

Student Dean Forum Term 1 23/24: CCW Fine Art

Date of forum: 23/11/23	UAL Staff in Attendance: Hazel, Sian (PD Fine Art), Sam, Paul Springer, Heather Malone	Arts SU Officer in Attendance: Lexa Barbulescu	Arts SU Staff Facilitator: Rachel Wornell
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Theme:

Deans and Course Reps were asked for any points they wished to raise on the agenda in advance. Topics raised included: feedback on welcome/induction, building collaboration/community, and the UAL artist non-payment policy.

Topic	Feedback from Course Reps	Response and/or Suggested Solution
Use of studios over the Christmas period	<p>MA Painting Reps: Asking for extended opening hours over the winter break. They are currently running a petition to have studio spaces extended over the Christmas break – even if that is just a week or two instead of the whole holiday.</p> <p>This issue is particularly important to international students who are not able to return home over the break.</p> <p>37 students are on the course and all agree with the petition. Not all would necessarily use the studio over winter break, but they estimate c. 20 might actually want to use the studio over the break.</p> <p>Aware that the Learning Zone and library spaces remain open for longer, but these spaces are not workable for painters and sculptors. Reps have spoken with Course Leader Geraint to define what “messy” work is acceptable in the Learning Zone.</p> <p>Learning Zone, like the library, is not a workable space for painters and sculptors.</p> <p>Other students agree and think it could be useful to commuter students who live in London. They could also continue to access studios over the break.</p>	<p>LB: Has just finished a piece of research on this. Time, resources are already allocated for right now – but is looking at future change.</p> <p>SE: Will not be able to make changes for this winter break, resources and staffing etc have to be agreed long in advance, so dates cannot be changed for this year. However, there is still access to shared spaces like the Learning Zone and the library.</p> <p>More work is being done on this across the campus, and it is hoped the outcomes can be published before Easter for change to potentially be made by next winter.</p> <p>The term time page on the website has all dates and details about when there will be studio access.</p> <p>Action: Sam to speak to the Learning Zone and find out what is defined as “messy” work that cannot be done in the space.</p> <p>Action: Sam to check in to see if extra spaces (such as Millbank) is open and available this winter break.</p> <p>Action: Sam to discuss this issue with the MA Painting Course Leader</p>
Facilities	<p>MA Photography?: There is a constant evolution in the art world and specifically in photography – it would be good to keep the university’s kit up to date with emerging technology e.g. motion tracking and thermal imaging. The rep has spoken to the technicians about new technology, but the feedback from them is that it’s a very long process to acquire new kit.</p>	<p>Sam: Chris Followes is the emerging tech manager who works across CCW. If you have ideas about what new kit could be good, you can reach out to him and discuss. He would be the person who would be able to pilot new tech and then potentially scale it if it is successful. The procurement process is robust, however, it does</p>

		<p>tend to take about a year to invest in expensive new kit.</p> <p>For those interested: There is mo-cap tech in Wimbledon. There are also 20 AR headsets which are going into the central loan store soon. Course Leader could link up with Chris if these would be useful on your course.</p>
MA Computational Arts: access to resources and tutorials	<p>MA Computational Arts: Software can't be downloaded to all laptops (mainly as the files are just too big to be downloaded). There are only four powerful PCs for the whole course in studio – so people have to share during teaching. They would like a computer lab or access to more powerful computers as students' own laptops aren't powerful enough and powerful computing is central to the course content.</p> <p>Students feel like there is very little contact time. The course leader is part time, they have one tutorial a week, and one guest lecturer a term.</p>	<p>Action: Sam will pick up resources access and contact time issues with Max, the course leader.</p>
Teaching spaces and resources in those spaces	<p>MA Painting: students feel they maybe have access to less space than previously. Think this could be linked to a larger cohort on the course.</p> <p>There are also problems with timetabling – there are lots of last minute changes (e.g. changes the day before). Also there is a timetabling email sent every Friday with the week ahead's timetable and this often doesn't synch with information on SELCAT.</p> <p>MA Drawing: Also had the issue with space, but it is better now there are fewer students in the second year.</p> <p>MA Computational Arts: There is also a very small space, which is specifically hard with computational arts (as they do large installations etc).</p>	<p>SE: Space is finite, but it is constantly under review. Space allocation and student number estimation has been particularly difficult coming out of Covid. If students are working on large pieces of work, suggest discussing with your tutor so each student can have space allocated to them based on their individual need.</p> <p>Peckham Levels are not available for teaching, but they are bookable for student work.</p> <p>Action: SE to get Peckham Levels Leader to speak to Course Leaders to discuss if these courses might be able to make use of their spaces.</p> <p>PS: There are lots of things that can be done if there are issues with space. It would be good to know what other universities etc count as "enough space" so there is something to compare it to.</p> <p>Action: SE to talk to MA Painting Course Leader about timetabling issues (Selcat not synching with emailed timetables and last minute changes to timetabling).</p>

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Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union

Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff	Update on Progress
Sam to speak to the Learning Zone and find out what is defined as "messy" work that cannot be done in the space.	
Sam to check in to see if extra spaces (such as Millbank) is open and available this winter break.	
Sam to discuss this issue of studio space allocation with the MA Painting Course Leader	
Sam to pick up MA Computational Arts resources access and contact time issues with Max, the course leader.	
Sam to get Peckham Levels Leader to speak to Course Leaders to discuss if these courses might be able to make use of their spaces.	
Sam to talk to MA Painting Course Leader about timetabling issues (Selcat not synching with emailed timetables and last minute changes to timetabling).	
Actions for Students' Union	Update on Progress