

Student Dean Forum Term: CCW Design School, Term 2, 2024-25			
Date & Time: 27.02.2025	UAL Staff: Sam Elliott Simon Maidment (could not attend)	Arts SU Officer: Charmaine Chikiwa	Arts SU Staff: Rachel Wornell
Number of students in attendance: 2			

Action Log for School Dean and Students' Union

Actions for School Dean	Update on Progress	Response to students
SE to speak with Adriano and Jason to see if a solution can be found to 3 rd years storage space issue		
Actions for Students' Union	Update on Progress	Response to students
CC to share information on marking and transparency		

Minutes

Discussion points submitted by Deans

Transitions

1. At stage 1 (unit 1 and 2), how prepared do students feel for transitioning into stage 2 and beyond?
2. At stage 2 (CCP unit), how do students feel moving into and out of the collaborative unit? How do students feel about stage 3? How do students feel about returning from a gap year, exchange, or DPS year?

PFD yr 3 reps: Recalled students being apprehensive, but felt students were generally confident both in their tutors and in their own abilities. The transition felt smooth, and that was helped by the fact that the year leader was transitioning with the cohort from year 1 to year 2.

The transition from year 2 to year 3 was harder. Staffing changes and the stress that caused disrupted the transition and there was also a jump in expectations and workload going into final year.

Suggestion to support transitions: improve transparency around marking and grading earlier on in an undergraduate course. I.e. increase awareness of what each grade would look like, so that students feel like they can better monitor the progress of their own work.

SE: Acknowledges why students would want this but highlighted that this could increase students' focus on specific grades, rather than being fully immersed in the whole learning

process. Staff want students to learn, explore, and develop their work, rather than working towards a narrow idea of a grade.

CC: Will share information about marking and transparency with students.

PFD yr 3 reps: Reps are not very familiar with the DPS experience. They have informally heard that a student on DPS now feels quite disconnected from UAL and what is happening on their course. Some students had a hard time returning from a term abroad as they returned mid-way through a unit and the transition back to UAL's teaching and learning pace was difficult.

3. At stage 3, what do students think about transitions through the student journey? How do they feel about moving into final units? How prepared do students feel for the end of year and beyond?

PFD yr 3 reps: The move into final units feels scary and it can be hard not to focus on getting a grade, but students generally understand the assessment and have confidence in their designing and making skills. Highlighted that reading week did stop the momentum of the course.

Shared some students' worries about their final products dictating their career after uni (and therefore feeling an added pressure to decide what they want their careers to look like before they can move on with their projects).

The course recently had a very positive session with Lewis from the careers team, which over 75% of the course attended. The session gave a clearer understanding of what life could look like after university, talked about using LinkedIn as a tool, and how to identify career paths that align with your values. They also looked at alumni's career paths which was interesting and helpful. Suggestion: would be good to hear from alumni a few years post-graduation so that students can see what they are doing now and create links.

SE: glad to hear the positive feedback on the careers session. More drop-in sessions have been discussed but there was a worry that students might be too focused on their work to attend extra-curricular sessions.

4. At postgraduate, what do students think about transitions through the student journey at MA level and moving into final units? How prepared do students feel for the end of year and beyond?

Not applicable

Any other business

PFD yr 3 reps: Third years are struggling for storage space. This is particularly acute for those working in the studios on the third floor. It is important to note that lots of students are working on larger pieces

like chairs which can't be transported back and forward from studios. Suggest sharing some space with the art students.

SE: Will speak with Adriano and Jason to see if a solution can be found.

SE: A sexual health pop up on Chelsea campus will be held on Monday, please share with other students.