

Dear Miss Borys:

I am sincerely appreciative of the qualitative improvement that has taken place in transforming *The Pioneer* into an attractive newspaper in recent years—as outlined in your (undated) letter to President Lacy and me. You may be sure that I and the other members of the Board of Trustees read every issue thoroughly.

I realize that thorough news coverage requires sources of information of all kinds in the school, and I am pleased to note your comment that you do have appropriate contact with administrators, faculty members and students. However, I don't fully share your observation about lack of regular contact with the Board. As I understand it, President Lacy has been acting as a kind of "press secretary" for the Board to *The Pioneer*. He meets regularly with staff members of *The Pioneer* following each Board meeting. At these sessions President Lacy briefs *The Pioneer* on decisions taken by the Board and their rationale. In addition, Provost Kaplan and Mr. Cahill, who as officers of Cooper Union attend all Board meetings, have also been available to you as sources on Board actions. And I and other Board members have, when asked, responded to inquiries from *The Pioneer*. Thus I see no shortage in opportunities for the competent reporters of *The Pioneer* to gain access to information about Board decisions, policies, and other matters that should properly be made public.

I would personally oppose having the press present as observers at Board meetings for the following reasons. A good deal of the Board's deliberations are necessarily confidential and involve sensitive personal and financial matters. In addition, our Trustees are not like publicly-elected officials who are used to working in the media limelight. They are all very private people, only compensated by the satisfaction of serving the best interest of the school and totally unequipped to cope with a media presence. I know that having representatives of *The Pioneer* attend would only inhibit the healthy and free exchange of ideas which presently exists at our meetings. Indeed, when we last had observers from the Faculty-Student Senate attending Board meetings we found ourselves going into executive session so often for the foregoing reasons that the whole idea seemed purposeless and we therefore discontinued it.

This is my personal view, of course. I believe there is little likelihood, for the reasons I have stated, that the Board will agree to your request. Nevertheless, I shall present your letter to the Board at its next meeting for a decision and report the result to you.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence F. Michalis  
Chairman of the Board