

Student Dean Forum Term 2 23/24: CSM Art, Performance, PCID, JTM			
Date of forum: 21/02/24	UAL Staff in attendance: Catherine George, Associate Dean of Quality Jonathan Carson, Associate Dean Student Experience	Arts SU Officer in attendance: Minna Ellis	Arts SU Staff in attendance: Emily Sellon, EQC Lee Anderson, EQC
Number of student reps in attendance: 22			

Theme:

Deans, College Officers, and Student Reps were asked for any points they wished to raise on the agenda in advance. Topics raised included: cost of study and the free soup offering. Technical resource feedback was suggested but was not included on the agenda due to time constraints.

Topic	Feedback from Course Reps /UAL staff updates
Update on actions from previous forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Platform Theatre for performance students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There have been bookings from outside performance to get the most from the space. As space is limited, need to sometimes use spaces for alternate purposes. • Share Technical Resources feedback with The Head of Technical Resources for their consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared feedback with heads of technical resources. Perhaps have a standing item for term 1 around technical resources and invite technical resources staff to attend. • Feedback to relevant course staff delivering online MA courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Did feedback to staff. • Share feedback about central Student Services to colleagues who deliver these services, so student concerns/perceptions can be considered by that team. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jonathan did feedback to associate dean of students for wellbeing and inclusion. ○ Student services offices now up and running – was a period where it had to be online, but now behind the reception area and up and running. • Feedback on collaborative experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minna fed back to working group and College Academic Committee. ○ Jonathan Carson also fed back to staff who lead creative unions and collaborative units for post grad.
Heating in Archway Building	<p>The rep who raised this item was not in attendance at the forum.</p> <p>SU will follow up with student and connect them with Jonathan Carson.</p> <p>Catherine George reached out to building staff to enquire about the issue.</p>
Cost of Study	<p>Student Rep Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials and resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Printing at the library has doubled its cost. ○ Materials and resources are more expensive, and so students are not able to make the quality or quantity of work they would like to.

- Students would like a bigger discount or free access to Adobe Suite and SketchUp. They also advocated for an alumni offer, even if temporary, to support looking for work and creating portfolios.
 - Minna shared that there is precedent of free Adobe access at other institutions. She also shared that there is free access on UAL computers. SU has advocated for this position but has been told that to pay for the cost, there would need to be significant cuts in other areas.
 - Catherine shared that an additional concern is creating a reliance on Adobe products leading students to pay hundreds of pounds to keep using the products after graduation.
 - Reps pointed to the fact that courses and technical resources use Adobe.
- Materials within the art shop are very expensive. A rep advocated for a loyalty scheme at the art shop. Another rep advocated for a discount for disabled or low-income students.
- Need for basic materials in the studios, such as tape, pencils, paper, nails, hammers, etc.
- A fine art rep advocated for basic materials and stated that some students weren't making physical work because they weren't able to afford supplies.
 - Catherine will follow up on materials trolleys for BA Fine Art.
- Scrap material has been sparse as some technicians have been throwing useful resources away in the casting workshop. Rep advocated for the re-use of clay and silicone moulds.
- Reps advocated for cleaning materials provided in studios. Concern shared over mixing of chemicals due to students bringing in their own supplies.
- Space onsite:
 - Lack of space for making and keeping work onsite means that ambition for the work is affected (unless students can afford the minivans back and forth). Rep proposed idea of small lockers being replaced by fewer, but larger lockers.
 - Catherine will take this forward.
 - The studios aren't able to accommodate everyone, some people have rented out their own studio spaces which is extremely frustrating.
 - MAPS students expressed the desire for access to 3D workshops and project spaces beyond the area at the back of the Platform Theatre. They seek facilities like those available to Fine Arts or design students, where they can engage in activities such as painting or building projects. The absence of these dedicated spaces has been noted as a discouraging factor for students, impacting their ability to pursue certain types of work.
- Balancing work and study:
 - Students cannot afford to be at UAL full time as they're needing to work to pay rent, then they get penalised for not being in full time.
- Canteen:
 - Concerns about the canteen raising prices for both lunches and the café.
 - Multiple reps pointed to the fact that Waitrose is often cheaper than the canteen.
 - Minna shared that this is an area that SU has and will continue to advocate for. The SU has been told that the external contractor already operates on a loss and cutting costs would lead to cuts.
- Loan store:
 - Multiple reps relayed concerns about fines at the loan store, pointing out that sometimes the fine becomes so steep that students cannot return the item or take out new items, because they can't afford to pay the fine.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reps advocated for payment plans, so that students could return items and continue to take things out, while paying the fine. ○ Others advocated for no fines, but just limits on taking out new items. ○ They also advocated for taking individual circumstances into account, e.g. if a disabled student cannot return an item on a particular day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jonathan will take feedback to Technical Resouces, who manage Loan Store. ● Positive feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MA Industrial Design rep felt the resources and facilities are quite good. Have access to materials like metal sheets, tubes etc. and several scrap materials for free which are good enough for making prototypes. Also praised the access to electronics components in the digital prototyping labs. ○ Multiple reps shared that they were thankful for the return of the swap shop.
Free soup offer	<p>Rep feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students generally praised the free soup offer, but several noted that they thought it could be advertised better in digital and physical communications. ● Reps noted that there had been some confusion about the trial vs the full offering. Students had thought that once the trial was over it was finished. ● Emailed in feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The free soup has gone down well with people I'm close to who were previously struggling to afford a proper meal. I don't believe people have taken advantage of it as many understand it's purpose. ○ I do believe it could be advertised a little better as I was unaware of it for quite some time, whether that be a flyer round the uni or something similar.
Other feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSM building 4D studios have had issues with heating as well as lights. The lights currently are not working for students, they can only be switched off and on by our leader by calling to the technical services. ● Reps advocated for recording sessions in courses, particularly for disabled students. ● Improving the timetable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The improvements that started happening on Moodle, such as listing online session links and recordings in one space, were useful. ○ Timetable could go along a similar route and be a space where all the necessary information could be found in one spot. My suggestion to include more detailed information and direct links to relevant Moodle pages about assigned groups and times for projects, workshops and CS events. ● Hostility towards PDP students from security of fashion shows within the PDP spaces.

Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union

Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff	Update on Progress
Jonathan and Catherine to feedback cost of study concerns in relevant spaces.	
Jonathan and Rebecca to raise feedback on soup offering.	
Catherine to take forward issue of small lockers being replaced by larger lockers.	
Catherine to follow up on materials trolleys.	

Catherine to take forward MAPS students' concerns.	
Catherine to take forward feedback on recording sessions on courses.	
Jonathan to take Loan Store feedback to technical resources.	
Jonathan to take 4D studios feedback to estates team.	
Jonathan to circle back to issue of security staff treatment of PDP students.	

Actions for SU	Update on Progress
Follow up with Archway heating student and connect with Jonathan Carson.	