

THE COOPER UNION ALUMNI PIONEER

Drinking the Kool-Aid: The New Cooper Union

by Barry Drogin, EE '83

Abstract

With the “short-term” problem solved by reducing the full-tuition scholarship to half-tuition, the New Cooper Union embarks on a path to implement new high school, undergraduate, and graduate full-tuition programs to solve the “long-term” problem. Mission, what mission?

“The Board of Trustees will consider each degree granting school’s plan for academic excellence, distinctive vision and financial stability in their decision about whether or not each school can be sustained.”

With those words, President Jamshed Bharucha threatened closure if each school did not provide revenue generating academic programs: \$6M/year for the School of Engineering, \$3.6M/year for the School of Art, and \$2.4M/year for the School of Architecture, half of each target achieved by 2018, the remaining half 3-5 years later.

The faculty drank the Kool-Aid; what follows are the new programs which will comprise the New Cooper Union. While alumni (including recent graduates) make efforts to restore the full-tuition scholarship to undergraduates, all attention is diverted from this not-so-long-term plan, which is why the Board of Trustees is reluctant to relieve Jamshed Bharucha of his duties as President and Chief Academic Officer.

School of Art

“The Pre-College program, Advanced Certificate program, M.A. program, and Masters of Design Practice program are conceptualized by faculty around the principles of the mission.”

[Ed. Note: In this statement, the “mission” of the college is re-defined as merely to have a School of Art, not for the School of Art to be “open and free to all.”]

Pre-College – Two 4-week programs for tri-state area high school students, plus four 12-week 3-hour weekend classes in Fall and Spring

Undergraduate Summer – Four for-credit courses taught by adjuncts (Photography, Graphic Design, Drawing, Painting)

Advanced Studio Certificate- one-year and two-year for-pay post-BFA or “non-traditional academic background” (international – Latin America, Asia) students

M.A. – 36-credit post-BFA graduate program

Masters Design Practice – 60-credit graduate program

School of Architecture

“Creating and organizing a set of revenue-generating programs related to the unique pedagogy of the School and consistent with the high standards of excellence that the School has always maintained.”

[Ed. Note: The architecture faculty assumed merit-based full tuition scholarships, “essential and indispensable” to the college, would be preserved for undergraduates.]

Post-professional Master of Architecture II – expansion to three studios
Professional Summer Workshops – three 4-week programs
Introduction to Architecture – one 4-week summer program for non-B.Arch. undergraduate students
Pre-College – 5-6 week summer program for tri-state area high school students
Pre-College – Prep school lectures, tours and events, paid by prep school
Associate Architecture – 2-year degree
Journal, exhibition publications
Student suggested: one-year furlough prior to 2017-18, student intern program paid to college

School of Engineering

“Does the perception of value come primarily from low cost to our competitors or high return on value?”

[Ed. Note: The engineering faculty desired that Cooper “remain primarily an undergraduate institution” and that the Integrated Master program be retained.]

Double size of graduate program by recruiting non-Cooper undergraduates (international, full-time and part-time domestic) 50/50 full-time/adjunct
Post-BA Pre-Medical Undergraduate program – 2-year for undergraduates with bachelor’s in non-scientific disciplines taught by adjuncts
Accelerated Summer Program – 5-week STEM classes
Pre-College – AP classes on Saturdays and 5-week STEM classes in early and late summer
Entrepreneurial Certificate Program – 1-year (12 month) night or weekend program, includes venture fund

The current version of this document can be found at <http://www.notnicemusic.com/new_cooper.pdf>. Corrections to this document are appreciated and, if based on substantiated facts from legitimate sources, will be implemented by the author. The original version was completed on May 31, 2013.

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