Student Forum Minutes

5th December 2024

Participants
• Charmiane Chikiwa (Chair) – CCW & CCI Officer
• Yvonne Yuan – LCC Officer
• Katwamba Mutale – LCF Officer
• 12 UAL Students

Item	Presenter	Notes
Welcomes Overview of agenda & count number of attendees	**Chair**	The chair welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting and general guidelines.
Officer Priorities 2024 - 2025	Officers	The Sabbatical Officers presented their annual team priorities. (additional resource: "24-25 Officer Priorities" presentation). The four themes the officers will be working on this year are: • Community Building • Cost of living & study • Inclusivity & accessibility in education • Careers and Employability. It was noted that individual officers are doing work that may not be listed in the themes, such as sustainability.
Questions about priorities	**Chair**	**Question (from Marina Gasca):** I was wondering whether [the SU] think a weekly meeting with course leaders would be beneficial and how could I push that forward? CCW & CCI Officer asks for claficiation: "is this including Arts SU staff or is this something you're trying to coordinate as a school and what would you be hoping to achieve?" Marina: Trying to coordinate that as a School Rep as other courses have done similar, going through feedback from students and course reps CCW & CCI Officer: "If I was a student the way I would do it would to go directly to the course leader as more often than not they are actually more receptive to talking to you, most of the time it's finding the time and for some course leaders it can depend on the size of the course." CCW & CCI Officer adds extra recommendations on how this could be conducted, and notes that if there is anything that feels it should be passed onto the Sabbatical Officers, they are welcome to do so. Staff Member in meeting notes that the rep should contact the

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		Education Quality team and make them aware of the idea so they can provide support and ensure there aren't multiple conversations around the same topic taking place separately. **Discussion point (from Isabel Alatorre):** Mentions that as a School Rep, course reps have provided feedback that students would like more activities that are college based, so that community can be developed within their own college and within their own courses. Discussion takes place about the feedback, which included improvements to the SU welcome fayre. Chair thanks Isabel for the feedback and notes that we are always working to improve accessibility at our events. **Question (from Christina Radaza)** "In terms of the hardship fund, is there an ideal amount we want to increase the fund by?" KM (LCF Officer) explains what the hardship fund is and that he is leading on this work alongside other officers. At this time there isn't a plan to lobby to increase the amount students can receive when applying for the fund but is something that the officers could do. The campaign is more focused on making the hardship fund easier, more accessible, and less invasive. Chair notes that the CSM Officer is leading on a research project titled "Name Your Price" which looks into the financial impact of being a student (Cost of Study), this is an updated project of what was researched in 2018. A Link to the research project was shared in the meeting chat.
What is community?	**Officers**	KM (LCF Officer) Introduces topic, discusses that there has been lots of feedback from students about how UAL can have a better sense of community. The Sabbatical Officers have created an interactive activity via Canva for members in the room to use. Notes of the activity are below:

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		How would you define community? My community at Wimbledon is quite tight, there's not that many of us, so I'd say that we mostly know each other from seeing each other or other friends. Overall It's quite welcoming and positive. group of people that share something in common A platform that allows people to share similar professions/ knowledges / cultures.

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What does community mean to you

I would describe it as people who are around you and support you in your path.

A platform that students can help each other; exchange knowleages/professional skills and experiences.

to me community is a network of support that is accessible

How can we adapt UAL to make you feel part of a community?

Is it allowed for some students to audit courses from other colleges or majors? Do I need to apply or make an appointment in advance?

More college based events that are actually catered towards what the students are asking for.

More events around mixing different courses. Currently there exist a very harsh division between people and what they study, making it hard to connect across coruses.

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		What's going well at UAL / Arts SU? There's always a lot of support around speaking up. There's always someone to talk to which is really good, and I feel like UAL being open to suggestions and to being better is a vital point. I really enjoyed the career fair. I felt it was def more caterered towards the art industry instead of jobs in general **What's not going well? What should we improve** There's a lot to improve if I'm being honest, communication being one of them. A lot of students don't know about all the work people are putting in to make the UAL experience better, and It's always nice to say the good things too. I just think that the bridge between the universities and communication should be reinforced. I think we should take advantage of the large community we have: we could make events more well announced Trying to make everything across different colleges is not very accessible to most students. There should be a focus in building community within each campus individually and then try to join them.

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Any other business	**Chair**	Discussion point (from Isabel Alatorre): Notes that they believe most of the attendees are School Reps or Course Reps, and as they already receive the emails from the relevant inboxes, it would be useful to receive the link directly. Char acknowledges and thanks the student for the feedback and mentions that the SU wants to ensure forums are safe spaces, which is one of the reasons all students (including reps) had to register. Staff member also acknowledges and thanks the student for the feedback, and how it can be frustrating as students receive a lot of emails. Going forward the SU will send an invite to reps directly.
Dates & Opportunities Close of meeting		Chair reminds members present that they can submit their own idea for change by going to https://www.arts-su.com/ideas. Ideas with 20+ votes are taken to an All-Student Forum. Ideas that reach 100+ votes are automatically passed Chair informs members present about the dates & opportunities available: **Research Insiders** • Research Insiders is our select group of UAL students who are keen to share their opinions on all different aspects of UAL and Arts SU life. Our Insiders are trendsetters, trailblazers, individuals – and we're inviting you to be a part of the community. • Find out more on our website! **Arts SU Elections (All Officer & Rep roles)** • Standing opens: 13th January 2025 – 10:00 AM • All Officer and School rep roles available! • https://www.arts-su.com/voice/elections/ **Officer campaigns & events** • Check out the Officer Instagram pages and our websites for news about what your Officers are up to. Chair thanks attendees for coming