

Student Dean Forum Term 2 23/24: CSM Culture & Enterprise, Spatial Practices, GCD, Fashion			
Date of forum: 21/02/24	UAL Staff in attendance: Rebecca Wright, School Dean Jonathan Carson, Associate Dean Student Experience	Arts SU Officer in attendance: Minna Ellis	Arts SU Staff in attendance: Emily Sellon, EQC Lee Anderson, EQC
Number of student reps in attendance: 17			

**Theme:**

Deans, College Officers, and Student Reps were asked for any points they wished to raise on the agenda in advance. Topics raised included: cost of study and the free soup offering. Technical resource feedback was suggested but was not included on the agenda due to time constraints

Topic	Feedback from Course Reps
Updates from previous forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on collaborative experiences: Minna raised feedback as part of working group, and Jonathan raised with staff who organize cross-college units.</li> <li>• Issues with wifi: Jonathan shared feedback. Now have SU representation on the IT 'User Support and Engagement Governance Group'. This should provide a further way for the SU and for students more generally to channel feedback on the student experience of our digital infrastructure.</li> <li>• Issues with showers and quiet spaces: Jonathan has asked for update, but will chase.</li> <li>• Share Technical Resources feedback with The Head of Technical Resources for their consideration: feedback has been shared with Head of Technical Resources. Suggestion to have a standing item for term 1 around technical resources and invite technical resources staff to attend.</li> </ul>
Cost of study	<p>Rep feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs have been rising, rents have been high, and canteen is more expensive than in the past.</li> <li>• Impact on assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One rep shared that external examiners help ensure that costs don't affect grades, so it has a lower impact on academics than living in London.</li> <li>○ Rep from GCD stated that they make it clear that it doesn't matter how much you spend. However, it does happen that some projects are more expensive than others.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cost of attending in-person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reps shared that they felt the more you could attend in-person, the better you would do on the course. However, due to rising costs, reps pointed to the difficulty of coming in person for lectures, feedback sessions, and outside learning tutorials.</li> <li>○ Reps pointed to not only the cost of travel, but also having to spend money while in the building on food and coffee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reps advocated for more low-cost alternatives in the canteen. For example, half a portion of salad for a lower price. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minna shared that this is an area that SU has and will continue to advocate for. The SU has been told that the external contractor already operates on a loss and cutting costs would lead to cuts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Funding opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students feel they're being distributed in a way that means they're not helping those that need it the most.</li> <li>○ Issue was raised of only one funding opportunity available for international students. Home students, by comparison have more funding opportunities to apply to. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rebecca shared that the university and college are looking to attract more scholarships and grants, and feedback can continue to inform that work.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Rep advocated for more financial support for programmes outside of design, with exhibitions, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rebecca shared that transition to schools (as opposed to current structure of clusters of programmes) would help create new opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Rebecca also shared that they're doing work on making sure not just some disciplines get more press attention than others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Rebecca shared that cost of living and cost of study concerns have been raised at the highest level, with the Board of Governors.</p> <p>Rebecca will share concerns on food pricing with canteen.</p>
Free soup offering	<p>Reps had positive feedback about the free soup offering. However, some had not heard of it, while others were more informed.</p> <p>Reps discussed the timing at 4pm, with some feeling like it's too late in the day. They shared the concern that students may wait to eat until then and it would have a greater impact at 12 or 1. Others felt that the timing meant students could eat a smaller lunch and then enjoy the soup later. They also pointed to additional benefit that students are incentivized to stay on campus.</p> <p>Reps advocated for more communications about the offer, as some students had thought it was just in January and many had only heard about it via word of mouth. They shared there was some confusion about when the offer ends.</p> <p>One rep shared praise for free food events: "as a hardship fund recipient, that the free food events at UAL are one of the most useful things to help with the cost of living and study, I spoke with others who use them, and the general consensus is that we just wish they were more frequent"</p>
Other feedback	Portfolios:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reps shared that they would like more assistance for creating portfolios for DPS year. Felt guidance was more for Fashion than other programmes.</li> </ul> <p>Noise level in KX:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reps shared that noise in the crossing was disruptive to those studying in the library and those using the quiet space.</li> <li>Reps pointed to the fact that there's even ear plugs provided in the quiet space because it gets loud.</li> <li>One rep shared via email that they felt the security personnel were not regulating the noise level. This rep shared the idea of a notice board to keep the volume at quieter level, particularly in the evening. They felt this problem has gotten substantially worse than last year.</li> </ul> <p>Quiet space concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestion that a closed room, like those available on other UAL campuses, would greatly reduce the noise.</li> <li>The lack of cleanliness was also pointed to as an issue, with students not feeling it's cleaned frequently enough.</li> </ul> <p>Printing for GCD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One rep emailed in feedback to advocate for a printer for GCD students to print on their own media to reduce demand for the publications workshop. This would allow students to print more quickly and offer opportunities for experimentation.</li> </ul>
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#### **Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union**

Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff	Update on Progress
Jonathan and Rebecca to feedback cost of study concerns in relevant spaces.	
Jonathan and Rebecca to raise feedback on soup offering.	
Jonathan to feedback concerns about noise and cleanliness of the quiet space.	
Jonathan to take noise concerns in crossing to building management team.	
Rebecca to pick up about cost of attending and food prices in canteen.	
Rebecca to raise/respond to additional concerns raised in chat of support in portfolio development and a printer for GCD students.	

Actions for SU	Update on Progress
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Minna to raise cost of study and free soup feedback in relevant spaces.	
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