The first CUAA Council meeting for the 2018 was held on January 9th, 2018 in the Rose Auditorium.

At 6:25 PM, CUAA President Paul Nikulin CE’06 opened the meeting and introduced the guest speaker for the evening. Mike Essl A’9 , Dean of the CU Art School. Mike was introduced as a graphic designer who is also an Art School Dean, And Art Professor, a Mr. T. Collector and a “Conductor of Mayhem.” The title of Mike’s presentation is “How Comic Books Let Me to Graphic Design and The Cooper Union.”

Mike Essl’s presentation provided a humorous look at his professional career beginning with his early introduction to graphic art and comics as a teenager. The presentation can be seen on Livestream video. (This video has been viewed more than 90 times as pf 2/29/18). <https://livestream.com/cooperalumni/Jan2018Council/videos/168295899>

The business portion of the meeting began at 7 AM. Brian Ross made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2017 Council meeting and Lynn Landers seconded the motion. The motion passed via oral vote.

CUAA President Paul Nikulin CE’06 made the following announcements:

* Volunteers are needed to lead the Block Party Committee and to work on the block party. Interested members should contact Paul Nikulin
* Volunteers are needed to join the Communications Committee. Interested members should contact committee chair, Ron Vogel.
* Volunteers are needed to lead Affinity Group efforts. Affinity Groups are subgroups of alumni organized around career fields or other common interests. At the present time there is only one Affinity Group active, which is The Wall Street Group. If you are interested in helping to form a new Affinity group, contact Paul Nikulin.

### David Minder and Laura Scarano recently left their positions at the school in Alumni Affairs and Development (in December 2017). [Nicole Kidston](http://cooper.edu/academics/people/nicole-kidston), Interim Vice President of Alumni Affairs and Development; and Jennifer Durst, Senior Major Gifts Officer/Assistant Director of Development are the CUAA’s primary points of contact now.

**Committee Reports**

**Annual Fund**

Annual Fund Chair, Carol Wolf A’84 provided an update on the Annual Fund. She mentioned that the Weiss Challenge grant helped the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund has approximately 1.5 million dollars which is 8% higher than last year’s fund at this same time of the year. 1.186 million dollars has come from alumni contributions. The average gift is $725. Which is 14% percent higher than the average gift during the preceding year.

**Founder’s Day Committee**

Laura Spinner, Chair of Founder’s Day committee led a discussion on the status of awardee Selection process. Ed Abaid CE’76, said that the Gano Dunn committee would like some more time to deliberate. It was decided to extend the deadline for Award committees to finish their deliberations to January 21, 2018. All the award committee chairs provided updates on their progress. Ed Abaid reported that the Gano Dunn committee is meeting on the coming Wednesday, and will probably need one additional meeting to make final selections. Carol Wolf A’84 reported that the Augustus Saint Gaudens committee will meet on the coming Thursday and expect to finish deliberations then. Wes Rozen AR’05 reported for the John Q. Hejduk committee saying that they were finished with deliberations and Mary Lynch reported for the Peter Cooper Public Service Committee that they were finished with their deliberations.

Laura Spinner announced that the goal is to announce the award winners at the Founder’s Day & Inauguration event on February 6th. The Exec. Committee needs to approve the awardee choices and the prospective awardees need to be contacted prior to the announcement. It was decided that the Exec. Committee will do the approvals electronically and the committee chairs will reach out to the awardees.

**Events Committee**

* Peter Cooper’s Birthday celebration at Mc Sorleys will be February 12th.
* There will be Cooper Together events as well, but little is known about them at this time. Malini Moraghan ChE’00 confirmed that a Cooper Together event is in the planning for Chicago.
* Event’s Committee Chair Hope Wade A’87 is contemplating having a barbeque event.
* Nils Folke Anderson is working on a green roof tour event at the Javitz Center in the Spring
* Christina Ross AR’81 has organized a tour event to the Glass House in New Canaan, CT. on May 19th. This will be a customized tour just for Cooper alumni and students. Reservations will need to be made by March 1st (later changed to April 15th). Tickets are $85.

**Other Business**

CUAA president Paul Nikulin asked members for their feedback on the letter that Rachel Warren sent to the alumni community in December following the December BOT meeting. He also asked for feedback on the Alumni and BOT mixer that was held the night before the December BOT meeting. He wanted to know if these were good ways of providing information on BOT activities to alumni. Multiple people did not remember seeing the letter and a few people commented that the mixer was good as a social event, but was not a conduit for passing along information.

It was agreed that the letter from Rachel should be published on the website and a letter sent to all council members with a link (<http://cooperalumni.org/december-20-2017-email-from-the-bot-chair-rachel-warren/>)

Paul read aloud the Vision Statement and Mission Statement that the Board of Trustees accepted during the December meeting.

**VISION**  
*The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art is dedicated to Peter Cooper’s radical commitment to diversity and his founding vision that fair access to an inspiring free education and forums for courageous public discourse foster a just and thriving world.*

**MISSION**  
*Our mission is to sustain The Cooper Union as a free center of learning and civic discourse that inspires inventive, creative, and influential voices in architecture, art, and engineering to address the critical challenges and opportunities of our time.*

Alumni voiced some of their reactions which included:

*It is a good effort. “Free” is used in both. It is good for the circumstances that we are in.*

*I am concerned by the line about “Fair access.” I am not sure what that means.*

*The vision statement should describe the future.*

*I feel that neither the Mission Statement of the Vision are welcoming to new students.*

**Announcements**

The FEC rereport is going to come out within seven days of the January 15th deadline.

The next Council meeting will be on February 27th, 2018.

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Ed Palacio EE’75 and seconded by Stephen Gerard ME’67. Motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for 02/27/18 from 6 to 8:30 PM.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: Mary Lynch, CUAA Secretary