

## Student Dean Forum Term 1 23/24: LCF Design and Technology

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| Date of forum:<br>29/11/23 | UAL Staff in attendance:<br>Claudine Rousseau, School Dean<br><br>Annamarie Mckie, Associate Dean<br>Student Experience<br><br>Gavin Jenkins, Director of Technical<br>Resources/Learning Environments | Arts SU Officer in attendance:<br>Katwamba Mutale, LCF Officer | Arts SU Staff in attendance:<br><br>Emily Sellon, EQC<br><br>Lee Anderson, EQC |
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### Theme:

Deans, College Officers, and Student Reps were asked for any points they wished to raise on the agenda in advance. Topics raised included: feedback on Eastbank building, decolonising the curriculum, and general feedback.

| Topic                       | Feedback from Course Reps /Staff Response   |
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| East Bank building feedback | <p>A Course Rep (CR) asked for any updates on the Art Shop.</p> <p>CR questioned if they could use the fire exit stairs even in instances where there's no fire.</p> <p>Lifts: CRs reported long waiting times and lifts being out of order.</p> <p>Noise from ventilation system: Fan noise so loud that they have issues hearing the tutor.</p> <p>Ceiling issues in EB1114:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceiling was taped, but coming down and there was water dripping as well</li> <li>• They called the maintenance staff</li> </ul> <p>Several CRs shared concerns about the temperature and lighting in the building.</p> <p>Access to space/studio support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CR from Accessories shared that they are almost always in an open access area and there's a lot of distraction with people walking in and out. They would rather have classrooms than be in an open space.</li> <li>• Womenswear reps shared that they would like an area where they could get specific support for what they're working on. (e.g. pattern cutting)</li> <li>• CRs shared issue with equipment, particularly that irons weren't operational.</li> <li>• CRs shared the difficulty of not having dedicated independent workspace.</li> </ul> <p>Lockers: Students were glad to see that numbers had been added to the lockers.</p> <p>Possibility of 24-hour library: CRs advocated for greater access to the library</p> |

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|   | <p>Claudine shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they're looking to provide a permanent location for the shop as soon as possible.</li> <li>• The Associate Dean of Learning and Teaching is conducting a review of courses that take place in open spaces. Practical resolves will be looked at to enhance the experience.</li> <li>• Likely not possible to have dedicated workspace for each course. Are looking into a new labelling system so that students can see whether rooms are in use or not.</li> <li>• 24-hour library would not encourage mindfulness of working, so unlikely to be implemented.</li> </ul> <p>Gavin shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the fire exit stairs are for fire exit use only. Should only use stairs linking between the atriums.</li> <li>• Will review the lift usage and waiting times over winter break and work with contractors to get a faster lift service for next term.</li> <li>• Have contractors looking into ventilation noises and should significantly reduce soon.</li> <li>• Leaks in rooms due to a leak in the terrace on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. Aware of issue, and no structural concerns, but now tackling leaks.</li> <li>• Have had issues with environmental controls of the building, generally building is warmer now, but will continue to become more and more comfortable.</li> <li>• Will be introducing task lighting in certain areas of the building so that students have more light in working spaces.</li> <li>• Supervised studio with technicians takes place on each floor in the heart spaces. If that's not working for womenswear can take that forward.</li> <li>• The irons have all had to be individually serviced. Should see a full set of working irons next term.</li> <li>• In terms of access to space, do provide supervised studio which you can find in your timetables. Still trying to find the right balance for how space is allocated in the building.</li> </ul> <p>Annamarie requested that students continue to send feedback via email to: <a href="mailto:buildingfeedback@fashion.arts.ac.uk">buildingfeedback@fashion.arts.ac.uk</a></p> |
| <p>Decolonising the Curriculum &amp; the Attainment Gap</p> | <p>Katwamba asked CRs their prior knowledge on decolonising the curriculum and the attainment gap. There were mixed levels of knowledge in the room, with some students more aware of these concepts than others.</p> <p>Katwamba provided an explanation of both topics and shared that as part of his work as officer he would like to advocate for a more consistent approach to these initiatives across the colleges.</p> <p>Katwamba asked CRs if they had heard of decolonising in their courses. CRs shared a range of experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One CR shared that they had learned about interrogating history of objects in a lecture about research and use online facilities which encouraged mindfulness of where artifacts come from and their colonial history.</li> <li>• MA Fashion futures shared that it's very much a core part of their course because of focus on sustainability and ethics in fashion.</li> </ul>   |

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|  | <p>Annamarie shared that UAL has an anti-racism action plan and that decolonisation is taught as part of their PG Cert for teaching as well. Observation is also part of the staff experience, and tutors undergo observations every few years to help them analyse their unconscious bias.</p>   |
| <p>Additional feedback from reps:</p>            | <p>Material costs:</p> <p>CRs from Accessories shared that students were concerned about the lack of material provided. Aware of stock room, but as these are donated materials there's not a huge amount of variety. Questioned why UAL couldn't provide more materials to students.</p> <p>Claudine responded that the course outline should clarify additional costs students should expect to incur. Will raise this issue with course teams and follow up.</p> <p>Extended deadlines:</p> <p>CR shared that after missing course time due to an accident last year, they were only given one week to catch up on assignments. CR advocated for more individualised ISA per student circumstances so that they reflect what is possible for the student.</p> <p>Claudine shared that if students are unable to work within time frame given, they should follow up with course teams. Annamarie followed up to say that students can put through extenuating circumstances to have more time and can seek support from academic services.</p> |
| <p>Additional feedback emailed in from reps:</p> | <p>Feedback from reps in Fashion Design &amp; Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main pieces of feedback you're hearing from students on your course? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Want more workshops (opportunity to learn more skills)</li> <li>○ Want more collaboration with other courses (knitwear, print, embroidery, ect.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What has been going well? What could be improved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tutors are great, very supportive.</li> <li>○ To be improved: timing at which information is introduced (range plan, tech pack, swot, pest). Swot and pest should have been introduced in the first 2 weeks (when we had more time). Range plan timing was fine. Tech pack pushed back to the same week as the toile fitting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How was the welcome and induction period? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fine</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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

| Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff   | Update on Progress |
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| <p>Claudine to share the location for the Art Shop when it's known.</p>                |                    |
| <p>Claudine to share updates on room labelling system when available.</p>              |                    |
| <p>Claudine and Gavin to share updates on room/space review as and when available.</p> |                    |

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| Gavin to follow up on any building updates as and when available (lift improvements, ventilation, environmental controls, etc) |  |
| Claudine will follow up on materials costs.  |  |