

Student Dean Forum Term: CSM C School, Term 2, 2024-25			
Date & Time: 26.02.25 14.00-15.15	UAL Staff: Jessica Bugg (Dean) Annamarie Mckie (Associate Dean of LCF)	Arts SU Officer: Katwamba Mutale	Arts SU Staff: Hannah Lockey – Education Quality Manager
Number of students in attendance: 9			

Action Log for School Dean and Students' Union

Actions for School Dean	Update on Progress	Response to students
Action: Dean will speak to Graduate Futures to raise that opportunities for Costume students could be more developed, working with the course team. Dean will also speak to the Course Leader to understand what else is planned this year in terms of external speakers and industry content that this more costume related.	In progress	
Action: Dean will work with the Graduate Futures team to develop the breadth of opportunity with a focus on specific course.	In progress	
Action: Associate Dean SE will look into where the work of Associate Dean of Wellbeing has looked into issues faced by disabled/ neurodivergent students at LCF.	The new East Bank guide is available on Accessible: https://www.accessable.co.uk/university-of-the-arts-london-ual/london-college-of-fashion-carpenters-road/access-guides/london-college-of-fashion-university-of-the-arts-london This contains important disability access arrangements, including blue badge parking, etc.	

	We are working with the Student Communications team to ensure there is a link to this information in the East Bank building guide for students, which is on Moodle.	
Action: Dean will feedback to Creative Director to ensure work is credited when displayed around the building.	This has been actioned and credits will be included in future showcasing of work on SMC floors.	
Action: Dean to speak to facilities and estates staff responsible for lockers and ask for an update on mending lockers.	This has been actioned. Lockers are being mended. Students with any specific accommodations are asked to speak to their Course leader about accessibility of lockers.	
Action: HMUPP- Dean will check in with CL and PD about the reset following EB delays, to ensure this is not impacting third year students and their portfolio work/ preparedness for industry. Dean and Rep to establish how the masterclass sessions worked in practice.	In progress	
Dean: Will speak to technical manager about Clow3D.		
Actions for Students' Union	Update on Progress	Response to students

Minutes

Discussion points submitted by Deans

Agenda point 1 – Introductions and Welcome

Reps welcomed by Kat (college officer) as the Chair and introduced other key staff (mentioned in table above)

Agenda point 2 – Employability and graduate outcomes - What are students' perceptions of their course employability experiences and touchpoints with industry?

Fashion PR & Comms Year 3 Rep: Many students now in the process of looking for jobs after finishing in May, which students are finding difficult. Many students feel unable to move past initial stage to interview, many jobs are not for graduates and are asking for extensive experience that graduates do not have.

Students asked for more support than the 1:1s and careers support offered centrally, these sessions are useful but there has not been enough of a push for students to do these sessions. A workshop in January would be useful relating to CVs, Cover letters, Job searching methods. Finding a placement has been difficult for third year students, easier than an entry level/ graduate job but still difficult.

Dean: Graduate Futures team is available to all students for sign up sessions (link on Moodle) but Dean recognises that students might benefit from further unpacking at a disciplinary level and is aware not all students make the most of the careers support currently in place. Linking into studio sessions might be an important next move.

Associate Dean: Acknowledges that career guidance can be generic and can see that students might want something more specific to their course/ specific career paths.

Costume for Performance Year 3 Rep: In second year students had a choice between placement/ internship in university or external but most were fashion based and not costume. A lot of external speakers coming into the course spaces are more fashion related than costume related. One well received costume specific opportunity was offered but only for 6 students. Many students would like something related to costume in theatre not just film.

Dean: Graduates Futures team do have costume-based connections and asks the Course Rep to feedback about the Modelling your Future unit at this should help students to prepare for employment.

Action: Dean will speak to Graduate Futures to raise this concern and raise awareness that opportunities for Costume students could be more developed through collaboration with the CL.

Action: Dean will also speak to the Course Leader to understand what else is planned this year in terms of industry speakers and preparation.

BA Fashion Image and Illustration Year 2 Rep: feel there is surface level information about opportunities such as internships. Students feel that there is not a lot of support or guidance from the course in general. On Moodle students might have a short course to complete on our CV but it is very independent and has to be student driven. Students would benefit from having specific staff to support with this. There was a session on internships that students could choose to come to but this was delayed and not spoken about.

Action: Dean will look to feedback to reps next time about what more can be done with Graduate Futures in terms of forging connections between College level opportunities and particular discipline delivery to get the most from the resource.

Hair, Makeup and Prosthetics for Performance Year 3 Rep: Also find that placements/ internships are not specific to the course but more fashion related. Some students have been successful through their own efforts. Tanya, Course Leader, has been great at providing external speakers but more on theatre than film and there are some great opportunities coming up like the Alumni day. Graduate Futures is more fashion specific and not always helpful for the specific course.

Action: Dean will speak to Graduate Futures to let them know the experience of students on courses that do not want a general fashion focus and to look at how we can collaborate further to reach the breadth of our disciplines.

Agenda point 3 – East Bank building - What are students' experiences of using the building?

Dean update: has been speaking to School Rep Nicole; there are not enough quiet spaces in the building.

Dean has been working with UAL teams on neurodiversity, so this is an ongoing piece of work. There have been discussions around lockers for students based on any accommodations and EDI.

The Arts shop is being built and likely to be open after Easter on Mezzanine – had to find a time to do this where students and learning were not disrupted too much.

The Dean praised the show currently at UAL and the lively opening – encouragement given to UG students to visit this. The Creative Director is now looking at how to repurpose work from the shows to use around the building.

A lot of work has been done on Wi-fi in areas where there were outstanding issues and there is evident improvements although some issues on the 8th floor are still ongoing. Reps encouraged to report any Wi-Fi issues directly to their Dean.

Associate Dean update: A task and finish group has been run, alongside Kat, to gather student voice over the past year around the physical building. Students like the building but wish to make it more colourful and less corporate – Creative Directors working to show off student work around the building.

Student Hub – Possibly looking at a 'Doodle wall' and whether there can be a competition for work displayed on the spiral staircase. Looking at ways to give students the chance to be part of the building and build a sense of belonging.

Lots of key opportunities advertised across Hub areas and the library and the SU office shown on notice boards. There are so many opportunities we are looking at a way to put all the content into something digestible to students.

Costume for performance Year 3 Rep: There is no parking which means it is not accessible for disabled students who cannot use public transport/ have issues with Blue Badge renewal.

Associate Dean: Encouraged students to reach out to Disabilities team. Associate Dean of Wellbeing has looked into issues faced by students at LCF with disabilities/ barriers to learning.

Action: Annamarie will look into where this work is up to and what can be shared with students.

BA Creative Direction For Fashion Year 1 Rep: Lifts are an issue when trying to attend classes or go to lunch. Lifts take so long from higher levels that study time is often cut short to accommodate this. Also, student work is not always displayed in places that are visible to many students.

Fashion PR & Comms Year 3 Rep: Concern around lack of people management around the lifts as people are struggling to enter and leave the lifts due to the number of people waiting to use them.

Costume for performance Year 3 Rep: On 8th floor work is being showcased but not named which is not respectful of those who have created this work.

Hair, Makeup and Prosthetics for Performance Year 3 Rep: My peers on the HMUPP course have also mentioned that the lifts had become better previously, but over the past few weeks have again started to be a problem and more difficult to get into due to how busy they are. Possibly due to a few being out again.

Dean: This is a regular agenda point across college meetings and continues as an ongoing issue to continue to improve. As Annamarie acknowledged, it is our intention to project and hang work around the building so this continues to be something we are working towards.

BA Creative Direction For Fashion Year 1 Rep: Lockers are an issue, especially for disabled students, a lot of time is taken up with the lockers not working. Have raised this issue with admin and disability adviser but issue is continuing.

Action: Speak to staff member working across lockers and ask for an update. Reminded students there are accessible lockers available for those with accommodations.

Action: Feedback to Creative Director to ensure work is credited.

Agenda point 4 – Student Attendance and engagement - Are students attending their courses? What are the barriers that stop students from attending their contact time?

Fashion PR & Comms Year 3 Rep: It seems this year that attendance is better, but students will choose not to attend if a guest lecture is not relevant to their project or a repeat of something taught before. Students in final year feel pressure working on their project and so do not want to stay in/ attend lectures that feel removed from their work.

Industry talks can feel repetitive, and students want lectures to include sharing of knowledge but then the chance to work on applying this knowledge with their tutor there in class time. Student feel this structure would be beneficial to their learning.

Dean: Acknowledges that at some times in the timelines of your studies it might be better to have time with tutors to work on specific areas rather than industry talks for example.

Hair, Makeup and Prosthetics for Performance Year 3 Rep: Supervised or independent study is less useful than lectures that are focused on teaching a new skills. However, unless they feel they will have a technician to work with, students feel lessons are not consistent which is demotivating.

Students feel that when they do come into the building they are not always given the opportunity to produce work that can be used in the portfolio. Having a clear focus for the work/ lessons would be beneficial. Inconsistent attendance has happened throughout year 2 also, I wouldn't say its only just started in year 3.

Dean: More independent sessions are part of 3rd year given their improved independence and development of your own projects as opposed to specific skills delivery it is about the individual project and helping students to resolve the needs of that project.

Hair, Makeup and Prosthetics for Performance Year 3 Rep: The students would benefit from having the photo taking as part of the lesson so lessons produce something that can be used in portfolios. Tasks that can be completed at home mean students are choosing to save time and money to do work at home and not together in the building.

Pop-up studios are working and were updated on in the last SDF which should allow for students to shoot their work for their portfolio as they go along.

Costume for performance Year 3 Rep: Students also felt frustration from feeling that they were not being physically taught key skills such as how to show. They feel they aren't being taught specific lessons or skills so it feels it is not worth the travel cost. Students prefer to have tutorials with just 1 tutor and so will not sign up for others to avoid having conflicting feedback/ guidance. In addition, technicians are on site and available much more than tutors. Second years feel the same (which is less independent than final years) feel that they aren't being taught anything at the moment.

Action: Dean will check in with Course Leader about their perspective and to ensure there are no impacts of the delays last year on year 3 HMUP courses. Dean will also ask about how the masterclass sessions worked in practice. Reps are encouraged to raise any concerns with their Course Leaders. Dean asks student reps to inform course mates that it is important to work alongside other staff and students in the final year and that the nature of the year is by nature of the qualification more independently driven and focused on supporting students to realise their own projects.

AOB

BA Creative Direction For Fashion Year 1 Rep: Those interested in 3D design augmented reality Clo 3D is expensive and would like to have a reduce on price as is currently available with Adobe.

Dean: Will speak to technical manager about this.