

Student Dean Forum Term 1 23/24: LCC Media

Date of forum: 15/11/23	UAL Staff in Attendance: Stephen Cross	Arts SU Officer in Attendance: None	Arts SU Staff Facilitator: Emily Sellon
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Theme:

Deans and Course Reps were asked for any points they wished to raise on the agenda in advance. Topics raised included: how Course Reps felt their feedback was acted upon, however, due to the course of the conversation this topic was saved for a subsequent meeting/forum.

Topic	Feedback from Course Reps	Response and/or Suggested Solution
Course Specific Feedback	<p>Photography:</p> <p>induction was positive. Year 3 having weekly meetings with year lead. Would like to know the budget for the degree show and what their constraints are for what they can produce. Transparency around budget in general would be useful, knowing how it's used and if reps can have input.</p> <p>Media & communications:</p> <p>Students struggling with My Blog and Moodle. CRs have heard from students that they feel they aren't being academically challenged. Lectures feel repetitive. Tables don't work in lecture theater A.</p> <p>Contemporary Media Culture:</p> <p>CRs also raised issues with My Blog – offers students little creative freedom (i.e. can't use their own fonts). Found Creative Foundations to be vague with too much independent work time. Students would like more class time. Additionally, raised concern that assignments have caused confusion with requirements changing. Students would like more discussions on the readings they've done.</p> <p>Advertising:</p> <p>Year 1: Would have liked the induction for My Blog to be done in person. CRs stated there was a lot of confusion on the course, including: where tutorials were going to be held and over the assignments. Would like seminars to be more linked to the lectures.</p> <p>Year 2: CRs expressed dissatisfaction with academic challenge – feel there's not enough of class time. Students barely on campus, so no feel of community. Course Leader has left, so not sure who to turn to.</p> <p>MA: Happy with diversity of cohort. Would like more support in academic writing. Confusion over some assignments – given feedback that didn't match what was in</p>	<p>Steve will feedback issues to relevant course teams.</p> <p>Steve will ask that Course Leader for Advertising introduce themselves to students.</p>

	<p>the brief (i.e. to include photos, even though that wasn't in the brief). Would like classes on Photoshop because of timing of lectures not able to get places in workshops.</p>	
	<p>Publishing:</p> <p>Overall heard good feedback on course. CRs shared there was confusion with induction period, especially for international students, who started a week later than others due to a different induction date shared online. CRs felt there could be more focus on depth of theory, as opposed to breadth.</p> <p>Public Relations:</p> <p>BA: CRs shared that they felt that the start of the course was challenging because there was a new lecturer, so there was a lack of communication, unclear assignments. CRs heard from students that the content wasn't challenging enough – felt they were learning more common-sense things, or things related to advertising or media comms, as opposed to things specific to the course. CRs shared that the collaborative unit was especially an issue as it felt too superficial, would like more links to PR in the content.</p> <p>MA: CRs shared difficulties around printing in the library and searching online in the library system. Also shared there's been confusion over naming conventions for assignments, and can't find template for assignments on Moodle. Also shared that multi-lingual students are struggling with current module – felt they could use more integrated language support and general support and background on knowing the systems in UAL/UK higher education.</p> <p>Documentary Photography & Photojournalism:</p> <p>CRs shared that they would like to see more technical skills in curriculum – the workshop inductions are during lecture time. CRs felt positively about the discussions and gallery visits and diversity of cohort. CRs shared lack of space to sit during lunchtime, and particular challenges for neurodivergent students due to the how loud the canteen can be.</p>	<p>Steve to raise issue of lack of access to workshop inductions for Documentary Photography & Photojournalism due to conflicts with lesson time.</p> <p>Steve to raise issue of lack of quiet spaces for lunch for neurodiverse students with estates/facilities.</p>
Call for Intellectual/Academic Challenge	<p>CRs shared that students were not attending lectures because they don't feel relevant or inspiring.</p> <p>CRs advocated for:</p>	<p>Steve suggested a follow-up meeting on this topic in particular.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content that felt more relevant to course. • More assignments of essays/presentations to do a deep dive into a topic. Felt they were taking notes on topics but didn't have enough follow-up material. • More discussion in lectures. • Mix of intellectual challenge and stimulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of opportunities to practice what they're learning in class. ○ As media students, would like to be challenged by talking about current, real-world examples. • More opportunities to struggle with material. • Learning about things they've never heard about before, a new side of media. • More specifics and constraints on assignments, to help generate ideas and creativity. 	
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Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union

Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff	Update on Progress
Steve to feedback issues to relevant course-specific issues to course teams.	
Steve will ask that Course Leader for Advertising introduce themselves to students.	
Steve to raise issue of lack of access to workshop inductions for Documentary Photography & Photojournalism due to conflicts with lesson time.	
Steve to raise issue of lack of quiet spaces for lunch for neurodiverse students with estates/facilities.	
Steve to schedule a follow-up meeting on topic of academic rigor/challenge in courses.	
Actions for Students' Union	Update on Progress
School Rep – Adrianna – to follow up with CRs on issue of academic rigor/challenge	