

Student Dean Forum Term 1 23/24: CSM Culture & Enterprise, Spatial Practices, GCD, Fashion			
Date of forum: 29/11/23	UAL Staff in attendance: Rebecca Wright, School Dean Jonathan Carson, Associate Dean Student Experience	Arts SU Officer in attendance: Minna Ellis	Arts SU Staff in attendance: Emily Sellon, EQC

Theme:

Deans, College Officers, and Student Reps were asked for any points they wished to raise on the agenda in advance. Topics raised included: collaborative units/creative unions, timing of graduation and grad shows, and general feedback.

Topic	Feedback from Course Reps	Response and/or Suggested Solution
Collaborative Units/ Creative Unions/ Collaborative experiences	<p>CRs provided feedback on their own experiences of collaborative units (including cross-college units such as Creative Unions) and what they've heard from their peers. In their reflections CRs thought about and shared feedback on other units (as well as Creative Unions) where collaboration takes place within a programme area (such as units in Fashion that shared projects between Fashion Communication and Fashion Design):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult and chaotic. Wouldn't change much about it, but it was challenging. • Found the Disney Frozen project strange, not relevant to Menswear. • Several reps shared difficulty of large group sizes. • Suggested moving project to the end of the year, when people are already more comfortable with one another. • Would like more guidance on how to organise roles. • Would like more parameters and guidelines on collaborating for final projects and collections. • Felt like they were dropped into the project without a lot of support. • Would like help building relationships with each other and organisations. • Suggested that team size is reflected in outcomes. Different group sizes with the same outcome doesn't work. • Students want to work together, but not sure how to do it. 	<p>Rebecca shared that it was helpful to hear experiences across courses and that these observations can feed into their ongoing reflection on collaborative units and how to support staff in these projects.</p> <p>Jonathan shared reflection on collaboration vs interdisciplinary and the distinction and tension between the two.</p> <p>Rebecca shared support for a clearer marking scheme for collaborative work, so that by the final year students are familiar with the grading model.</p> <p>Minna to take feedback to collaborative unit working group.</p>
Timing of graduation and exhibition	A CR shared the difficulty in having graduation and exhibition scheduled so far apart. For international students in particular, families have to choose	Rebecca explained the reasons behind the gap. Showcases need to take place in term time to ensure students can attend. Graduation dates are determined by the

	between seeing the final exhibition or attending graduation.	assessment timeline, so unfortunately little that can be done to change those dates. Rebecca will feedback to relevant parts of UAL, but not expecting any change to the schedule.
General Feedback	<p>Induction feedback: MA reps shared that because they started in October, it was difficult set up inductions on orb and in workshops.</p> <p>Facilities: reps noted that they had received feedback that showers aren't working or blocked off.</p> <p>Wifi issues: reps shared issues with the wifi, namely in M302 for fashion communications.</p> <p>Knitwear studio access: reps felt the access is limited and that the timetable wasn't effectively communicated with students. Felt that better communication would help students make better use of their time. Additionally, some machinery wasn't being used.</p> <p>Publication workshop: reps felt ongoing concerns about access to workshop. Felt access was too limited and would like time to experiment on machines. They also expressed the unique difficulty of quick turnaround time on briefs, so not having enough time to know what they'll need to book. Reps suggested days for just MA use.</p>	<p>Jonathan will bundle technical resource feedback from this SDF with the other recent SDF that had taken place at CSM to take to technical resources.</p> <p>Rebecca shared that currently 2 showers are operational, but they're in the process of renovating the space to have more showers, additional quiet space, and space for breastfeeding. Rebecca felt updated comms to all students would be helpful, so they know about these updates.</p> <p>Rebecca shared that UAL IT are working on project to improve wifi, and should improve greatly over the next 2 – 3 weeks.</p> <p>Jonathan will now sit on governance group on IT about IT User experience (including student experience), so students can share IT feedback with him. Student representation is being sought for this group via Arts SU. Issues regarding WiFi concerns will be fed to that group and reported elsewhere for action by Jonathan.</p> <p>Rebecca will raise both issues of studio access to technical resources and involve programme directors.</p>

Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union

Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff	Update on Progress
Jonathan and Rebecca to raise feedback on collaborative units when and where applicable.	
Rebecca to feedback to relevant central UAL teams on concerns over showcase/exhibition timing and graduation.	
Jonathan to bundle technical feedback with other relevant CSM SDF feedback and take that forward with Technical Resources staff.	

Rebecca will also share technical feedback and involve programme directors as well.	
Updated comms to students on plans for showers and quiet space.	
Jonathan to report feedback about WiFi at new governance group he is part of, and in other relevant contexts for action.	

Actions for SU	Update on Progress
Minna to take feedback on collaborative units to working group.	