

Student Dean Forum Term 2 23/24: Design & Technology			
Date of forum: 05/03/2024	UAL Staff in attendance:  Claudine Rosseau, Dean of Design & Technology	Arts SU Officer in attendance:  Katwamba Mutale, LCF College Officer	Arts SU Staff in attendance:  Lee Anderson, EQC
Number of student reps in attendance: 22			

**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 tuition, access to dedicated workspaces and facilities in Stratford East Bank, access to materials for design, misalignment of feedback on Dips and cost of food and refreshments in canteen.

Topic	Feedback from Course Reps /UAL staff updates
Update on actions from previous forum	<p><b>Claudine to share the location for the Arts Shop when it's known.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All our previous locations have been rejected. This is ongoing. Currently finalising on space. It's our aim to get the shop up and running for September.</li> </ul> <p><b>Claudine to share updates on the room labelling system when available.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Still being conducted as part of the Learning and Teaching review. We're looking at how we can make some of these rooms across school more user friendly over the longer term.</li> </ul> <p><b>Claudine to follow up on cost of materials.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I can see that there isn't much information online before you start your course. There should be more information in the course handbook so please feedback any further information on that.</li> </ul>

<p>Stratford East Bank</p>	<p><b>Rep:</b> The height of the stools in some of the Footwear Studio Spaces means we're having to hunch over the tables when working and this is causing discomfort for the students in these spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> Gavin to follow up on this.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> Final Year Contour students don't have enough space to work in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> Claudine to follow up on this.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> Temperature in some of the classrooms are fluctuating between extremes of temperature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Gavin:</b> The building temperature is improving. Over the next couple of months, we will have intermittent, localized temperature fluctuations as the systems are commissions. My apologies for the discomfort this causes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> Hanging sockets not working in some spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Gavin:</b> We need to replace the electrical cable. We're trying to priorities this fix (replacing the cable).</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> A lot of people from different courses have been using Heart Space. Our technician has had to deal with this and send people away. They have suggested issuing students with a fob, so that only those who have been inducted into the space can access it. Can we have extended opening times for the Specialist Machine Room?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Claudine:</b> I'll pick this up with the Contour Team and Anita to see what is realistic; better signage might be part of the answer.</li> <li>- <b>Gavin:</b> I'll have a chat with the Tech Coordinator about extending opening times.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> Wi-Fi signals are weak in some areas of the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Gavin:</b> We've just undertaken a survey of the whole building and identified weak Wi-Fi coverage areas. We can make local corrections to that. There have also been specific incidents in which network has been going down and outages. Generally things are improving and will continue to do so.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> Can opening hours be extended on weekends?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Gavin:</b> It's 9-5 on Sunday but students are probably asked to leave workshops at 4:30 PM. It's about balancing staffing and resources throughout the year.</li> </ul>
<p>Cost of Study</p>	<p><b>Rep:</b> International Student Fees are increasingly very rapidly, and students must pay a lot up front, in addition to accommodation etc. I'll be paying a different rate of student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Claudine:</b> I'll take these comments forward and discuss them at our Executive Group in order to find out why this is the case.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> Tuition Fees / Value for Money. 1.5 day of class each week for the entire year, not including Masterclasses (which are externally funded). I'm concerned about the return on investment. I think that people are disappointed with this. I'm only including timetabled time in this point. We are also one tutor down from last term, so our existing tutors are having to pick up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Claudine:</b> A balance of learning does include directed and self-directed learning. I can't give you a full breakdown of the course budget, but a lot of expenditure goes on staffing. I can find a more precise breakdown and I will do so after this meeting, I will happily get this together for you, as much as I can.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> MA Fashion Technology students do not have access to some of the facilities in the Stratford East Bank building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Claudine:</b> I will follow this up with Polly</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> Fashion Pattern Cutting: Calico, not enough to work with, because some of us are creating big designs. Can we exceed that limit on our independent project work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Claudine:</b> You should be able to use the donated fabric in addition to the Calico.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rep:</b> MA Menswear: Can we get access to Calico before the summer break?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Claudine:</b> To follow up.</li> </ul>

Dips	<p><b>Rep:</b> Misalignment of feedback: We had to get together x5 pages of portfolio for Dips / positive 1-to-1 with Dips team. Now what we are at the of Portfolio Review with Tutor. My course tutor has looked over mine and said it's not relevant to send to anybody. I'm now struggling to do any Dips because I am having to catch-up on my Dips work. It's very frustrating. I've tried pulling something together over the last couple of days.</p> <p><b>Reps:</b> Footwear &amp; Jewlery: We have received misleading feedback and feel there is a lack of support overall. Did speak to lecturers but they can't do much about it.</p> <p><b>Rep:</b> We feel we have received misleading information/feedback about our work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Claudine:</b> I'll follow-up to better understand how this has happened in the first instance, with PD's and Deborah.</li> </ul>
Other feedback	<p><b>Canteen prices</b> Reps asked whether canteen prices are subsidised and requested that they be lowered. They also reported very small portion sizes.</p>

**Action Log for School Dean & Students' Union**

Actions for School Dean /UAL Staff	Update on Progress
Gavin to investigate adjusting the height of the stools in Footwear Studios to prevent discomfort to students.	
Claudine to investigate space and capacity issues for Final Year contour students.	
Claudine to follow-up with Anita and the Contour Team about issues with capacity of Hearts Space; consider improved signage to mitigate overcrowding.	
Gavin to follow-up with Technical Coordinator about potentially increasing opening times for Hearts Space.	
Claudine to raise concerns about increase in international students' fees with Executive Group, to better understand why these costs are going	

<p>Claudine to obtain and provide a detailed breakdown of tuition fee expenditure for students concerned about expectations/cost of study.</p>	
<p>Claudine to follow up with Polly about MA Fashion Technology students' difficulty with accessing some of the facilities in the Stratford East Bank building.</p>	
<p>Claudine to investigate whether students on MA Menswear can get access to calico <u>before</u> the summer break.</p>	
<p>Claudine to follow-up with PDs and Deborah to better understand how misalignment of feedback on students' portfolio projects has happened on Dips.</p>	

<p><b>Actions for SU</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Progress</b></p>