CUAA Executive Committee Retreat and Planning Meeting, July 15, 2013 at 41 Cooper Square

The meeting began at 6:30 PM and finished at 8:55PM.

Attendees:

John Leeper AR’85, CUAA President

Rachel Appel A’12

Don Blauweiss, A’61

Rocco Cetera CE’99

Sean Cusack BSE’98

Xenia Diente A’99

Jason Paul Guzman A’00

Larry Hausman EE’94

Sangamithra Iyer CE 99

Dennis Kong IDE’08

Darrell Low EE’88

Mary Lynch ChE’82

**Scott Lyne ChE’92/MChE’95**

Edmundo Majchrzyk A’09

Mary Ann Nichols A’68

Karen Sandler BSE’97

Greg Skiano A’12

Kelly Smolar CE’07 MCE’11

Robert Tan AR’81

Karina Tipton CE’99

Curtis Wayne AR’75

John Leeper opened the meeting and mentioned that the July Executive meeting and the July Council meeting are both new this year. He will be asking for an August CUAA Council meeting also. Generally there are at least four Council meetings per year and when there are four meeting, Council members are expected to attend at least three meetings, Council members are also expected to participate on at least one committee.

Rocco Cetera invited council members to join the two events committees. They are the Founder’s Day committee and the CU Pop-Up Events committee. Sean Cusack invited council members to join the communications committee or one of the communications related project groups. He foresees many communications projects including website, blog and video projects.

John Leeper than asked each attendee to briefly say what they think the Alumni Association should be or should do in the coming year. The responses were:

Rocco Cetera – Wanted to challenge the notion that we have a scarcity of resources. We have many people who want to contribute, volunteer, and help with our mission. Want to expand the Events Committee and help facilitate people see what they want happen for the CUAA realized. Will begin search for new committee chairs defined in Constitution – Events, Founder’s Day Planning, Class Representative Program, Young Alumni.

Xenia Diente – Would like to see Council Goals restated as sets of tasks that alumni can volunteer for.

Sangamithra Iyer— Would like to have alumni events incorporate some Cooper History. Would like CUAA to have some Literary Salons where Alumni do readings or performances.

Greg Skiano — Likes working in small groups and on projects. He will contribute to website.

Rachel Appel – Would like alumni to be more connected with students. Feels like the students have more activism than the alumni.

Edmundo Majchrzyk – Would like to build a continuum between students, alumni and faculty. Would like to see the influence of the CUAA expanded and would like the CUAA to make decisions more quickly and become more agile.

Dennis Kong – Would like CUAA Goals to be mapped into an implementation plan. Need to better connect with the alumni that are between zero and ten years out of school. Need to allow alumni more ways to connect via the internet.

Jason Paul Guzman – Was surprised to learn that “Free” is not in the CUAA Mission Statement or in the CUAA Charter. He would like to have “Free Education” included in some of the organization’s formal documents.

Darrell Low – Would like to redouble efforts at “Bridge building” because alumni are divided into two major camps as a result of the tuition decision. And he would like the alumni to reach out to students more.

Robert Tan – Need to focus on implementation issues. For example, the Cooper email address project has gone on for years.

Larry Hausman— Would like to see a strengthening of Community –more communication between faculty, administrators, students and alumni.

John Leeper – Would like to foster a greater sense of community by having events that are open to the whole community. These would be large casual events where students, faculty and alumni all feel welcome.

Don Blauweiss – Would like to have a casual event at the Culinary Institute of America where Louis Dorfsman (A'39)’s wall has been moved. He also believes the casual brainstorming meetings with students and alumni are productive and would like to have more of those. Would like the CUAA to put together a DVD about accomplished alumni that will help raise awareness of The Cooper Union among the general public.

Kelly Smolar – Would like to see CUAA finalize Governance issues quickly. She would like to see senior students brought into the Alumni Association. She would like to host a big event on April 23rd 2014, the first anniversary of the tuition announcement. This would be a fund raiser event.

Mary Lynch – Have activities that acknowledge all the subgroups within our alumni association. There are both formal and informal regional and professional groupings.

Sean Cusack – Would like to ideally bring is a billion dollars for the endowment so that the school can be totally free for the students. He would like to crowd more communication into every “Pipeline.” This includes using more video-conferencing and several social media avenues.

**Scott Lyne – Would like to see the CUAA host an event that is fun. He would like more administrative support from the CUAA office during Gano Dunn Award selection proceedings.**

Curtis Wayne – Believes that part of the good that came out of the student activism this year is that alumni are no longer invisible to the students. He believes the CUAA should do more to facilitate alumni-student interaction.

Karina Tipton – Would like the alumni association to be a “bigger umbrella” that covers all kinds of alumni. All alumni are dynamic components of our community. She envisions Council members as bridges to other alumni.

Mary Ann Nichols – Would like to see The Cooper Union better known among the general public. She recommended that we have a project where alumni make videos for You-Tube that showcase the accomplishment of Cooper Union alumni. She would also like to see more outreach done to potential large donors.

Karen Sandler – Would like to see the CUAA Council members meet more often. She suggested that alumni possibly create some pod-casts that showcase various alumni.

John Leeper thanked everyone for their thoughts which he described as an extension and conclusion of our retreat activities that were began on July 15th. He next announced the 3 items that he believes are already on the agenda for the Council meeting on July 24th. They are: A demonstration of the cualumni.com website, a presentation on the Cooper Union Associates by Sangu Iyer, and a series of presentations of motions that are being brought to the Council. The two motions that are currently “on deck” are student motions for representation on the Board of Trustees and for the inclusion of senior students in the alumni association.

Discussion followed on the both the merits of admitting senior students to the alumni association and the possible process for doing so, since it is not allowed by the existing charter – but the charter is undergoing rewrite.

Karina Tipton made a motion asking for the Constitution committee to complete the charter revisions in a timely way.

Karen Sandler made a motion that the CUAA Council vote on accepting the students that will graduate in 2014 as provisional members of the CUAA in September.

Sangu Iyer made a brief presentation on the Associates of Cooper Union which is an organization provided for and described in the school’s charter. This organization was never formed but could be formed if the alumni and trustees see merit in doing so. She will be giving a more detailed presentation at the July 24th Council meeting. She has already written a blog piece about the Associates and will make that blog plus some historical documents available for all attendees to read. The Associates of The Cooper Union is a community of people that includes alumni, business people, professional organizations and others, and is organized for the purposes of raising money for the school. The associates would have a council of 25 members that is empowered to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Robert Tan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean Cusack seconded the motion to adjourn.

LIST OF MOTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (As of 7/24/2013)

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| **Date Proposed** | **Date Voted** | **Motion Carried** | **Description** |
| 5/20/2013 |  | N/A | Formation of Public Service, Alumnus of The Year, Young Alumnus of the Year Award Committee |
| 7/16/2013 | 7/21/2013 | Yes | Agenda Council Meeting, 7/24 |
| 7/16/2013 | 7/18/2013 | Yes | CUAA to host special election process to elect Alumni Representatives to the Gural / Borkowsky Working Group. |
| 7/15/2013 | 7/15/2013 | Yes | Move that the executive committee request the constitution committee prepare and submit a timeline to achieve a rewrite of constitution and bylaws that will be sent for full alumni vote within the current academic year and which includes any motions presented to the Council on7/24/13. |
| 7/15/2013 |  | Pending | *Motion: To amend the constitution to grant voting rights in the Alumni Association to final year students by such means as the Alumni Council determines to be appropriate, such amendment to be submitted to the relevant approval process for formal amendment of the constitution no later than February 2014.* |

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