the school so that it can support its mission to offer free tuition. That means reducing student/administration/faculty numbers dramatically and more bold and innovative moves that do not reduce the quality and preserves the mission of the school.

Continue to fight for a tuition-free CU

Work toward returning the school to a merit-only-based full scholarship. That is the unique quality that differentiates the school from all others. Do not get angry with those who disagree. Do not attempt to demonize those who disagree. Just stay focused on the goal. This is not personal. Good luck.

Return to Cooper Union’s 100% full-tuition scholarship

Do everything possible to return Cooper to fee tuition. Use that platform to raise alumni giving. There perhaps may be a way to set up a tax deductible escrow fund for contributions which would be held by a properly legalized third party until such time as the Board pledges to, and provides a plan for, a return to free tuition? If no resolution after say 5 years, the funds would be dispersed to a predetermined list of non-profits (obviously not including Cooper).

It is essential to the survival of Cooper Union that it be maintained as a tuition-free institution. If tuition is charged, Cooper becomes no different than many other small colleges and will have difficulty attracting the A-list students that it has since 1859.

**Cooper has a severe trust issue with it’s alumni community due to the tuition scandal. I’m hesitant to donate to the school for fear that the money will be misappropriated.**

Do everything you can to help Cooper Union find the way to return to full tuition scholarship.

Only goal: return to Peter Cooper’s original vision. Cooper must be free/full-tuition. Anything short of that is not the Cooper Union.

## RETURN TO FREE TUITION FOR ALL ASAP

Do whatever is necessary to ignite our Alumni to return Cooper Union to a tuition-free institution and fulfill Peter Cooper's mandate for a free education for all who attend.

"The top priority is to return The Cooper Union to 100% full tuition scholarship."

Please figure out a way to return Cooper to a tuition free school.

Keep it free!

Help return the Cooper Union to its tuition-free mission.

Do whatever you can to help restore the tuition-free status of the Cooper Union. When I read the "working group's" plan, my impression was that it was well thought out and could work. I don't think the plan even received cursory consideration by the trustees. That plan may be a place to start.

Do your best to improve education so it's practical in the real world, improve teaching staff and student selection, and pound the concrete to get the money to do this with full-tuition scholarships for all students.

Return to Peter Cooper's vision and 100% free tuition scholarship.

Do whatever you can to return Cooper to Tuition Free. All options should be on the table including, reducing the number of students, changing out the president and leadership at Cooper Union, and aggressively seeking significant donations from large corporations and wealthy individuals. I believe I would rather Cooper Union cease to exist than lose their competitive edge and become just one more insignificant private college.

Fight for free tuition and a continuing meritocracy.

Stay the course and help return Cooper back to tuition free.

**I will again consider myself an alumnus of and contribute my money to Cooper Union when Cooper Union again becomes tuition free. Thank you all for helping our alma mater return to it's ideals.**

Cooper Union was a unique institution and I think it is imperative that it remain tuition free. Within the curriculum there should be emphasis on how one will earn a living upon graduation, and counseling as well as forums in this area.

Please work hard for FREE TUITION!

Return Cooper Union to a 100% full-tuition scholarship institution! This is what makes Cooper so special!

Please do the best you can to return the school to zero tuition!

Get rid of tuition.

I vehemently support a return to 100% full-tuition scholarships at Cooper Union

"Since 1859. Two World Wars. The Great Depression. More than half the existence of the United States. Now, NOW we can't have free tuition? What changed? Whatever it is, PLEASE get us back on the track we've been on for over 150 years!"

Please find a way to get back to the Free Tuition Model of the original mission of Cooper Union.

"Make sure the tuition-free status is restored as soon

as possible. I really do hate telling people I went to Cooper to receive the followup, “I heard they’re charging for tuition” or “What do you think about them charging for tuition?” It takes a lot to not punch them in the face sometimes, because I know they meant it as a snide remark. These morons who wouldn’t have any business applying to our fair school are taking too many shots at our alma mater. Give them less to talk about please.”

Do everything possible to restore Cooper Union to 100% full-tuition scholarship.

return Cooper Union to its special quality of being tuition-free

keep up the fight to return to 100% full tuition status.

Stay strong and don’t compromise on 100% full-tuition scholarships.

Keep working to restore free tuition.

Please continue your great work towards a return to free tuition!

CU must be brought back to merit based tuition free status in a small school environment as it always has been.

**Develop a REAL PLAN to return to the original mission of the school to support a tuition free first rate education...a noble mission indeed as I and my son are both beneficiaries of Peter Cooper’s vision.**

Please make it the highest priority to restore the full scholarship. Cooper Union’s identity and brand is

based on free tuition.

“Institutions, like people, must adapt and change. I feel it is necessary at this time to charge tuition, to maintain the high standards of teaching excellence Cooper had in the past. We cannot just keep hiring Cooper graduates to teach: we must branch out to become a school which offers international opportunities, and attracts international professors. We must pay the top professors what they could earn at Harvard or Yale. We have to charge tuition in order to do that.”

Bring back tuition free. It’s just not the same now that they are charging tuition.

Fix the tuition mess

Try to maintain civil discourse and hear out all sides of the current debate over CU’s future. Although free tuition is the goal, realistically it may not be feasible in the near term. Focus on attracting top talent students and giving financial aid based on need.

FREE COOPER UNION

Maintain Peter Cooper’s vision to provide excellence in education for all economic strata.

**Not having cooper continue to operate as a free school is an embarrassment to me and as an alumni.**

Let’s not forget that education as an industry is evolving -- let’s make free (to students) be part of our mandate, and make figuring out the transactions to finance that be our mandate.

Make Cooper Tuition Free

Get things back on track (No Tuition).

Please return Cooper Union to its 100% full tuition scholarship.

Cut expenses to allow free tuition for all full-time undergraduates.

Return to 100% tuition scholarship model now

Please get us back to what we used to be and where we belong.

Do all you can to return to Cooper Union's 100% full-tuition scholarship policy!

Restore free tuition to all students. Admission based strictly on merit.

I strongly support a return to no tuition, but this must be done in coordination (not confrontation) with the board of trustees. I know this is difficult, because it seems like we have an unresponsive board of trustees. This is the thankless job we are giving the new elected officers, but we will try to support you in doing it.

Please get Cooper Union back to tuition free by any means necessary.

Make the free tuition a priority!

I appreciate all your efforts in working the issues. It will take a long term solution to solve the tuition situation.

Thank you for all your work to return Cooper Union to its vital mission of tuition-free education for all the talented current and future students to come!

Keep pressing for return to no tuition!!!

fight for standards of excellence with rigorous academic training. Full scholarship!!

Work towards full scholarship for students and respect the unions at CU.

Keep a razor sharp focus on sticking to Cooper Union's mission. The Board and the administration must be held accountable to returning Cooper to be tuition free as soon as possible.

Cooper Union should be returned to Tuition Free Status!

Save Cooper Union! Return to Tuition Free Please!

Cooper should be free!

Stop the tuition.

I prefer a more measured look at the tuition situation. It is not an all-or-nothing situation. There are graduated levels of academic support that may be useful to consider.

Bringing back the 100% full-tuition scholarship. Protecting the mission of The Cooper Union in providing free education to all. A unified statement from the board in the aim to return to Cooper's original mission. More community outreach.

KEEP COOPER FREE!!!

"I encourage the new council to stand strong and fight to return Cooper back to a full-scholarship institution. I was born and raised in NYC and my 4 years at Cooper were among the best of my 30 years spent in NY. Now I live in TX and a few weeks ago came back to NYC with my family as a "tourist". We took an open-air double-decker bus tour and when we crossed into the village the tour guide mentioned some of the great schools in the area, including the "totally free, totally cool Cooper Union" as he put it. It gave me a lump in my throat when I had to correct him and tell him that Cooper is no longer free. Keep fighting the good fight!

**I no longer will donate to  
the annual fund if the school**

## charges tuition

the most important work to do right now is to restore the school to its former, 100% scholarship for all students, education

I will resume donating to Cooper Union when the school returns to free tuition. Without free tuition, the institution is no longer what it once was.

Please make Cooper Union Free again. Re elect all new board of trustees.

Focus on the vision we are trying to create - a sustainable future for the Cooper Union where we can once again realize tuition free student experience. Do not let ego stand in our way. You can forgive but you don't have to forget.

Number one priority-----Free tuition

Please fight hard for a return to a 100% full-tuition scholarship policy. I think better governance at the Board level and a return to the full-tuition scholarship policy should be the top issues for the CUA.

fight for tuition free status

Return the school to its full tuition scholarship roots. Remove an incompetent (at best) and corrupt (at worst) board, and push for a new president that shares the vision of the founder's charter.

return to Cooper Union's 100% full-tuition scholarship

Do everything in your power to make the school tuition free again!

Return the school to a free tuition model.

Cooper Union with tuition has no special reason to exist. It would be just another college, and charging as much as the others within 5-10 years. The school needs to be run very lean to stay tuition free. No frills

for students or staff.

"More transparency with the board's actions. Restore free tuition."

Return Cooper to tuition free. Keep us informed. Ask us to do something.

I would have never been able to afford to attend Cooper Union without the tuition-free education Cooper Union once stood for. That is THE hallmark of an education at this outstanding institution. Unfortunately, like much of the political landscape in the U.S., self serving and short-sighted, top-down decisions were made that have caused enormous financial difficulties and threaten to obliterate Peter Cooper's dream. I hope that this can change. I hope this great institution can once again become true to its founders vision. To do that Cooper Union will need strong leadership by administrators that are not only financially savvy but are transparent and inclusive of the strategies necessary to move forward.

Fight for full scholarships!!!

Remember the mission of the school be brave and follow it.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EXCELLENCE  
OVER FREE TUITION

Make realistic decisions to keep the school alive, not decisions based on some hopeful outcome that might bury it.

Our goal should be to eventually return the school to free tuition

It is of the utmost importance that the Cooper Union go back to no tuition. This social contract: to provide education as free as air and water cannot be underestimated.

Keep Cooper Union as free as air and water.

Keep advocating for 100% full tuition. Do not give up!

“Cooper Union must return to full tuition scholarship for all students, or it may as well just close down. It is not really Cooper Union anymore until this occurs. At least change the name if you don’t get back to the real deal. I cannot imagine continuing to have to say: “I graduated from The Cooper Union, when it was free”.”

“As Much as is possible, • Continue to maintain Peter Cooper’s legacy: our no tuition policy! • Continue to maintain our highly diverse and highly talented student body! • Continue and/or increase transparency of all of the school’s business activities so that we never again face the slippery slope of watering down the uniqueness of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Science!”

It is essential to retain free undergraduate tuition

Cooper Union needs to be tuition free. Respect Peter Cooper’s mission. Run the place efficiently. Manage the finances. Don’t build any more stupid, starchitect-ego-driven, quickly out-dated buildings, for which CU did not have the \$\$\$ - the highest and best use of which was a back-drop for a Cadillac car TV commercial. Thank you for asking, and thank you for volunteering.

Uphold Peter Cooper’s vision.

It is imperative that Cooper Union return to its full tuition free status. The current administration must be removed along with any trustees that support the current (or any other) tuition plan.

Continue to press for return to the 100% full-tuition scholarship for all students.

Cooper Union should be tuition free.

Keep working with all constituents to return the school to tuition free even if it means working within the limited financial means.

Let’s try to re-focus the school and the alumni on Peter Cooper’s vision, and return CU to its unique place in the world.

Don’t stop fighting until full tuition is restored.

Cooper Union must remain an institution devoted to free tuition education for all its students. Otherwise, it should not exist, it has no right to the name or the legacy, and should be dissolved. The end game perpetrated by the trustees and by President Bharucha is to turn the school into another trophy school in a Manhattan transformed into a playground for the rich. Cooper is not NYU or Parsons, its uniqueness from the scholarship gives it a much greater prestige. My years at Cooper changed my life. I moved from Washington State to attend Cooper Union, and have lived in New York since pursuing an art career. I am now a successful artist and teacher. I would not have been able to afford an education of such quality without the subsidizing of my education. It is hugely disappointing to think that, had finances been managed differently, this outcome would still be available to incoming students today.

Keep Cooper Union free!

Be true to the ideals and goals of founder and visionary Peter Cooper

Find a way to return to a free model but still remain sustainable.

“NO GODDAMNED TUITION THANK YOU FOR YOUR VERY IMPORTANT WORK”

I was always proud of being a Cooper graduate--until recently. A high quality tuition free school leveled the playing field for people like me. Please restore The Cooper Union to its former glory to give qualified young artists a chance to compete. The art world needs people other than the very privileged.

Do everything you can to bring CU back to free tuition status and get refunds for students attending right

now. The Cooper Union that existed for 155 years currently does not exist.

Return to Cooper Union's 100% full-tuition scholarship

Make Cooper free again, keep believing in Cooper, let's take a leap of faith everytime.

Keep up the fight for a tuition free Cooper Union

Work with "Free Cooper Union" to restore Peter Cooper's Legacy

Hold events concurrent with Board events so that our numbers are seen and our goal of returning CU to 100% full-tuition scholarship is known and publicized.

I vehemently support a return to 100% full-tuition scholarships at Cooper Union as well as having a strong, independent CUA that works towards that goal and the other goals of the alumni community.

Keep Cooper Union free.

Cooper Union is a great school. But there are lots of great schools. The thing that made Cooper Union special and unique was that it was free. A Cooper Union that isn't free, isn't the Cooper Union that I attended. I've donated to Cooper Union every year since I've graduated because I believe in the reality that was an excellent free education.

**It has been my intention to pay back the full value of my scholarship over time. This year I donated to the Committee to Save Cooper Union instead, as I don't feel that a Cooper Union that charges tuition is worth**

**donating to. Good luck returning to a free tuition school.**

"I urge the council to take every step possible to restore Cooper to its original mission: 1. Advocate for a meritocracy through free tuition. 2. In addition to forcing Bharucha to step down immediately, I want to see all the trustees who voted to institute tuition to be removed. The school may need to shrink to meet its budget in order to survive, but shrinking its size should NOT include the elimination of the art school. Let's keep the advancement for Science and Art in place. 3. If Cooper Union can be returned to its original mission, the case needs to be made to those with the power to provide financial assistance that their help is essential. **The bad leadership in the past could not make this case to wealthy philanthropists like former Mayor Bloomberg because those leaders (Bharucha & cohorts) did NOT BELIEVE in the school's fundamental mission of a meritocracy. Let's try to make this case again.**"

Persuade alumni and others that the BoT need to be overturned, full tuition scholarships restored. Do NOT follow the working group model- throw it out. Get honest auditing esp of administrative costs, cut that mainly. Then let each constituency decide how best to make cuts- people who do not know how school X operates should not impose specific cuts, but identify overall budgetary goals. The time for insults and "revolutionary" rhetoric is over. The French Revolution led to Robespierre. The overthrow of King Charles in England led to Cromwell. Too many people on the Free Cooper Union side would be no

better. Lead, be firm, do not compromise fundamental principles, but EXPLAIN your positions and spread the good word.

Please eliminate tuition.

Please help to replace the current administration and Board of Trustees with members who are committed to not only preserving the legacy of Peter Cooper's vision of free education for all, but throwing into question their own privilege of authority. In the contemporary condition that claims austerity and the economization of everything (including our bodies, lives, education and sociality) as the only possible means, it is critical that as an institution, Cooper Union remains steadfastly in opposition to such an unsustainable worldview. Furthermore, I hope the Council also helps to foster an administration that encourages, nurtures, and invests in multitudes of activist factions within the Cooper Community that challenge the presuppositions of the institution.

"Wonderful that you are challenging the administration to keep Cooper Union unique. Please fight to ensure that our institution remains a special place where students and faculty are the most valuable assets, and the administration is simply there to assist as needed. Thank you for representing students, past, present, and future. We are not just any other school. Save Cooper Union."

return to tuition-free model

Free as air!

"Tuition free. Free as air and water. Make the tough cuts."

Fight for free education for NYC underserved youth!

Please find the most sensible way to restore full tuition and financial solvency. The last thing we need is a poorly conceived plan that leads to more confusion and controversy. Thanks for all you do!

Tuition free or change the name & mission of the school officially.

return to Cooper Union's 100% full-tuition scholarship

Free Cooper Union

Cooper Union must return to free tuition for all. As an alumnus who has supported the school with funding, I cannot in my heart give that support back until the tides have changed and we are back on the path to continue Peter Cooper's legacy.

A Cooper Union with any tuition is NOT Cooper's Cooper Union.

Far more important than anything else is that the CUAA commits to assuring that Cooper Union continues to provide a high quality education to those who will follow us many decades from now. As I have said before, when my own children were looking for colleges to attend in the late 1990s, I was saddened to see the poor state of the facilities. I sincerely hope that Cooper can, once again, become tuition-free. But, it is far more important to me that we have a financially stable Cooper that has the resources to attract excellent students and excellent faculty, while building and equipping excellent facilities, so that it can remain a leader in higher education.

Work to achieve 100% full tuition scholarship!!!

just a strong dedication to getting us back to free

Please work towards getting Cooper Union back to full scholarship for everyone! Thanks for your hard work.

"Without free tuition, Cooper Union opens itself up to the same-ass bullshit every other university suffers. I attended Carnegie Mellon University for a master's degree. There I saw a student body completely apathetic to the fact that its tuition had nearly doubled in just twenty years. Their celebrations of a \$40m student center expansion blew my mind

- something like a third to half of undergrads were paying \$60k \*per year\* to be there, with many more paying most of that amount, and they were excited that their money was being dumped into a studio for spin classes? I don't mean to suggest that a strong academic atmosphere cannot flourish with tuition in place; if anything, CMU is a testament to the opposite. But that experience highlighted for me just how important Cooper Union is as a free school, and not a cheap school. At other universities, students have zero clue that they're getting second and third buttholes (plus interest!) ripped open for something that would have cost them the inflation-adjusted equivalent of \$25k per year when they were born. In the CMU newspaper, students talked about their tuition hikes being ""an investment in our future"". So when I hear the people in charge of Cooper Union prattling on about Developing the Schools and Raising Cooper's Profile, I worry that students who come out of Future Cooper will never look at the educational system in this country and see how unbelievably fucked-up it is. It's one of the great injustices of our society. I used to post on the Facebook groups about how we can't make this about free education for all, it has to be about a free Cooper, blah blah blah. I still think that this fight is for one institution, rather than the principle.

**But over the last 30-40 years, tuition inflation at basically every school everywhere has made Cooper a model of how it could be done if we just gave a shit. I really want the people in charge of Cooper to get back to giving a shit. Will it fix everything? I don't know.**

The collapse of the education ""market"" is inevitable, and it can't be far away. But Cooper needs to be around to help universities recalibrate when it's over. I know you don't need to hear any of this from me, CUAA, but there's a whole country out there that's got no idea

what Cooper Union is, and I want it to be something we can talk about in the present tense."

Focus on a return to tuition-free education. Cooper Union does not exist as long as students are being charged for education that should be as free as air and water.

In addition to the Annual Fund donations solicited by the school, please consider having the CUAA "impose" a special "assessment" on all alumni to assist in preserving free tuition. Although not mandatory, if couched in terms of an assessment, it could stimulate a much larger percentage of alumni donations. Every single alumnus or alumna owes a tremendous debt to Cooper Union, and can certainly afford to pay back a portion. It's time.

find a way to restore tuition free education

"We need alums with strong financial experience to steer the school back to financial health before we can restore the tuition-free policy. It's not just a debate on ideology. It has to be backed up with practical proposals, convincing arguments, decisive actions and concrete results. I do applaud everyone's efforts at CUAA to keep Peter Cooper's vision alive."

I strongly support the return to free tuition and feel that Curtis Wayne's proposal to use public opinion to relieve the onerous terms of the mortgage and to persuade T-S to revisit the terms of the land lease for the Chrysler Building.

Keep CU tuition free so that it can shine a light on the path of higher education, setting itself apart as a beacon of outstanding philosophy as envisioned by Peter Cooper. Have the schools of art, architecture and engineering interact in learning subjects that allow for dialogue and exchange of ideas needed for the 21st Century. The integration of the arts & sciences is one whose time has come and CU can fulfill that mission.

I am very upset about the way the President and the Board handled the finances at Cooper Union. I

support the Committee to Save Cooper Union and return Cooper Union to a full scholarship- free tuition school. I cannot understand how the Board chose to build such an expensive new building without the funds to back it up. I hope the new elected members will represent my views as an alum.

“We need to keep Cooper tuition free. The incoming council has a lot on their plate but I hope that they can be productive and listen to all sides but keep to the mission statement. It is just so horrible that greed by a few can jeopardize the future of such a great place. It is obviously much easier to go to a tuition plan as opposed to owning up to mistakes and having to creatively figure out a solution but in the end that is really the only way to resolve the current situation and maintain the unique school that Cooper is... If it is one thing that Cooper does not lack it is creativity. Art, architecture, engineering, all those are essentials to solving this problem and they are all at the ready to do so, as long as greed is held at bay and those who are solely motivated by money are ousted.”

My parents were immigrants from Germany in the 1920's. I went to Brooklyn Tech. My father told me that he couldn't afford to send me to College. So I followed a lot of my peers in high school by taking Entrance Exams at Cooper Union and CCNY. I was accepted at both and, thank the good Lord, I chose Cooper Union. I got a 30% grade on my first Physics Test (the class avg. was 35%). It was humbling but the preparation at Cooper Union resulted in a 27 year teaching career in the Civil Eng. Dept. at Penn State University with my final years as a Chaired Professor. PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP THE FIGHT TO BRING FREE TUITION BACK. THERE ARE STILL FIRST GENERATION YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED WHAT I HAD TO START PROFESSIONAL CAREERS AND PAY BACK THE GREATEST NATION IN THE WORLD.”

Any deviation from merit based selection of candidates will result in my disconuation of support for the school.

GODSPEED! KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT AND DO NOT, WHATEVER YOU DO, ACQUIESCE THE POSITION TO UPHOLD PETER COOPER'S VISION AND MISSION, TUITION-FREE FOREVER!!

While I support the return to full scholarship, it's only an ideal. Reality needs to be dealt with, and that's what's been done. So I don't support undoing the current situation until the finances are in place to do so.

A Cooper Union that charges tuition is no Cooper Union. I pray that those who understand this will guide Cooper back to Peter Cooper's vision.

Stop the tuition!

Keep up the fight to return Cooper to Peter Cooper's vision of a tuition-free school.

“The task in front of you is a challenge, but the support is there. We need to return Cooper to its mission, and restore its reputation”

**“Please fight for us. Fight for our voice. Ask for our help when you need it! We are here to roll up sleeves to get the school back. Long Live A Free Cooper Union!!! Thank you for all of your hardwork so far!”**

“Support the mission of Cooper Union: Free Education to All Represent and support your constituents: THE ALUMNI. You do not represent the Board of Trustees, The President and the administration. They are paying many “professionals” millions of dollars to represent their position. They don't need your help.”

Focus on a return to tuition-free education. Cooper

Union does not exist as long as students are being charged for education that should be as free as air and water.

keep the fight for 100% free tuition going !

don't let the message get muddled- bring back full tuition scholarships for all students. and thank you!

Disclose the plan for the 100% tuition scholarships, with details as well as the risks and the argument against the plan and why it may fail

return to Cooper Union's 100% full-tuition scholarship

If you must charge tuition

We will restore free tuition!

"No tuition is what makes CU so special. Keep it tuition free!"

The biggest issue for me is to roll back the decision to charge tuition.

Keep working on rescinding tuition

Let us know what we can do to help return Cooper to it's founding vision of free tuition based on merit alone!

Providing high quality education tuition free is essential and the Board of Trustees must be convinced that this is the mission of Cooper Union.

Restore full tuition being 100% free for students. Review previous ways to raise money. EVERY BIT COUNTS.

Bring the school back to Peter Cooper's intentions on tuition free while solidifying a financial stable path.

**I would have attended a**

## **different school if Cooper Union charged tuition.**

I am in favor of any candidate that will fight to return to free tuition.

I urge the council to commit to returning to Cooper's 100% full-tuition scholarship.

"Free, merit based tuition. Once money gets involved it's opening Pandora's box. Hold on to the Art School, please. It is where the purest ideas incubate. Peter Cooper was a public minded idealist and visionary but no slouch when it came to business. His intention for Cooper Union remains timely and valid. We should do our best to abide by it."

The only reason to go to Cooper Union in Engineering is no tuition coupled to high-quality fellow students. Faculty salaries and the entire educational environment are substandard for a 30K price so with tuition there's no point.

Return to tuition free for all students.

Return to Peter Cooper's vision ASAP.

Free tuition needs to happen again. For real !

Goal #1 has got to be return to tuition-free status and recompensating those students who had to pay tuition this year. Be as aggressive as possible.

Bring back free tuition cooper

My extensive financial support was put on hold upon CU's tuition decision. I suggest compiling commitments to returned financial support if CU returns to a no tuition status.

We are Alumni and the only ones that can truly appreciate what Cooper has given us. Fight to protect it for the next generation because so many that didn't have our collective experience have had no issue with

squandering something so valuable.

**I have made The Cooper Union the chief beneficiary of my will based on the education I received there. I suspect I am not alone in this. I am now in the process of changing that due to the ongoing situation with poor management and the decision to charge admission. I suspect I am not alone here either. Please Please extend this incredible opportunity as it was extended to me: free and quality education, available to a wide variety of people who might not be able to attend otherwise.**

Do not adopt an emotional response to the tuition situation if doing so would jeopardize the future of the entire institution (with NOBODY, including those with true needs, having the opportunity that we had). And frankly, I've seen too much emotion, and not enough pragmatism, in CUAA correspondence over the past couple of years. Our students are drawn from a much more affluent core (primarily suburban or out of area) than when I attended over 40 years ago, and the world is very different than it was in 1859. High quality, socioeconomically disadvantaged students have opportunities in 2015 that they never had in 1859, 1959 or even 1999 - many have choices not previously available. Elite colleges are fighting to attract them so they can pat themselves on the back and preach about "how noble" they are. I recognize that the

"tuition - free" status of Cooper is one of the things we hold dear to our lives there - and I am ever grateful for that opportunity. AND I recognize that our community has made some poor choices in the recent past, or (worse) made overly optimistic or short-sighted decisions about both our expenditures and our income. However, a sound, sustainable financial base, with enhanced and diversified revenue sourcing as well as streamlined outflow, is essential to the institution's future - it's important to take emotion out of that equation, sadly. So those who CAN pay, should; half-tuition at a world class college is still a bargain - and we need to get THAT word out, rather than the salacious details of a lawsuit that no one outside of our community has a clue about (although they THINK they do). Many of us have seen good employees and people lose their jobs because their company was poorly run. Cooper Union, whether we like to think of it this way or not, IS a company. Let's preserve it.

"once cooper union added tuition the main advantage to having top students is gone. if the tuition is the same as other great engineering schools what is the advantage to a small school with really no campus or social life. if I had had to pay the same tuition as other engineering schools with a campus and more choice of courses and programs I don't think I would have gone to cooper union."

Number one and only priority now is to get Cooper back to a free tuition school

Hold fast, honor Peter Cooper 's vision.

Return to being a tuition-free institution,

Do everything possible to return Cooper to a fiscally responsible institution with a priority toward returning to a full-tuition scholarship policy. I hope that Cooper will once again be recognized as a special school and as highly regarded as it once was and deservedly so.

The school is all about the quality of the students. Free meant Cooper got the best students. With the

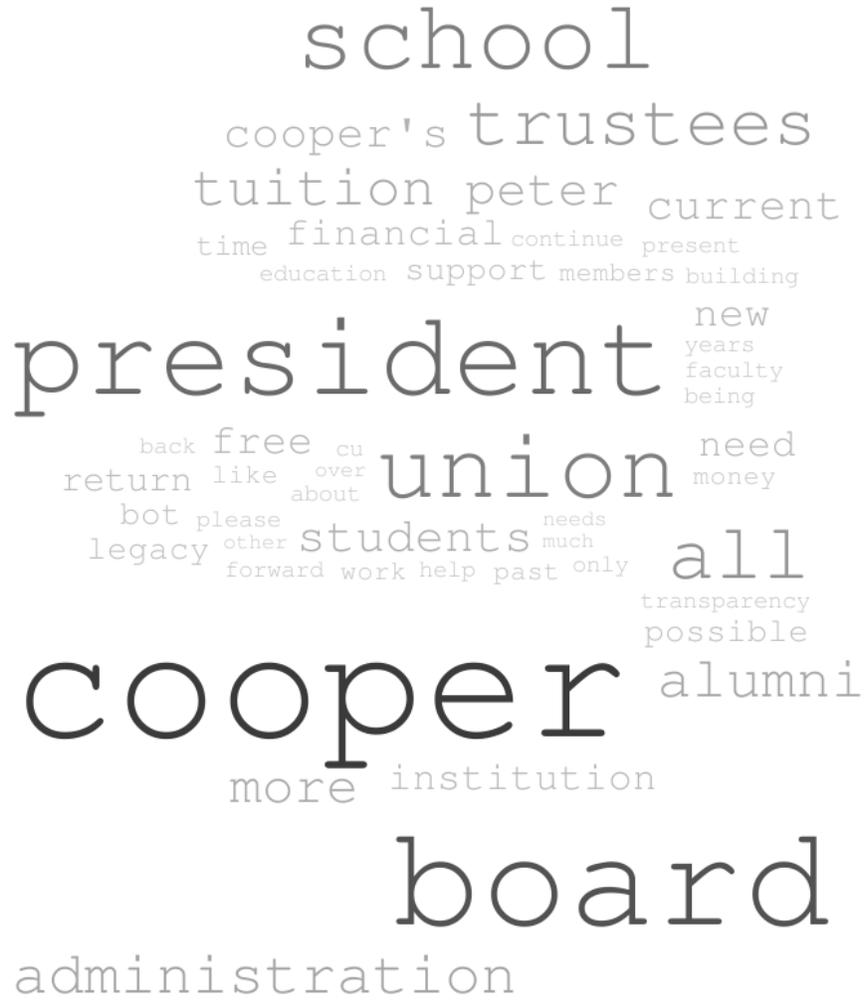
new tuition, the best students will go elsewhere - leaving Cooper awash in mediocrity and “just another college”. Frankly, the answer is to shrink the school to what it can afford with all students free (ie “right size” the school - just like any good company would do). For example, and likely showing my ignorance, at the extreme, get rid of the new building, and squeeze as many people as we can into the Foundation building. Might mean shrinking the school to 600-700 students? The other free of tuition school, Webb Institute, gets by with just 100 students.

Do whatever is necessary to return Cooper to its original vision. Encourage making the school lean and efficient. Restore the full-tuition scholarship. Support and encourage the State Attorney General. Replace the current Board of Trustees. Replace the current President. We need to clean house.

Please continue to think of inventive ways of keeping the school free and progressive!!Theme

Tuition Free Cooper

## Board of Trustees / Administration



5. Demand immediate resignation of Mr Bharucha. He has openly harmed Cooper in the press. If the Supreme Court upholds the requirement of free tuition, CUAAs should call for Mr Bharucha to be immediately fired for cause. Reinvention violated the Charter he was supposed to uphold.

Shame on the board and President.

No donations from us until the board is removed that made those no early payment deals.

## **Advocate for a new president that supports the history and mission of Cooper Union.**

Devote as much effort as possible to remove CU's President and Board. Help the Atty General's investigation.

## **Investigate and resolve the fiduciary issues of recent years and hold those in the administration and board accountable.**

1) The trustees are ultimately responsible for the present situation

"Unfortunately, the Board and the Administration has lost my trust and probably other alumni, as well. They have followed an all too familiar path that many other academic institutions have taken currently. Once lost, trust is hard to restore. I will watch and see if things improve at Cooper, but I am skeptical. Tom Kass Art 1958"

This all reminds me when in the early 70s we fought to save Green Camp - don't let the administration walk all over the history and traditions of Cooper!

I think that many Alums would increase their

donations if they had confidence in the leadership of Cooper Union to use this extra money to return to free tuition. However, many alums that I know have stopped contributing at all due to a complete lack of faith in the current administration. Lawsuits might make people feel better, but they cost money for all parties. We need to stay rational, and fix the problem over time.

"Fight Robert A. Bernhard Push Richard Lincer to his limit Throw Francois de Menil & Thomas Driscoll in prison if they don't resign"

Cooper Union needs a different President and a different Dean of Engineering.

All efforts need to be put into working to replacing the trustees and the administration and replacing them with a group who will respect and honor Peter Cooper's wishes for the school, and return it to a place where all the alumni can be proud to say that we went to The Cooper Union.

As sad as I feel about having to charge partial tuition I do believe that President Bharucha is a good and intelligent man and understands the historical significance and is making the best decisions possible under the circumstances. So continued discussions and negotiations should be conducted with respect and consideration and with the understanding that we are all in the same boat and have to work together towards a solution.

Going forward the President and the Board of Trustees should ONLY be Cooper Union Alumni. Cease hiring/electing self-interested businessmen who only care about fattening their wallets.

Defeat the criminals who have stolen our college and are trying to destroy it.

In the real world, the first move might be the removal of ineffective Board members or school president. It is clear that the former President of CU was the likely culprit and it is good that he is not here any more. As

for the present President, whose job is to turn around the issue at hand, should be challenged to make the pitch to the outside world that (1) present governance has changed and is focused on carrying on Peter Cooper's legacy, and that (2) the present students do not deserve to feel the brunt of the past failures. The Trustees must DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS, however small, to large benefactors and corporations. I believe this task will take several years, if begun today. It should have begun a few years ago.

Verify anything admin and/or trustees say before believing it.

lease remember that the Cooper vision does its work best when led by people who understand the gift of being able to be of service to that ideal.

The Board of Trustees is NOT for power-hungry-cocktail-talk. The Board MUST be made up of influencer's of the wealthy who donate!!! Leading by example. The PRIMARY role of the BOARD MUST be to RAISE FUNDS! NYU is the best example. Tisch was a great leader and influencer. Why can't Cooper Union learn this!!! The Board is and has historically (past decades) been a joke. Over involved in the minor politics, the grand expansion, praying that the money will just come. Ridiculous ... more than that ... bordering criminally negligent. Best intentions are not applicable when miss guided.

It's time the Board gets a can of whoop ass regarding fund raising and donating themselves. If they don't they should loose their seats!!!

I'd like to see an alumni method for supporting the school, yet demonstrate "no confidence" in the BoT or administration.

Need to get Barucha kicked out!

I would hope that more transparency and accountability by the board is implemented. I would also like for there to be some kind of vote of no confidence to be established on the school presidency.

Keep pushing for more representation on the board and in decisions that affect the school and students.

Cooper Union's current leadership does not understand the long term impact that eliminating this will have on the reputation and future of this great institution.

Prosecute past president George Campbell and his board of (mis)trustees for malfeasance and mismanagement.

Barucha leaving his post should not stop the inquiry into the activities of the Board of Trustees, who bear the major portion of the responsibility for the present difficulties at Cooper Union.

m horrified by the administrator's efforts to destroy Peter Cooper's legacy.

Do all you can to rid Cooper Union of the president and board members who do not support the tuition-free legacy of Peter Cooper.

**I don't trust the current president, and it's fundamentally affected my desire to donate to the school.** I have no faith that the money I donate will fund actual programs and school needs as opposed to his salary. I finally got to a place in my career where I can give, where the tax structure encourages me to give and his complete lack of credibility in my eyes (e.g., "Harvard doesn't nearly have the problems we have" in response to his salary being on the level of the president of Harvard in The Ivory Tower... The gall) prevents me from doing so because I have no option (unless I do and then it needs to be clearly communicated in the donor literature/guidance) to contribute to specific categories of operating expenses... I know that my father, another alumni, has reached the same conclusion. Please take this into consideration.

Hold Board Responsible , Fire President , Investigate Conflicts of Interest ,

Establish Fiscal Responsibility, Eliminate Administrative Bloat, Restore Cooper's Charter to pre-1970s where Trustees liable for losses

Vigorously campaign to oust the idiots who are presiding over Cooper's demise.

Possible to check into the long term leases to increase rental revenue.

**I am EXTREMELY unhappy with the current school president and management presently in place at the Cooper Union. I feel they have overspent and squandered money. Gross mis-management (even in difficult financial times). I was a faithful financial supporter of the school from the time I graduated. But do not plan to send another penny until the school returns to the tuition free program intended by Peter Cooper. My great grandfather attended the early night school in the early 1900s.**

Please rid us of the present president and board members who caused this condition. Stop all the frills and get back to offering a good solid education.

“”A house divided against itself cannot stand. I

believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new — North as well as South.” - Lincoln, 1858 Our Union likewise.”

Work towards reinforcing the foundation of the strengths of the school. Build upon the diversity and the network of diverse interests of alumni as they relate to the students, faculty, and administration. Grow towards new areas of interest and opportunity in a sustainable fashion only when the basic core of the institution needs expanding in new directions.

Return Cooper Union to the institution that Peter Copper had envisioned.

“Maintain the meritocracy. Ensure that all applicants admitted to The Cooper Union are the most qualified scholars. Do not expand programs or accept larger numbers of students if that results in increased costs. Convince the alumni that The Cooper Union still has a future. Make it clear that those who have previously benefited are now expected to give generously.”

**“The President and Trustee Board has been fiscally irresponsible - that has to end. Cooper should not be known as a school with extravagantly unnecessary fashionable star-chitecture.** Cooper has assets worth far more

than that - it has history. It offered a community platform for important discourse and free tuition to excellent students, who were taught by excellent Teachers. Cooper was a stand alone institution of excellence. Built resources should support, not drain financial resources. The Architecture school which ranked 1st or 2nd in the country when I attended is now not even in the top 10- that is a travesty. If Cooper no longer attracts the most competitive students - that will be it's downfall. We need educator's focused on the development of skills, excellence and relevance and new thinking on programs that will make the best students want to attend, and provide a uniquely supportive, serious professional environment to that end. Despite the insane wealth of New York City, the President and Trustees have failed to bring in sufficient monies to support the school and the building campaign folly. I (and I daresay that most Alumni I speak to agree), did not and would not support the extravagant building program, especially when we are aware of poorly negotiated leases and witless property sales, etc., Why would the alumni or community want to support a wasteful process that gambled with the endowment - there is little if any faith in the competency and motives of the President and Board. Relations with alumni are at an all time low. It may be time to return to Cooper's roots, and time is wasting."

"Bring Cooper back to a school based on Peter cooper's values and based on competitive merit for entrance. Maybe decrease enrollment, maybe sell the dorm, find a President who can be harmonious with Peter Cooper's values and an individual who would NOT be ruled and blinded by his/her ego. Clean out the Board of members who have no concern for the uniqueness of this ""small gem."" Bring Cooper back to its former reputation."

It's a disgrace that the generosity and spirit of Peter Cooper's legacy -- one of a "Free Education", has been manipulated, mismanaged and mis-guided by the "Good Old Boy" network of presidents, trustees, and financial advisors, for the past twenty years. Shame of them, their greed, stupidity and ineptitude. If it means

cutting the faculty, admin and students by half-- and still keeping it free, then that's my vote.

"More transparency with the board's actions. Restore free tuition."

get rid of barucha and erase every mention of his name and every picture of him

**Please find a way to fully cooperate with school administration again, as this split between CUA and the Alumni Affairs Office is confusing and annoying.**

Maintain the vision that Pete Cooper promoted. Encourage the Alumni to support the school that treated us all so well. Encourage the school to run itself more like a business and less like those that are entitled.

I would have never been able to afford to attend Cooper Union without the tuition-free education Cooper Union once stood for. That is THE hallmark of an education at this outstanding institution. Unfortunately, like much of the political landscape in the U.S., self serving and short-sighted, top-down decisions were made that have caused enormous financial difficulties and threaten to obliterate Peter Cooper's dream. I hope that this can change. I hope this great institution can once again become

true to its founders vision. **To do that Cooper Union will need strong leadership by administrators that are not only financially savvy but are transparent and inclusive of the strategies**

## necessary to move forward.

I think that going forward, successful applicants should somehow be 'advised', or even 'required' by some type of contract that upon having received significant partial, or in cases full scholarships to Cooper, and successfully graduating, that upon working and earning an income a specified amount or percentage of their salaries/income be required to be donated back to Cooper. Of course the details (and legality) of this plan need to be developed, but as only a stated 25% or so of the body donates, relying on the majority's 'conscience' does not seem to work. In times of crisis, 'unpopular', seemingly heavy handed actions are fully defensible to keep the institution alive, for graduates who got the gift of a top rated education yet don't have the 'smarts' to realize that they need to show some appreciation by helping their newly-entering counterparts. How much that changes things going forward deserves analysis, but it must offer at least partial relief.

Until the school recovers from Pres. Campbell's disaster, it might consider using on--line courses to save money.

would like to see a new president ASAP. have switched all my contributions to the committee to SAVE COOPER UNION...

Consider charging tuition for summer school for art students who weren't accepted to the school. Also consider possible revenue from a school store with more options, including the previous logo.

It is imperative that Cooper Union return to its full tuition free status. The current administration must be removed along with any trustees that support the current (or any other) tuition plan.

Hold the Board Responsible . Support the Attorney Generals probe of Conflict of Interest . Seek a new President. Full tuition Scholarship is critical or Cooper simply becomes another high priced non -ivy College

Fire the President of the School and reduce administration by half. It has grown out of control and cannot be justified or afforded

Unseat the Board of thieves. Hold George Campbell, Ron Drucker, et al legally accountable for their actions. Remove Cooper Union student residents from the local community center. Help us rebuild what those criminals have sought to destroy.

Pay more attention to CU's endowment. Bring CU's expenditures in line with the proceeds of the endowment. Stop treating CUs current income (incl. donations) as revenue to be dispensed with as Trustees wish.

"The year I graduated, a group of students and alumni expressed reservations about the BoT's plans to acquire properties and build dormitories. We felt that the BoT's approach to student housing did not live up to the legacy of Peter Cooper. The plans both lacked vision and seemed financially imprudent. We implored the board to investigate alternative approaches to student housing that, in structure and program, matched the innovation of Peter Cooper's Foundation building. We formed a working group to explore other options- community-based initiatives that engaged the low-rise fabric of the East Village, as an example. The BoT pretended to listen to us, then they proceeded as planned- and in doing so, they alienated this alumnus, for life. **So**

**I can't say I've been surprised by recent developments, since I encountered hubris and disregard for the foundational principles of the Cooper Union among the BoT in 1988.** These

attitudes seem to have metastasized under Bharucha, though his destructive legacy will soon be behind us as an institution. (The hiring of a right-wing jackboot to provide security was perhaps the nadir of Bharucha's

ruinous presidency.) However, my interactions with the BoT back in '88 should demonstrate that the same hubris and disregard for CU's foundational principles existed before the arrival of Bharucha, and it will likely continue to exist. I'm optimistic about alumni representation on the board. To honor the legacy of Peter Cooper, we studied his prudent and visionary innovations in structure and program. I hope you'll do the same."

"Change the rules so that past officers can't vote. Take action, worry less about if the administration or board are annoyed."

Mend fences with the administration as much as possible.

With the president and engineering dean already on their way out, efforts should be focused on re-building a useful and constructive relationship. Emotions run high amongst many of us and being aggressive with new people who are (hopefully) trying to help will be counter-productive.

Rebuild relations with the Board of Trustees and recognize that Cooper's financial woes won't be solved by lawsuits or "overnight"

I'd like to know whether past board members and presidents can be held accountable for decisions that led to the current crisis. A tremendous amount of focus has been on the current board and president in their mishandling of the situation. It would appear that the proverbial train had left the station when the decision to proceed with the NAB was made.

"- Regain the cohesiveness among the alumni, with the Trustees, and to extent possible the Administration (including revisions necessary therein). - Identify the mistakes, and the viable paths forward. - Regain the full tuition scholarship "

We need a better managed school (not just on the academic end, but more importantly, the financial end) that can continue Peter Cooper's legacy of

providing free tuition for all students. Thank you for your hard work! There is a lot to fight for.

I am very upset about the way the President and the Board handled the finances at Cooper Union. I support the Committee to Save Cooper Union and return Cooper Union to a full scholarship- free tuition school. I cannot understand how the Board chose to build such an expensive new building without the funds to back it up. I hope the new elected members will represent my views as an alum.

Work towards healing the rift with the Administration and Board, but maintain the operating principal that free-tuition must be a visible and meaningful goal.

Remember that the more stridently the administration claims that it must continue with the self-destructive policy of Cooper tuition, the more desperately they need our help to do the right thing. Inside, they are quivering children acting out of their desperation born of profound fear.

Root out the miscreants who mde the mess!

Unless the next president can perform the needed financial miracle, or until he or she does, keep their salary within reasonable bound.

Clearly the management of Cooper Union has gotten off-track. Continue to engage the CU community of alumni, faculty, and friends in pressing for the changes needed to return CU to a tuition-free institution with admission based on merit. Keep in mind it will take time and perseverance to "right the ship".

The BoT should not have any members who are there because they are wealthy. The Board should be composed of individuals who understand the school, its mission, and purpose. Get Wall Street, and Wall Street mentality out of the school. The Board is the problem and always has been.

Providing high quality education tuition free is essential and the Board of Trustees must be convinced

that this is the mission of Cooper Union.

Investigate G. Campbell.

Allegations of Lack of Transparency in Board of Trustees actions are troubling. The Council should be able to use its influence to help effect greater transparency, and possibly to have nonbinding referenda on the selection of CU Presidents in the future. Better ongoing evaluation, review, and information dissemination of business deals being anticipated by Cooper Union, along with potential alternatives besides “the sky will be falling” should also be part of a fair evaluation, instead of possibilities all being presented as a fait accompli.

Let’s have more transparency from the President and the board of trustees. The increase in the salary of the president vs. the previous president was surprising. The terms of the mortgage for the new building including a pre-payment penalty was a surprise. No one would have that clause in their own mortgage. What is the golden parachute that the president has in his contract? Who set the terms of his contract. George Campbell set some of the financial flubs. Was anyone watching then? Even after he left Cooper, he said that the financial situation wasn’t so bad.

Work towards a Board of Directors and Administration that embraces that mission rather than walking all over it as they have the past couple of years

Get the entire Board of Trustees fired and replaced with people that have the interests of the school at heart.

**Goal #1 has got to be return to tuition-free status and recompensating those students who had to pay tuition this year. Be as aggressive as possible. The Administration**

**has proved to be a not-gentle body and can only be moved by being aggressive in return.**

Clean house, fire the president, then move forward rebuilding the school and protecting it’s fine history. I would also suggest selling the house the president lives in and requiring all future president’s to provide their own housing. God knows they are paid enough to afford their own housing. I would also highly recommend eliminating many of the top heavy administrative positions which continue to bleed Cooper of much needed capital.

get rid of the current president and all others who destroyed coopers reputation.

Continue to press the board of trustees for a return to accountability and responsible stewardship of the Cooper financial trust. When I attended Cooper Union, the program was clearly a “no-frills” proposition for the students and faculty alike. This administration seems to have embarked on campaign of shameless self promotion, as well as a cascading hierarchy of Deans and Vice-presidents..... and somehow, I can’t recall the school’s President at the time residing in a townhouse on what is now prime Manhattan real estate?!!

Replace the top-down, autocratic Board of Trustees system with a democratic decision-making system that guarantees all CU stakeholders rights and responsibilities in its creation, installation and maintenance. CU “citizenship” needs to be understood and accepted by faculty, students, alumni, parents, and all staff on and off campus as an integral part of the Cooper Union experience.

Pay more attention to removing the Board of Trustees than the President. The Board is in charge of this mess.

“Follow the money” Determine who profited from the at minimum POOR choices of the board and move

toward criminal prosecution

Please do everything possible to remove the current President and Board of The Cooper Union. It is crucial the the tuition-free scholarship be restored as soon as possible -- before more damage is done to this great institution.

please do not renew President's contract!

Remain vigilant regarding the BoT and its activities.

“Remain vigilant regarding the BoT and its activities. Insist on transparency and accountability. While the onset of tuition may be inevitable, I am concerned that the actions of the BoT and President made this decision necessary years before it would have been otherwise. We need a BoT that fully appreciates the uniqueness of Cooper Union and does not run it merely as a business.”

Replace the current Board of Trustees. Replace the current President. We need to clean house.

“Find out who approved the \$300k (or more) that was spent on the inaugural party, then oust them. Find out who was complicit with giving Tishman Speyer a below-market lease for the Chrysler building, then oust them.”

## Transparency & Communication

please  
cooper  
much union  
long fight leeper/ross  
never without school  
communication needs  
funds always  
thank all used  
work maintain cuaa future  
council secret keep  
continue more support  
transparency  
tuition  
alumni

**End all “secret negotiations” with the Administration. Please report details of those negotiations to the Community. What did Leeper/Ross offer to give up? What did Leeper/Ross ask for? What did Leeper/Ross “get”? Specifics, not vague statements about how “productive” they are/have been. We desperately need more transparency to fix things. Good luck**

Transparency

**Please keep the alumni fully informed of activities of the Board and issues under consideration by the Board.**

Maintain outreach on a regular basis with the alumni.

The CUAA needs to do better to be upfront on the issues. Communications has been challenging. Although there is trepidation to make decisions without knowing what the full alumni body really thinks, the reality is that we won't engage everyone. When you are elected you must take the responsibility of representing the alumni to your best knowledge and act/vote boldly.

be more aware of financial status of cu, apparently, no one was sufficiently watching the road previously

Continue to improve outreach to alumni, by

expanding the contact list and finding ways to bring in younger voices to the council. Fight like hell for complete transparency in ALL areas Fight like hell for complete transparency If in the interim tuition is maintained, then the formula used to determine who gets reduced tuition, and by how much, must be made public.

If in the interim tuition is maintained, then the formula used to determine who gets reduced tuition, and by how much, must be made public.

When soliciting funds please be very specific as to what the funds will be used. In the same spirit, please separate legal action funds from other purposes, as some may see legal recourse as a money pit.

Cooper Union needs to be transparent as to their decisions and actions. Cooper needs honest sensitive people who are visionaries that can assist in the future of the school and not looking for self centered or are affiliated with external factions. Please keep all secret societies out of Cooper Union

I have been a sufficiently generous contributor to CU that (call me) Jamshed invited me to a lunch in Boston, along with a few other contributors. This was well before the tuition announcement. He assured us that tuition was NOT an option. At most, he promised, it might apply to graduate students who had not been Cooper undergraduates. With a straight face and great charm he promised that tuition was not under consideration. In the interest of honesty and transparency, I support candidates I believe will fight to continue Peter Cooper's vision. I attended two of the country's most prestigious universities afterward, but my heart and support belong only to Cooper, FREE once more. .

Transparency and involvement of the alumni in all crises. We have enormous talent amongst our alumni. Let's use it!

“Keep up the good work. Keep us informed. Keep focused on the big picture, as I'm sure it's going to be

a long long fight. Get our school back. Thank you and thank you.”

“As Much as is possible, • Continue to maintain Peter Cooper’s legacy: our no tuition policy! • Continue to maintain our highly diverse and highly talented student body! • Continue and/or increase transparency of all of the school’s business activities so that we never again face the slippery slope of watering down the uniqueness of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Science!”

non-transparency found a new friend in secret meetings between JB/amin/BoT and current president of cuaa this year.....it was a travesty. I also believe that the Secretary/Treasurer’s job is not to be an “advisor” to the cuaa president as the current secretary/treasurer saw himself. The secretary/treasurer is responsible for recording and reporting to the alumni and reporting financial info to alumni.

transparency due diligence and humanism please

**Please keep frequent social media posting and lines of communication open. Very difficult for Alumni far afield to know what’s going on. (keep in mind that important social media comms should be repeated elsewhere - once they disappear from your news feed, impossible to find again)**

“I am so proud of so many alumni stepping forward to put in the long, hard hours to support our Alma Mater. Thank you for doing this difficult work for all of us. In the future, please give us more information on the actual roles and responsibilities for the Council and the Nominating Committee so that we can understand

better the match of persons to tasks. Cooper Union gave me a future that would have never been possible without the education and prestige of the institution. Actually, without money or prospects, I would never have gotten to or through college. Please keep Cooper Union FREE!”

Work at demanding more honesty and transparency

Insist on transparency and accountability.

I served on the Council for several years and was always surprised by how little engagement the Council truly had in school matters and how little communication there was between the Council, the administration and the alumni body. With my long history in the non-profit world -- much of it spent on governance matters -- this detachment was always curious to me. My advice to the Council would be to continue to proactively pursue opportunities for meaningful communication and transparency. My heart still aches at what has transpired. I hope the Council can help guide us through the rhetoric and to the ultimate return to a Cooper Union as we have always known it.

More communications with alumni - straightforward and direct.

# The Lawsuit

attorney  
union  
cooper  
management  
action  
money  
legal  
board  
good  
need  
decision  
say  
stop  
years  
tuition  
going  
state  
committee  
lawsuit  
bad  
save  
possible  
chrysler  
building  
support  
investigation  
school  
trustees  
all

## **Offer a statement of official support for the Attorney General's investigation.**

Do not allow your dislike of the President's methods to blind you to the need for his willingness to make hard decisions. The pending lawsuit is an act of idiocy.

“Support legal action against the trustees. DEFINITELY support the \*FREE COOPER UNION MOVEMENT\*. Audit financial books of school going back 10 years. Be \*TOUGH\* and lose the nonsense attitude that it's “not good for the school”. It absolutely is the best thing for the school to get a lot of the leeches who have sat on the board of trustees and have overseen bad management decision after bad management decision approved. I say this as President of my Condo Association (having served on Board for ~5yrs) and directed a \$3.5million renovation of our building. I also say this as the leader of a local Cooper Union Alumni Network, and former editor in chief of the Pioneer. I know what it takes to turn around a community. The trustees at Cooper over the last 10 years are human garbage and need to be thrown out. Being un-engaged and inattentive is just as bad as being dishonest in this case because the situation has affected the legacy of a tremendous 150 year institution. Almost all of the troubles over the last decade have been a result of colossally bad management decisions by unengaged or dishonest trustee members. Get them out. Sue them. Make them run for their lives.”

Money and effort spent on lawsuits is good for the lawyers, but often not the parties. I say this from my perspective as an appreciative graduate, a consistent donor and an attorney with 30 years of experience litigating in the federal courts. It is troubling to think that a portion of my donations is going to fight lawsuits initiated by other Cooper graduates and/or professors. We need to turn down the heat, and go full steam ahead on the fundraising.

Barucha leaving his post should not stop the inquiry into the activities of the Board of Trustees, who bear the major portion of the responsibility for the present difficulties at Cooper Union.

Help the Attorney General to root out the malfeasance and possible corruption that brought about this pitiful and embarrassing state of affairs.

## **Do something. Don't be afraid. Take action. Support the Committee to Save Cooper Union.**

“Keep up the good work! Continue legal action and follow the Attorney General's investigation. Don't let it be a whitewash.”

Don't fear asking for special donations to support the legal effort.

Stop with all the law suits. It isn't going to change anything. All its doing is costing the school more money having to pay for lawyers to defend itself which is money that could be used for tuition

Follow the recommendations of the Committee to Save Cooper Union.

The Chrysler rental agreement and the loans entered into for administrative expansion needs to be vigorously examined for fraud.

## **Work with the Attorney General's office to see if it is possible to overturn the recent lease renewal on the land under the Chrysler building. And if that is possible, to secure more**

## **beneficial long-term terms for Cooper Union.**

continue to insist that justice be done, and that the AG continue to dig, regarding the malfeasance of current and former trustees viz. self-dealing on the Chrysler Building land lease, the construction loan, investments, etc.

would like to see a new president ASAP. have switched all my contributions to the committee to SAVE COOPER UNION..

100% working towards revoking tuition and all other goals as outlined in the Committee to save cooper union, as priority.

The financial mismanagement and resulting decision to impose tuition were ill advised and quite possibly violated our school's charter. I don't believe that

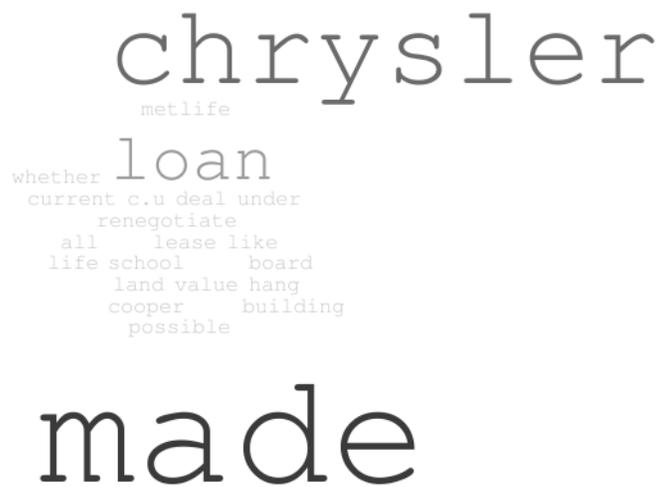
tuition-for-some is a fait accompli. **Regardless of the lawsuit outcome and investigation of the NY State AG, I will judge all future actions of the CUAA by its effectiveness in agitating for a return to free. I expect nothing less!**

I am for the lawsuit, and any other methods to return to the original charter and stop the direction this administration is taking the school.

So those who CAN pay, should; half-tuition at a world class college is still a bargain - and we need to get THAT word out, rather than the salacious details of a lawsuit that no one outside of our community has a clue about (although they THINK they do).

Support and encourage the State Attorney General.

# The Loan



A word cloud visualization of comment categories. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern. The largest words are 'chrysler' at the top, 'loan' in the middle, and 'made' at the bottom. Other words include 'metlife', 'whether', 'current', 'c.u', 'deal', 'under', 'renegotiate', 'all', 'lease', 'like', 'life', 'school', 'board', 'land', 'value', 'hang', 'cooper', 'building', and 'possible'.

chrysler  
metlife  
loan  
whether  
current c.u deal under  
renegotiate  
all lease like  
life school board  
land value hang  
cooper building  
possible  
made

FIND A WAY TO RENEGOTIATE THE MORTGAGE LOAN.

Get out of MetLife loan, get back Chrysler rents

I like the idea of applying pressure through the media on Met Life to get them to renegotiate the loan.

Consult with financial institutions to restructure debt.

**“Hang all the greedy bastards who cheerfully sold our school down the river only to line their pockets! Hang ‘em from a tree, or your choice. Burn MetLife in a fire made of \$100 dollar bills. n.b. I’m 91, & was accepted w/ other vets in 1945 at C.U. before the Japs surrendered, C.U. made my life, changed my life. I did not realize the great value it gave me. MY ADVICE IS: Make certain the incoming students understand the value of The Cooper Union. Blessings on Bob Gwathmey, Henriette Schutz, Morris Kantor & all dear departed faculty, whether they are in Heaven, or Hell with my friends!”**

Take any steps necessary to undo the unconscionable

deal that was made for the use of the land under the Chrysler Building. If it can't be undone, sue the individuals who made the deal to reimburse the school for their massive corruption and/or incompetence.

Sell or lease #41.

The Chrysler rental agreement and the loans entered into for administrative expansion needs to be vigorously examined for fraud.

Work with the Attorney General's office to see if it is possible to overturn the recent lease renewal on the land under the Chrysler building. And if that is possible, to secure more beneficial long-term terms for Cooper Union.

I'd like to know whether past board members and presidents can be held accountable for decisions that led to the current crisis. A tremendous amount of focus has been on the current board and president in their mishandling of the situation. It would appear that the proverbial train had left the station when the decision to proceed with the NAB was made.

## Tax Status

status  
501c3  
file money  
alumni  
vs achieve any more  
cooper based ballot  
big whether union  
option charter  
information  
new decision including  
further  
discussions  
all  
cuaa

I cannot understand how CUAA could choose to apply for a tax status that would allow non-alumni to join the organization. How did you make that decision without discussing and agreeing upon exactly HOW the money would be spent/used/given-to-the-school, or HOW CUAA will deal with non-alumni's right to become members???? CUAA has not yet adequately addressed these issues.

**More information needs to be disseminated and there needs to be further discussions on whether CUAA should file for 501c3 vs 501c7 status based on a comparison between the two, including any benefits or disadvantages. I do not believe that most alumni, including myself, have been provided with enough information on whether CUAA should file for 501c3 vs. 501c7 status, which probably should have been the choices offered on this ballot rather than just voting on 501c3 status if there had also been a more in-depth discussion of what would be involved with either option. It would have been helpful if these options had been discussed as part of the Meet the Candidates**

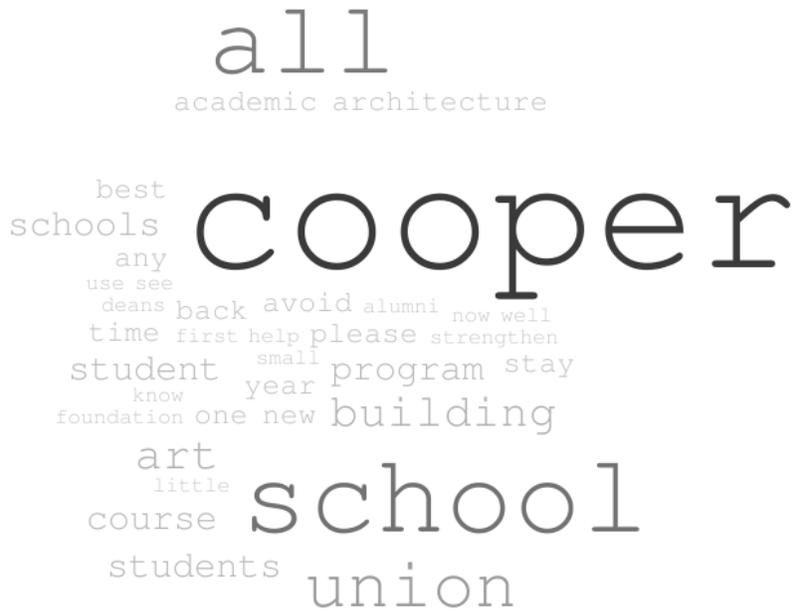
**Night. I do not think the CUAA should move forward on the 501c3 option simply based on the results of this one ballot question. There needs to be a further discussions prior to any final decision.**

“to free cooper union the cuaa needs to be fully autonomous. the cuaa needs to figure out a way to ONLY raise money that it controls directly as leverage to achieve its goals. we need to pay our own staff to organize the alumni and continue to build an independent communication infrastructure. could be wrong but 501c3 seems essential for these goals. big, big thanks to all of you who did the work to pull this off!”

Moving to a 501(c)(3) status is simplistic. To do that properly will require a completely new charter, which should be preceded by a comprehensive strategic plan that accommodates all alumni. There is inappropriate emphasis on attempting to run the institution. An alumni association has a fiduciary responsibility to alumni first, and that must be reflected in a new charter and implemented in a new Constitution and By-Laws. All of the above requires a process that calls together a representation of ALL alumni, with the ultimate function of protecting, extending and expanding the value of a Cooper Union degree

Carry on the fight. When we achieve 501c3 status, my money comes to you.

# Miscellaneous



If there has to be tuition, let the money go back to the students. I remember as a student at Cooper we had to fight for a lot, even funding to do projects for the school. Yet the professor had free reign to buy equipment that sat around collecting dust that no one was allowed to touch or learn how to use.

Cooper Union was always a small excellent enterprise. The difference has been the quality of the student body, and the dedication of the teaching staff. I don't know how you get the toothpaste back into the tube, but whatever can be done to eliminate the fat and anything not relating to educating the student body will help. Otherwise what I see is CU becoming a part of the New School– or NYU. I'm sure they would like to get their mitts on CU's real estate... if there is any left.

Please remember that all three schools are integral parts of Cooper Union. I've heard proposals that include eliminating tuition by ending the Engineering program. I strongly disagree with this. Restore a first year, combined art-architecture program to encourage student interaction and input to all academic programs. Try to re-make Cooper an ART school, not two separate schools. Getting the Deans to agree would be difficult, but it's only first year and well worth it to the benefit of all the students.

**“B. Get to the root of the reason for the moral and actual bankruptcy. Who was behind the loan and how did it get to the point of undermining the meaning of the Cooper Union. It will not change the immediate situation but it might help prevent such things in the future. One might ask**

**why with one of the highest ranking schools of architecture and engineering in the country, an alumna was not hired for the building!?! (The art school is too but would not have designed the building in question.)”**

Why isn't SCIENCE (Physics) a choice for school attended?

“Hello, Cooper Union Alum! My name is George CE '82, McSorley's Alum ;- ) I am running for: Vice President Faculty-Student, as you'll see I have been both. Now, let me explain who I am and how I will stand on the issues. Here goes: As a CU-engineering alumnus and now a certified academic, I can uniquely see both important perspectives. I will meet with each of the four (4) Deans at Cooper to strengthen mutual ground, while laying the foundation for long-term continued synergy between Cooper Union and the CUAA Executive Committee and Council. For example, if a particular committee requires alumni involvement, it is important that we work together to secure the best person possible to strengthen that Cooper committee, as that strengthens Cooper Union overall. This VP will display empathetic understanding, positive temperament, fair negotiation skill, and above all else strive to seek the best for Cooper Union, as a whole, going forward. I have personally worked first-hand with academic professors, academic administrations and staffs, and student bodies at various New York institutions for over fifteen years, so I know what it takes to strengthen us toward a common goal. Finally, as a person, who on January 21, 2015 at the Edgewater, NJ Avalon Apartments, lost everything, along with a 990 other people (e.g., NY Yankees John Sterling), they owned in life, including a place to live, the bickering that ensues at Cooper is “small potatoes” to LIFE and it must end! We must all focus on the long-term viability and strength of The Cooper Union. I pledge

to do just that! I've said much of this before, but now it is "votin' time"! My bio is provided on the "Election 2015 Bios," but it is quite boring ;-)

With best regards,  
George"

Develop a strong trust for the use of scholarships. Including dues for an alumni association with car decals and pins. This may be done by state affiliations. This would be separate from the drive for donations to the school. Print a small paper back of the members per state.

I believe that the school has lost its way and I hope that it can be restored in my lifetime. In the interim, I am sorry to say that my affiliation is over. Best of luck in the quest to return to the status it once had as a force in society and in the lives of those who needed it most.

Stay the course for architecture as a learned profession.

N/A

"Return Art/Architecture to first year, "Foundation Year", where all students, art and architecture, take the same courses and decide whether to continue toward graduation in, Fine Art, Graphic Arts or Architecture. Of course, this is difficult, requiring the Deans of both schools to agree on and coordinate the program, but well worth the exchange it offers to incoming students. Bring back a strong the Graphic Arts program that has made Cooper such a highly respected institution. Require that the Dean of the Architecture School be a licensed, practicing architect and not a pure academic or theoretician."

I attended classes for credit and sometimes for no credit in ALL three schools. Additionally, I took music theory and guitar courses at NYU, when the exchange program existed. Please do not call me an engineering graduate of '91. I am eternally grateful to the school, for the rounded education I was able to explore and the doors it has opened for me.

I have worked in real estate development, architecture, fashion accessories, short film and sculpture. My firm Studio FtB can be viewed here: [www.StudioFtB.com](http://www.StudioFtB.com)

[No comment at this time.]

Fix the school.

I want to strongly suggest that the Deans of all the three schools are re-evaluated for their effectiveness. The controversies over the last years throw into question motivations and allegiances so much so that I think the quality of student educational experiences may in fact be compromised and no one is looking at this problem. We should just start everything and everyone from scratch - reset the rules and reset the entire table.

don't mortgage your house to invest in hedge funds

## **I have stopped supporting the school and will not resume till there is a clear change of direction.**

Please leverage our student's capacity to solve issues, to help resolve this financial crisis. Our students are bright, and sometimes they can provide a perspective that perhaps has not been evaluated or thought of with a bit more information and guidance.

"I don't know if it is possible to straighten out the mess Cooper is in now. However, we must do what we can to avoid messing up in the future. Cooper is a small school and the thing to do is avoid major but risky undertakings, such as the PhD program and more recently the new building. I recall a solicitation for the new building that claimed that it would be the solution to the financial problem by allowing sale of the former building to the north of the Foundation Building. This was supposed to yield huge dollars that would strengthen the endowment as well as pay for

the new building.”

**“Not advice but opinion; I would personally rather see The Cooper Union shrunken to a size that entirely fits within the Foundation building, than to have the school’s mission completely lost. Austerity is appropriate in our situation. Rent or sell the NAB? absolutely. The dorms? I’m with you. The notion of constant growth is a for profit conceit. In our case, it is cancer. Time for radical therapy. Good luck to all.”**

A dog must unclench its teeth to swallow.

Fight for us!

Best wishes and thank you!

Stay sane!

Take no prisoners.

Appreciate all of the hard work. Let’s make the tough decisions together, please continue to keep the alumni as informed as possible. Thanks!

Stay the Course

Please be open minded, realistic and look forward with no recriminations

“I ask that all alumni (and current students) maintain “”profanity free”” statements and discussions, and avoid personal attacks on those we do not agree with. So many of us are grappling with strong emotions (including me - born into a poor family in Brooklyn) about the changes at our beloved school, that we sometimes lose our professional decorum. Let’s not give anyone cause to avoid addressing the issues facing Cooper by pointing to any lack of civility on our part.”

Keep up the good fight!

Stay the course!

courage. never give up.

Don’t be afraid to ruffle some feathers

Be open minded and listen carefully to diverse points of view. Be idealistic and realistic at the same time. Seek solutions rather than villains. Many non-Cooper folks have gotten a very bad impression of all parties at the school.

Stay true to the vision of Cooper!

“I felt I benefitted very little from my art education at Cooper. The only two courses I felt really increased my knowledge of are were the first year 2D design course, taught by Hans Beckmann, a former teacher at the Bauhaus, and the architectonics course taught by Ed Knowles. There was little to no instruction in anatomy or perspective, little instruction in the use of media....no metalwork, no moldmaking or casting, very little in the use of shop tools and joinery. Sculpture in any but very traditional media....clay, wood, plaster, stone....wasn’t taught. The teaching was heavily canted to doing “”abstracts”” and very critical and suppressive of any kind of realism. The education at Cooper Union was extremely narrow, and didn’t prepare me at all to earn a living as an artist. No instruction in the business of art at all. I had to teach myself everything I needed to know as an artist in order to function well as a freelancer. Many of the

teachers at Cooper I felt, did substandard work as artists, and should not have been teaching in any art school. Sincerely”

Already recently gave my advice as a retired lawyer. Undo the Chrysler lease because of fraud. Void ab initio

None at this time.

Watch out for and try to avoid the Thermidor phase....:  
)

Focus on fiscal responsibility.

Help bring this school back to the one I attended