

# THE COOPER UNION ALUMNI PIONEER

## Rock the Vote 2015: Special Edition

by Barry Drogin, EE '83

### Abstract

Barry Drogin, Publisher of the Alumni Pioneer News Archive, asks two questions of the candidates for the Executive Committee and Alumni Council and provides some space for changes or additions to their on-line statements.

As a special Rock the Vote voter's guide, the Alumni Pioneer has asked the candidates for the Cooper Union Alumni Association Executive Committee and Alumni Council to answer two questions and provides some space to list changes or additions to their on-line statements, which can be found at <<http://cooperalumni.org/election-2015-bios/>>.

Question 1 is: Please pick which of these three you agree with (or provide a fourth answer of comparable length): a) Charging tuition is an unfortunate necessity at this time; b) Charging tuition to some students is not a problem; c) Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong.

Question 2 is: The CUAA is now a 100% volunteer organization, and you are volunteering to serve on the Executive Committee or Council. If you are not elected, what CUAA committee or committees, existing or not created yet, will you volunteer to serve on (only elected members can be chair)?

Question 3 is: Are there any changes or additions, such as endorsements, responses to other candidate statements, comments on recent events, or anything else that you would like to add to the statements already posted to <<http://cooperalumni.org/>>? These will be provided to the CUAA Council but, at their discretion and due to their limited resources, may or may not be added to the on-line document.

This document will be updated as responses are received. Candidates may also choose to update their responses at any time up until May 1, 2015, when polls close.

### President



Curtis B Wayne AR'75 – I will answer on April 14.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Nils Folke Anderson A'94

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong.
2. Associates Committee. In the event that a plan to get back to free is implemented, the Annual Fund Committee.
3. No changes or additions.

## Alumni Trustee



John Leeper AR'85 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Peter Katz A'76

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong.
2. Consistent with Peter Cooper's notion of grads "rallying round" the now troubled CU, I suggest 3 new committees, any one of which I'd serve on or lead. With a President who has been shown the door by the BoT, and a number of board members who may have committed misdeeds that will result in their removal from the board (and worse), the best thing CUAA can do now is to prepare for a significant role in the coming transition. The Continuity committee will be about reconnecting with the Founder's intent, and keeping the school functioning through the upcoming potentially messy regime change. The Leadership committee will spearhead an alternative search process for both an interim and long-term President; recent searches by the BoT have brought leaders who were out of touch with Cooper's unique values, culture and operational needs. Finally a Solutions committee will be a warehouse for ideas aimed at boosting CU's revenue once regime change has occurred, but not before (see # 3 below).
3. Given the lawsuit challenging the past actions of the President and BoT, and an ongoing investigation by the New York State Attorney General, it's clear that Cooper has not yet hit bottom. Unfortunately, more pain, disruption and bad press lie ahead. That said, many alumni minds are now focused on the problems at Cooper, and in some cases are coming up with creative solutions that they'll share over a glass of beer. But because the administration is currently "under repair," and the BoT has lost the confidence of the larger Cooper community and is not communicating openly with alums, many of our number are withholding financial support and our best ideas for "fixing" Cooper. I suspect the situation will remain until alums feel that Cooper has an administration that's more in sync with the "soul" of the school and the stated goals of its Founder. Yet Cooper will need these ideas, so it makes sense to collect and refine them so they can be implemented quickly once Cooper is on the mend. Hopefully this will be soon!

## Secretary-Treasurer



Peter Ross A'78 – No response received yet.

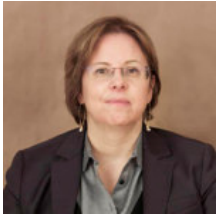
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Sean Cusack BSE'98

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong.
2. Communications, Events, Founder's Day, Election, Associates Committee.
3. No changes or additions.

## VP Faculty-Student



Margaret Matz AR'83 – No response received yet.

1. It is fundamentally essential to return to NO TUITION at The Cooper Union particularly given the current context of a societal discussion about the cost of education in the USA and its related effects.
2. Continue on the existing Communications, Events, and Nominations committees or begin on the proposed Associates, Education and Volunteer Services committees.
3. No changes or additions.



Mina Greenstein A'56 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



George De Feis CE'82 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## VP Events



Kay Nordstrom ME'77 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Kelly Occhiuzzo Zack A'90

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong. If it is not merit-based, full-tuition scholarship for all students, it is just not MY Cooper Union.
2. Events, Founder's Day.
3. No changes or additions.

## Council



Bhaskar Krishnamachari EE'98 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Ciera Lowe ChE'14 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Claudia Giordano Lasky A'76 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



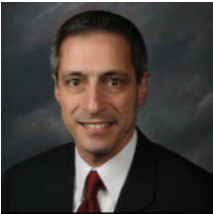
Daren Rogers AR'05 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Dennis Kong IDE'08 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Ed Abaid CE'76 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Eric Fehlberg A'99 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Gene Tulchin A'55 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Ira Silfin ME'85 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



James Liubicich ChE'83

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong.
2. Election, Associates Committee.
3. Endorsed by Free Cooper Union.



Kathryn Berry AR'80 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Kelly Occhiuzzo Zack A'90

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong. If it is not merit-based, full-tuition scholarship for all students, it is just not MY Cooper Union.
2. Events, Founder's Day.
3. No changes or additions.



Laura Webanck IDE'07 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Michael Luke CE'14 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Paul Garrin A'82 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Peter S Chomowicz AR'89 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Sean Cusack BSE'98

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong.
2. Communications, Events, Founder's Day, Election, Associates Committee.
3. No changes or additions.



Shankar Venkataraman BSE'03 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Susan Shaw A'72 – No response received yet.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Westley Rozen AR'05

1. Charging tuition to any Cooper student is completely wrong.
2. Help establish a new committee to fundraise for scholarships programs managed by the CUAA that directly offset the burden of tuition.
3. I'm honored to have been nominated and in the company of such accomplished and caring alumni and believe that the CUAA can become a stronger force for change within the institution.

*The current version of this document can be found at <[http://www.notnicemusic.com/CUAA\\_2015.pdf](http://www.notnicemusic.com/CUAA_2015.pdf)>. The first version was posted on March 31, 2015.*

*The Alumni Pioneer, <<http://www.notnicemusic.com/Cassandra/cooper.html>>, was a virtual newspaper with breaking news stories and links to analyses, sources and the media. It is now an archive.*