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| Student Dean Forum Term 1 21/22: School of Media – LCC | | | |
| Date & Time:  23/11/21  13.00 - 14.00 | UAL Staff in Attendance:  Steve Cross – Dean of Media, LCC | Arts SU Officer in Attendance:  Rachel Williams, Education Officer | Arts SU Staff Facilitator:  Charlie Souter – Phillips, Education Quality Co-ordinator |
| Course Rep in attendance: 16 in meeting / out of 59 more invited reps in school (27% turnout) | | | |
| Mural Link:  <https://app.mural.co/t/artsstudentsunion1479/m/artsstudentsunion1479/1637662890563/24d22595d912b743c108d2eb2a81880cf5bc5c93?sender=u4ebbd0dc53659c8de2006384> | | | |

**Theme: 1 Month Review at UAL**

Course reps we’re asked to provide feedback from their courses/cohorts on topics centred around the student experience been in their first month back/starting in their studies. - what has worked well for students /positive outcomes.

1. Students experiences of Big Welcome and induction/return to University
2. How are students finding the blended learning model (online/physical teaching)
3. How are students connecting and finding their social community
4. Health & Safety on Campus

We recognise how important the first month/transition to University and study is to students and want to ensure this is a positive experience for everyone.

Positives feedback and successes:

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| **Topic** | **Feedback from Mural** |
| Big Welcome & Inductions | * MAPJD YR1: 'the library is GREAT, they have every book that I look for.' |
| Blended Learning Model | * Students find that they enjoy in person lessons more than online lessons as they are more engaged * Media Communications first year: Will the groups be mixing throughout the year or do they change only once a year?   Action: Stephen to ask course tutor about the year group mixing for media communications course   * Very well. Easy to engage, 24/7 access to the materials but the learning itself is better on site * Year 3 Journalism: The online lessons enable us to stay up-to-date through recordings, especially when we have to organise interviews * Any predictions for when all classes could be on site again?   Stephen’s response: We recognize that on site is found to be more engaging generally, so have tried to include as much on-site activity as currently allows. The direction of travel is to be back on site by next year in block two and then hopefully all on site for next academic year. However, this plan doesn’t include moving things like 20-minute tutorials offline as staff and students have found they work better online (e.g. hosting these online saves on travel time).   * Although most of us understand blended learning, we shouldn't have any units where we don’t meet the tutors at least once during the term in a group lecture. Not in a private tutorial. * MAPJD YR1: 'inductions set aside based on/for each program would be really helpful and give everyone an equal advantage. Also would be great if LCC and its library were opened both earlier and later in the day.’   Stephen’s response: Library staff like to hear there is appetite for more library access. You can expect library opening hours to extend as deadlines approach.  Action: Stephen to feedback about generally the library having longer opening hours. |
| Learning Community | * MAPJD YR1: 'Very encouraged by the mental health and arts workshops - more please. Overall happy - thank you.'   Stephen’s response: We are putting on as many mental health workshops as possible, we know this is important and we also need to acknowledge the impact of COVID on mental health. |
| Health & Safety on Campus |  |

Room for improvement:

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| **Topic** | **Feedback from Mural** | **Suggested Solutions** |
| Big Welcome & Inductions | * Many students were not aware of Big Welcome talks. Those that were aware were often those who had enrolled early and had a longer lead in time. In particular, many MA students hadn’t heard about it as they enrol much later.   Action: Stephen to raise with the Big Welcome team that their message didn’t get through to students, especially MA students who enrol later in the year.  Charlie’s response: The SU is aware of difference in experience of undergraduate and postgraduate students and a focus of work going forward is trying to make PG students feel more involved.   * Is there an specific area such as the place to talk with ArtsSU at LCC? * It would be important a desk not only for ArtsSu but also somewhere to get all the information that we get via emails. e.g., all workshops, talks, opportunities in general.   Charlie: Arts SU are currently based in the High Holborn building – will be looking at having a presence on again soon. | *Stephen to raise with the Big Welcome team that their message didn’t get through to students, especially MA students who enrol later in the year.*  *The SU is aware of difference in experience of undergraduate and postgraduate students and a focus of work going forward is trying to make PG students feel more involved.* |
| Blended Learning Model | * Online lectures have been difficult. And the fact that we have been put in small groups that made it quite difficult to communicate with students from other groups. * MAPJD YR1: 'Why can’t MA students get earlier access to darkroom/tech workshops? There aren’t enough slots for workshops and inductions. Our course is only 15 months long, and I don’t feel like I am benefiting from it. There isn’t enough equipment at all in the kit'   Stephen’s response: The number of induction slots available is due to health & safety regulations. Karen (head of health and safety for photography) is looking at how to increase inductions.  Action: Stephen to feedback if there is new information about the availability of inductions and dark room access.   * As study has been interrupted for two years, could graduating students have continued access to support, resources, and networks after they complete their course. This would allow them to “make up” some of what they missed out on during their course.   Stephen: This is an ongoing discussion. Last year, graduates had some access to support for one term after graduation but discussions about what support students graduating this year might receive are still in progress.  Action: Stephen to talk to Simon about this continued access for Journalism students after graduation.   * Journalism: The guest talkers and also collaboration with LCF are great and we could certainly have more. But all lectures online are not great at all.   Stephen’s response: Agree these talks have gone well. We were able to host book launches and get speakers from all over the world, who would likely have been too busy/ too far away to speak on a physical panel event.  Also agree that not all lectures work online – when we first moved to online delivery there was an assumption that all lectures would work better online as students would be available to students on demand etc., but it became clear that there wasn’t the opportunity to build community with online lectures and there wasn’t the chance to ask direct questions. So, going forward, digital will be used to enhance teaching rather than as core business.   * MAPJD: online group presentations really don’t work with a group of 40. We had 10 presentations to do in two hours. We have spoken to the tutors about it, but that format definitely doesn't work for blended learning. It’s easier to time keep in person I think.   Action: Stephen to feedback to MAPJD course leader that timekeeping was hard online, and the online crit sessions didn’t work well online.   * Student Dean Forums would work well in a blended environment, people would like the chance to met in person, but should also be available online   Action: Charlie and Stephen to explore if Student Dean Forums can be hosted in person with a blended element  Action for course reps: Please feedback on what has worked well in person and what has worked online. Please also share if you have enough opportunities to give your feedback to staff and have that feedback acted upon | *Stephen to feedback if there is new information about the availability of inductions and dark room access.*  *Stephen to talk to Simon about this continued access for Journalism students after graduation.* |
| Learning Community | * Could there be more social activities at LCC (as in clubs or society meetings held there instead of other campuses)   Charlie’s response: This term the Students Union are figuring out how to get back out into colleges in term two. The Clubs and Societies team are hosting an [information workshop Thursday 2nd December](https://www.arts-su.com/ents/event/890/), where you can feedback on what activities you’re interested in.  Rachel’s response: She is currently speaking to Armani (Activities Officer) and there are plans in the works for more activities. Students should get in touch if they have any ideas for activities they want.     * Where can you find SU representation at LCC?   Rachel’s response: Terry is working on finding a desk near the information centre, but currently there is not a campus presence.  Stephen asked if students have enough opportunity to give feedback on their courses and whether that feedback was acted upon:   * MAPJD – tutors check in a lot with reps to get students’ feedback. Max and Ed asked for feedback and based off that feedback; online crits were hosted. However, it is hard for students to feedback to UAL itself, particularly for older or international students who aren’t familiar with the structures in place. The SU have also been great with asking for feedback from course reps, but some students don’t know about the work of the SU. To increase awareness of the SU, it could be included more in inductions. * Stephen’s response: Agrees there needs to better mechanisms for feedback to be given on a university level, not just at course level. |  |
| Health & Safety on Campus | * The open windows in the library (silent zone) make it almost impossible to focus there - noise from outside and it is COLD   Stephen’s response: Admits that as some degree of precaution is necessary at the moment (especially looking at the worsening situation in Europe), that there are trade-off and that it can be uncomfortable with the windows open.  However, believes that that is better that than another lockdown.   * More rigid on COVID-19 protection/facemask, positive isolation and checking. * 'Much more gentle environment, possibly with lesser parameters/standards for students than I have previously experienced' * People wanting more rigid guidelines on mask wearing etc. * Will rising Covid case numbers mean that the university will have stricter Covid protocols   Stephen’s response: We will be guided by the government’s advice on whether to make social distancing & mask wearing compulsory. Stephen has made clear that he’d prefer students to wear masks on site, but that is not something LCC can enforce as it is not the government’s policy. LCC are already erring on the side of caution by having policies such as keeping windows open. Already making compromises – e.g. keeping windows open and asking for masks to be worn. If the situation does get worse, regulations will change.   * What happens in January if students currently on covid absence are in a country where new lockdowns/ travel restrictions are imposed?   Action: Stephen to confirm what the protocol will be as he is currently unclear on this. As it stands, students are being encouraged to return by January, but isn’t aware of any discussions around what students should do if there’s another lockdown. |  |

**Action Log for School Dean & Students’ Union**

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| **Actions for School Dean** | **Update on Progress** | **Response to students** |
| Stephen to ask media communications (first year) course tutor whether groups will be mixing throughout the year or just once per year | I emailed Thomas Giagkoglou, the Course Leader, and he has confirmed that all class groups are reshuffled in for Block Two. | I emailed Thomas Giagkoglou, the Course Leader, and he has confirmed that all class groups are reshuffled for Block Two. |
| Stephen to feedback that students want longer library opening hours | I have emailed Tania Olssen in the Library to ask what the opening hours policy will be in Spring Term | Tania replied with a very comprehensive report on the library’s opening hours and reminded everyone to check the full library availability at UAL:  https://www.arts.ac.uk/students/library-services/opening-hours-and-locations  She also said that outside of Term time, use of the library drops off dramatically and so it’s not possible to keep it open longer than it currently is. She also reminded anyone who needs an all-night library session to check when CSM has 24-hour opening and to use this library there if necessary. |
| Stephen to raise with the Big Welcome team that their message didn’t get through to students, especially MA students who enrolled later in the year | The BW Team say that they will take this feedback on board for next year and thanked the reps for their feedback. | The BW Team say that they will take this feedback on board for next year and thanked the reps for their feedback. |
| Stephen to feedback to course reps if/ when there is new information about the availability of inductions and dark room access | Karen Shepherdson, the Photography Programme Director, will be briefing students in January on access issues. | Karen Shepherdson, the Photography Programme Director, will be briefing students in January on access issues. |
| Stephen to talk to Simon about whether journalism students can continue to receive support and after graduation | The discussions on this are ongoing | This will need to be a decision made at UAL level and we are waiting for a response from the University Executive Board on post-graduation support. |
| Stephen to feedback to MAPJD course leader that timekeeping was hard online, and the online crit sessions weren’t great. | Have done so. | Max and Ed are aware of this already and almost certainly won’t run another online crit in the same format – thanks for the feedback! |
| Charlie and Stephen to explore if next Student Dean Forums can be hosted in person with a blended element | **We will discuss ahead of the Spring Term Forum.** |  |
| Stephen to confirm what the protocol would be if students on Covid absence aren’t able to return in January because their country goes into a lockdown |  | The University decision is that student who cannot arrive in January will need to defer. |
| **Actions for Students’ Union** | **Update on Progress** | **Response to students** |
| Charlie and Stephen to explore if Student Dean Forums can be hosted in person with a blended element |  |  |