

**CSM 2022/23 Term 1 Student and Dean Forums Summary Report**

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<b>Paper For</b>	Circulation to Arts SU and UAL colleagues
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<b>Meeting Date(s)</b>	November 2022
<b>Relevant Aims</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To gather feedback from course representatives in every school/department on academic learning and the general student experience across the University of the Arts London.</li> <li>2. Workshop particular themes of importance to the studentbody in order to highlight experiences and form solutionsto be acted on by UAL senior staff at a college and UAL wide level.</li> <li>3. To empower our network of 1000 course representativesto effectively channel and represent the views of every student studying at UAL.</li> </ol>
<b>Relevant Risks</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low attendance of Student &amp; Dean Forums meaning thatthere is not a representative proportion of course reps in attendance from that college/dean department.</li> <li>2. The dean or full-time officer co-chairing the meeting areunable to attend.</li> <li>3. Course reps are not accurately reflecting or feeding backthe experiences of their peers on their course.</li> </ol>
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	A further demographic report of the course rep network isgoing to be conducted at the end of the academic year.
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<p>The paper covers information on the core themes coming from CSM's Term 1 Student and Dean Forums. These forums take place to ensure Arts SU and UAL embed the voice of students across all Colleges through our representation structures, and actions are then taken based on student feedback.</p> <p>The main topic of conversation during these forums was the start of the year, including students' experiences of Welcome and inductions. We also held space for reps to raise other topics that they have been brought to them by other students.</p>
<b>Themes of feedback</b>	<p>Arts SU and UAL Deans work together to manage expectations of SDF outcomes. This should include the process of closing thefeedback loop and how deans are responding to any outstandingcomments or questions, and how Forum notes are used after theevent.</p> <p><b>Big Welcome/Start of Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some students felt Big Welcome digital comms were clear.</li> <li>• Suggested spread introductory activities over longer period to ease students into the start of term and avoid overwhelming them.</li> <li>• Several reps advocated for more opportunities for postgraduates to</li> </ul>

Commented [RW1]: ? Are we promising this again?

connect with one another.

- Students would like to meet or socialise before gathering on the first day.

#### **Cross Course Collaboration**

- There is a desire on behalf of students to visit each other's lectures in order to learn how they can borrow ideas and be inspired by cross-disciplinary practice on their own courses.
- Students would like to see each other's work, collaborate artistically and academically, and share learning resources.
  - Students on other courses were especially interested in collaborating with graphic design students.

#### **Communication**

- Issues with timetabling, and some courses getting timetables far in advance, while others did not and had to wait until the last minute, which in turns makes it hard for them to plan their studies around part-time work and travel etc.
- Students get a lot of emails, and these are not always read because of overload.
  - Some students loved the use of Miro board to share information with them.
- Student Reps advocated for neurodivergent students to be part of any conversation and decision making process to do with communication methods for courses, as some platforms may work better for neurodivergent students than others.
- CSM/Birkbeck students are struggling with the digital platforms, Moodle specifically.

#### **Spaces**

- Concerns about accessibility of the studios, with outlets that needed to be pulled down from the ceiling for example.
- Storage of students' work is very challenging; it means having to transport it from one campus/space to another.
- Concerns raised about overcrowding in library spaces and that students are vaping in the library.
- Cold temperature of studio spaces.
- Frustration over workshop access.
  - Limited hours make it difficult for working students to access spaces.
  - Some students frustrated that they couldn't access workshops because of inductions taking place, sometimes for quite small groups.

#### **Student Support and Wellbeing**

- Concern raised about a lecturer using incorrect pronouns.
- More follow up emails from disability teams/wellbeing service would be beneficial rather than an 'email sent and problem solved' mentality, checking in more often would be useful to help people feel less alone.
- The timetables are too full, very hard to keep up the energy level and concentration.

- Mental health support not quick or accessible; not always clearly sign-posted.
- Some products in the canteen do not have the allergens labelled.

**Cost of Study**

- High cost of materials. Materials could be shared or could be provided with an accurate materials list.

