

Student Dean Forum Term 1 23/24: CSM Art, Performance, PCID, JTM			
Date & Time: 23 November 15:00 – 16:00 PM	UAL Staff in Attendance:  Jonathan Carson, Associate Dean  Catherine George, Associate Dean	Arts SU Officer in Attendance:  Minna Ellis, CSM College Officer	Arts SU Staff in attendance:  Lee Anderson, EQC Emily Sellon, EQC

**Theme:**

Course Reps and School Reps were asked to feedback on their experience of Collaborative Units, the timing of workshops, and general feedback on their experience of first term studies.

Topic	Feedback from Course Reps	Response and/or Suggested Solution
Timing of Workshops	<p>Inductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A CR shares feedback from students that inductions are a problem, because workshops seem to be closed a lot. It's challenging for students to access workshops who have caring responsibilities or childcare. Suggestion that workshops be opened for a period over the weekend to accommodate this, or extended hours in the weekday. General feeling that Technicians are amazing and they are overworked and students really value them.</li> <li>A CR shares feedback from students that the film processing workshop has had a month long waitlist. The inductions are limited to the amount of students who are trying to get one done. Different pathways in</li> </ul>	<p>Minna has received similar feedback from students about this previously. In the past, they trialled weekend opening but attendance was low and the costs of staffing outweighed the benefit.</p> <p>Jonathan confirms that this request comes up regularly, but investment and staff conditions have to be working through and we need a good evidence base to ensure this is worthwhile. There has been some investment last cycle that has seen more Technical Resources staff recruited but this is new and 'bedding in'.</p>

	<p>Fine Art have had very different amount of inductions to workshops and that has brought some discontent within first year students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CR shares feedback that inductions I think there is an issue for disabled and neurodiverse students being able to get through the online stages before you can get into doing the practical inductions.</li> </ul> <p>Studios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CR shares feedback that there are so many workshops available / online as well as in person in specific areas, that students are spoilt for choice - its hard to drag yourself away from valuable studio time to take them up. So evenings or Wednesdays would be great as to not impact on studio time.</li> <li>• A CR shares feedback on discontent with Studio Space for Fine Art and its lack of facilities, e.g. a sink. It is also a very small studio space for 50 students, there is not enough space for all which also makes it so that people do not use the uni facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Ceramic Workshop, Archway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CR shares feedback that the Archway campus really needs a ceramic workshop. There are students for whom Ceramics is the primary mode they're working in; Ceramic workshops at KX are</li> </ul>	<p>Jonathan confirms that lot of students do go onto become Technicians, so that they go onto work in the Technical Resources team after they graduate.</p>
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	<p>overwhelmed and cannot accommodate students from other campuses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A CR responds that we have a student who used to be a Ceramic Instructor, so one idea would be to create opportunities with specialisms and expertise in this area to facilitate inductions for other students.</li></ul> <p>Loan Store:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A CR requests a Loan Store for the Archway campus. It will help students whose conditions restrict their movements. Some students find it challenging to access the loan store in KX from Archway.</li></ul>	

<p>General feedback on first term</p> <p>Questions from Jonathan and Catherine, Assoc Dean:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the main pieces of feedback you're hearing from students on your course?</li> <li>2. What has been going well?</li> <li>3. What could be improved?</li> <li>4. How was the welcome and induction period?</li> </ol>	<p>Online MA Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CR feedback that the teachers on MA online courses are great and work hard to create a genuine sense of community, despite the fact that students on these courses are not sharing a physical, in-person space.</li> </ul> <p>Platform Theatre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CR shares feedback on access to the Platform Theatre. This space has been block-booked for 80 Fashion Lectures this year. This is a specialist space for Performance students like myself, but students can't get access to it.</li> </ul> <p>Student Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CR shares feedback on students experiencing difficulties with getting appointments for support / call backs / phones not being answered and generally being passed from pillar to post which doesn't help an already fraught mind.</li> </ul>	<p>CATHERINE says that this is the first time they've been made aware of this issue. She commits to picking it up separately and dealing with it outside of this session. They do not want to see student-facing spaces being taken away from students. There is a strain on resources and space and they're happy to talk about this outside this space.</p>
<p>Collaborative Units</p>	<p>Course Reps provided feedback on Collaborative Units in response to CSM College Officer request for feedback. This feedback included the following observation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timing of the Collaborative Unit and its placement in the curriculum broke the flow of the students' learning and felt out of place in the context of what came before and after.</li> </ul>	<p>Minna Ellis - CSM College Officer - thanked Course Reps for submitting this feedback and will take these findings and suggestions forward to the Working Group.</p>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The content of the Collaborative Units pulled students away from their discipline – instead, students want to evolve practice and expertise and felt unable to do this.</li><li>• Students proposed using Collaborative Units to do something locally in order to increase its impact.</li><li>• The output did not feel not super-relevant and overly business orientated, lacking creativity.</li></ul> |  |
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**Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union**

<b>Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff</b>	<b>Update on Progress</b>
Catherine George (Associate Dean) to investigate issues with access to Platform Theatre for performance students in light of block-bookings for lectures. Pick up separately with Reps outside of this session.	
Jonathan to share Technical Resources feedback relayed in this session with The Head of Technical Resources for their consideration (in combination with any feedback emerging from the forthcoming SDF for the other CSM Course Reps on 29/11.)	
Catherine to provide feedback to relevant course staff delivering online MA courses.	
Jonathan to share feedback about central Student Services to colleagues who deliver these services, so student concerns/perceptions can be considered by that team.	
<b>Actions for Students' Union</b>	<b>Update on Progress</b>
Minna to take feedback on collaborative units to working group.	