

Student Dean Forum Term: CCW Fine Arts, Term 2			
Date & Time: 12.03.2025	UAL Staff: Jayne Knowles Samantha Elliot	Arts SU Officer: Charmiane Chikiwa	Arts SU Staff: Hannah Lockey – Education Quality Manager
Number of students in attendance: 1			

### **Action Log for School Dean and Students' Union**

<b>Actions for School Dean</b>	<b>Update on Progress</b>	<b>Response to students</b>
The Associate Dean will look into the current opportunities available to students and look to share these on the digital screens and with Course Leaders to promote with their students.		
The Dean will look to find out more about the student spend expectations around off-site show space bookings.		
<b>Actions for Students' Union</b>	<b>Update on Progress</b>	<b>Response to students</b>
The College Officer intends to look into Alumni of UAL, who graduated a few year prior, to share their experiences post-university to make industry talks relevant to UAL students.		

### **Minutes**

#### **Discussion points submitted by Deans**

#### **Agenda point 1 – Access to Studio Spaces**

Fine Art Year 2 Rep – The Rep shared that many students would like to be able to use studio and workshop spaces over the breaks if they are staying in London.

Dean – The Dean explained that there are several reasons why these spaces are closed outside of term time. One of these is around equity across the student body as not all students can access these spaces outside of term time, for example, due to financial reasons such as needing to increase paid working hours. Research and sketchbook work can continue in different spaces on site but for workshops and studios there are many reasons including health and safety that lead to their closure. The Dean

encourages students to visit the site out of term time to make the most of the libraries and canteen spaces to work with other students and make use of the spaces available.

The Officer – One reason to close is also related to mental health as we want to encourage rest and a work life balance which 24/7 spaces can be counteractive to.

### **Agenda point 2 – Course Content**

Fine Art Year 2 Rep – The Rep fed back that students on Art History have a range of backgrounds and prior knowledge, for example, some students come knowing Art History specific terms but other students do not. Fine art students would perhaps benefit from learning more about history.

Dean – In relation to the disparity of skills and learning amongst students, it is really important to have dialogues with students because staff design the courses but there is always a change in needs or interests from students and it is great to have student insights into this when designing course content. The Dean acknowledged that students come from a range of learning backgrounds and, in response to this, learning has been planned to be more dynamic (Ben organizes the lecture programmed at Chelsea and he asks external speakers to give historical context to their inspiration and where their work has drawn inspiration from to show how artists draw upon art histories). The Rep's course leader has organised more workshops this past term which has received a lot of praise from students.

Assoc Dean – Encouraged Reps to raise this experience of students having different prior course-specific knowledge at course committees as this is a great place to raise Teaching and Learning feedback to shape upcoming content and opportunities.

### **Discussion points raised in the Forum**

#### **Agenda point 1 – Discrepancies of hiring spaces**

Fine Art Year 2 Rep – The Rep highlighted that differences in students' personal finances can limit some students to hiring spaces of a lower standard to other students and so students have different experiences because of this. Students have to seek out their own spaces and fund these themselves with no financial support from the course. There are some recommendations of spaces from the tutors but it is mostly student lead and this includes having to ask for the recommendations from tutors. The suggestion is approximately to £50pp but it is challenging to find spaces to reflect this – groups can pool money together but that means the standard of spaces available are determined by group size. Information relating to this cost is shared at the beginning of the unit to let students know that this cost is to be anticipated.

Dean – The Dean asked for further clarity of this topic. The dean will look into this more to improve their own understanding of the processes and expectations in this area.

Assoc Dean – The Associate Dean asked how many units require this spend and if hardship funding explained.

Rep – The Rep informed staff that this requirement to book off-site space for shows happens roughly once per year. Hardship funding is not shared widely – the Rep acknowledge that there might be private conversations between students and staff with relation to the hardship fund but this is not a well-known

opportunity by all students.

### **Agenda point 2 – Employability**

Fine Art Year 2 Rep – The Rep explained that students were told about the DPS year opportunity in second year but it would have been good to learn about this much earlier in the course. Employability could be more built into the course, the specific lectures are on offer but they function more as an artist talk rather than practical ‘what to expect’ lectures. There were some lectures like the latter and these were really useful but we would like to see more of them to give more insight into how to prepare for life after university.

The College Officer – The Officer has expressed that they would like to look into inviting Alumni, from a few academic years prior, to share their updated experiences post-UAL as this is closer to the experiences of the students that they are talking to.

Fine Art Year 2 Rep – The Rep explained that through their own personal exploration of the channels available they have found the mentoring program on offer. However, the Rep fed back that this is not known easily and they suggested that it would be helpful for all students to be informed about this more widely. The Rep reported that at CSM there was an industry project where a course worked with a company and they chose designs from the students’ work to be implemented into their products – would this be possible across CCW? It would be great to engage in live briefs and more practical work experiences and networking.

Assoc Deans – There is a large piece of work ‘Rethinking Employability’ which is UAL wide but the Associate Dean acknowledged that it would be good to get more communications out to inform students of what is happening now – They hope to share this information on digital screens and encourage Course Leaders to share with students information about current opportunities available.