

October 31, 2011

Dear Mark Epstein, President of the Board of Trustees, The Cooper Union

I am writing to ask that you reject any proposal to remove the admission policy of a merit-based, full-tuition scholarship, essential to the Cooper Union's mission.

As a recent alumnus, I have only just begun to take account of how powerfully my experience at Cooper affected me. Because I was never burdened with tuition or the prospect of enormous debts, I had the unique liberty to study what moved my imagination most, not what felt prudent. I was also proud to be a participant in an institution that was guided by an ideal. More than simply a luxury, "free education" is a principle that inspires me and instructs my belief in the importance of being generous with one's time and work for the betterment of others.

If The Cooper Union is saved in name only, this alone will not be a success. The community—its intimacy, the caliber of the students and faculty it attracts and the enthusiasm it provokes—will be lost. As an alumnus, I urge you to give time and to be transparent with this community so that we can work together to save the institution.

I will help in every way I can.

Sincerely,

Henry Chapman (A'10)