Student Forum Notes

20th April 2023

Participants:

- Minna Ellis (Chair), CSM Sabbatical Officer
- Sophia Nasif-Whitestone, LCC Sabbatical Officer
- 9 UAL students

Arts SU staff attendees:

- Helena Schofield, Representation & Democracy Manager
- Rachel Wornell, Educational Quality Coordinator
- Emily Sellon, Educational Quality Coordinator

Item	Presenter	Notes
Welcomes Overview of agenda & count number of attendees	**Minna Ellis, Sabbatical officer**	Arts SU Student Forums bring together students and officers to develop the Unions policies, campaigns, and projects to ensure the work we do is reflective of the student voice. To note: some ideas on the original agenda have been omitted because the student presenter couldn't attend and did not provide materials to present the idea. Including: Keeping the darkroom bar after LCC's move. 11 voting members. Voting members include current students and Sabbatical Officers.
Idea: Guarantor Scheme	**Presenter** Kamila Jaworska	Video presented with Kamila Jaworska's idea as Kamila couldn't attend the forum in person. **Idea presentation**: A guarantor is a person or entity who agrees to pay your rent in the event you cannot pay it. Average room in London costs £952 a month in 2023, so a guarantor must earn at least £34,272. UAL halls aren't available for all students. Other London universities have a guarantor scheme, including UCL, Queen Mary, and Goldsmiths. Guarantor scheme is a must to make studying in London possible for less privileged students. Full idea text [here](#). **Discussion**: • Student attendee offered their support for the idea and shared that they had a difficult time finding a guarantor. • Sophia shared that this idea would improve the image of UAL as classist. • Student attendee shared that at the NUS conference students discussed difficulty of

		finding housing and that it should be the responsibility of the institution.
		• Student attendee brought up effect of Brexit on international students. If students are having to pay higher rates as international students, there should be a greater benefit of that given the high cost of living in London. Offered full support for the idea.
		• Student attendee brought up that housing not only impacts international students, but mature students. Particularly difficult to find place as a student with a partner as a student.
		Vote: 7 votes to approve. 0 votes to reject. 0 votes to abstain.
		Result: The idea passes.
Idea: Keep Police Off UAL Campuses	**Minna Ellis, Sabbatical officer**	Minna Ellis and Sophia Nasif-Whitestone presented on behalf of Kim Hughes, another Sabbatical officer who was not able to attend the forum.
		Idea presentation: This idea was presented at the Annual Members Meeting. In October 2022, UAL stated they would be inviting police onto campuses for a week of safety programming to provide information and free items. Sabbatical teams felt it wouldn't be appropriate to invite serving Met officers to campus who had arresting powers. Sabbatical officers spoke to students about the event and students shared they weren't comfortable with police coming to campus. Sabbatical team raised issue with UAL, pointing to reports of institutional racism, sexual harassment, and lack of trust students have in the police. After a few of the workshops did take place, UAL cancelled the remainder based on the concerns sabbatical officers raised. The idea not stating that police could not ever come to campus, but that students should be consulted and should only be coming to campus in students' best interest.
		Full idea text [here]().
		Discussion: • Student attendee expressed that they were sad to hear about UAL's response given the student feedback. Raised that students may have different understandings of the Met police and may not be aware of full context. Question: what could be the repercussions of the Met police coming to campus?

		• Sophia: there have been reports of mistreatment of people of colour, trans people, queer people, and women by the police. Safety workshops should cover things that make students feel more confident not victim blaming. There are articles linked on the idea page that show examples of what was making students feel uncomfortable with police coming to campus. • Minna: as educational places, students have told us it's not in their interest to have police on campus. • Sophia: another big issue was the lack of transparency from UAL. • Student attendee: offered support for having safety workshops in general. Different countries have different policies around self-defence, e.g., if you can carry pepper spray. Organisations who aren't linked with the Met could be useful. • Sophia: UAL does work with organisations for safety training, would like those to be expanded. **Vote:** 8 votes to approve. 1 vote to reject. 2 vote to abstain. **Result**: The idea has passed.
Idea: Have the SU run merchandise competitions	**Student Presenter** Katie Cray	**Idea presentation**: Play on strength of institution full of artists and designers, to have student-designed merch. Proud to have attended to UAL, but not willing to spend money on the current merch. Idea inspired by another institution that has a yearly theme, and the design of the merch matches the theme. A simple thing that could be easily implemented and would make a big difference in terms of making people proud. As well, would be great for the portfolio for the students who get picked. Full idea text here. **Discussion**: • Sophia: Support this idea. Already done for Grayson Perry's robes. At Kingston, every year they have 6 different styles you could choose from. Helpful to have students backing this idea, because the SU is interested in this. • Minna: there is already a process for students submitting ideas for graduation prints, but not currently an offering for merch. Could potentially work with Made In Arts London. • Student attendee: offered support for this idea as they felt it would make sense for University known for creativity. Since the current scheme is just black and white, advocated that the designs could be different themes and colour schemes.

		Would be a great opportunity to personalise something. • Student attendee question: is it only for students graduating, or any UAL students could submit ideas? • Katie: Lends itself to new students and students leaving. Could keep it open to everyone but have a feeling that those that submit would be graduating. • Student attendee Question: can students buy merch after graduation? • Sophia: Can buy merch in-person. **Vote:** 11 vote to approve. 0 vote to reject. 0 vote to abstain. **Result:** The idea passes.
Idea: Continued access to University facilities and services after graduating	**Student Presenter** Juhye Moon	**Idea presentation:** During the COVID lockdown students were not able to access facilities even though they paid full tuition fees. In a survey sent to students, students shared that they were lacking technical skills that the industry expects. Although tutors have tried to offer ways for students to catch up, offering access after graduation would help students. Although the current students would be priority, could greatly benefit alumni and provide opportunities for graduating students and current students to interact. Full idea text here. **Discussion:** • Minna: this idea has already achieved over 100 votes on the SU Ideas platform. So, it has already passed. But we can discuss it here. • Student attendee question: talking about studio, workshop, and/or access to libraries? • Juhye: Would propose access to everything. • Student attendee: students who graduate do have access to libraries. Offered support to this idea so that students can access workshops that they haven't been able to access while a student. Ties into conversations that have occurred at Wimbledon. • Juhye: made the point that workshops are not always fully attended. • Minna: can only access libraries by signing up to Alumni Services. Have to book in advance. Regardless of whether COVID has impacted your studies, would be good to access service. • Student attendee question: what is the difference of an alumni id to a student id? What are the access differences?

		- Minna: Difficult to figure out what alumni do get access to. Alumni do have to book into the library. - Student attendee: Maybe getting UAL to be clearer on what is offered? - MInna: Agree with that, first step of this policy would be to be clear on what UAL does offer. - Helena: because the idea has already passed, the team has started to collate what is currently offered to alumni. - Student attendee raised that when students graduate, they lose access to adobe, would support having continued access to it. - Student attendee raised that they've been able to access workshops for personal use if they pay for materials. Sometimes feel technicians are not as welcoming to personal projects. Understands they need to prioritise course work, but maybe there could be designated time for alumni. Offered full support for the idea. - Minna: spoke with head of technical resources at CSM about extended hours in the workshops and weekend openings, which do happen based on student need. If there is a big demand from students, technical resources have said they would consider it. - Student attendee: does alumni include every single alumni? Would there be a cap on who could have access? Would potentially be unrealistic to not have a cap. - Student attendee: seconded this point. Potentially paying a small amount could be beneficial. - Student attendee shared that if you work with Artstemps, for example, you can continue to get access after graduating. But unsure about ability to use the workshop. Could potentially open access in extended hours (after 5, e.g.). Would involve more people working but could be an idea. **Vote:** no voting necessary due to passing on the SU Ideas platform. **Result:** The idea passes.
Any other business		Sophia will contact the student directly who submitted the idea concerning the darkroom bar after LCC's move.

		Minna thanked all attendees for their time and discussion. All ideas that have been voted on today have been voted to become policy. Next steps: all of those who have submitted ideas will be contacted by the Representation & Democracy Team. Sabbatical team will start lobbying on behalf of the passed ideas.