Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Student Voice Form 2018-19

Please note that this form should be sent round to meeting attendees, posted on the department webpage and sent to aheducation within 1 week of the meeting. Progress against each issue should be reviewed at the start of the following meeting, before fresh issues are raised. Use one form for the whole academic year so updates can be made to actions following each meeting.

Department: Digital Humanities

Meeting 1
In attendance: Beverly Quek Wei Ling (Chair and BA Year 2), Antra Gulaty (BA Year 2), Rohan Kochhar (BA Year 2), Ziad Alabed (BA Year 3), Marfa Popova (BA Year 1), Ruqing Chen (MA DAMM), Mengchen Ru (MA DCS), Yuting He (MA DCS), Kate Devlin (Vice-Chair), Zeena Feldman (Department Education Lead), Jennifer Pybus (BA Digital Culture Lead), Btihaj Ajana (MA DCS Lead), Mercedes Bunz (MA DCS Lead), Peter Chonka (Teaching Fellow), Mike Duggan (Teaching Fellow), Alex Foster (Professional Services)
Apologies: Olatundun Folami (MA DAMM), Paul Spence, Mark Cote, Charlie Travis
Date of meeting: 14/11/18

Meeting 2
In attendance:
Date of meeting:

Meeting 3
In attendance:
Date of meeting:

	Issue raised by Student Representatives	What is happening as a result	Timescale of action
General	**Unrepresented programmes** No reps were elected for MA BDCS, MA DH, or MA DC. It was agreed that we would like all programmes to be represented.	Programme Convenors have been emailed to ask a volunteer to come forward.	Programme Office- Reps to be in place by end of November
	Study space The department looking for a new breakout space in the Strand, to accommodate more students.	Ongoing- can be discussed at next department meeting	Department meeting- 21/11
	Student feedback The new Dean of Faculty is to meet with Heads of Department and would like to hear some student perspectives- What would students like to see from their department? What do they hope could be changed/improved?	Beverly to gather thoughts from students and feed back to Kate.	End of November

Year 1	**Speakers** These are well-received and the content and engagement with speakers has been very positive.		
	Practical work Students are keen to do more 'hands on' work in their first year such as programming/film and media related work rather than theory/foundational work.	As part of the department's Programme Enhancement Plan (PEP), it is agreed that there should be more of a practical element. PEP is looking in to developing and improving practical assessments, with a greater emphasis on practical skills.	PEP- ongoing
	Course content It was highlighted that there is not a clear sense of what 'BA Digital Culture' consists of. There is some frustration from students over the website/marketing material not stating clearly what the course is about. The course is associated with 'media' but the content is different. This may be due to a lack of a media studies course at King's.	PEP is looking to introduce more effective course design and 'module clustering' in the future, so students can more easily identify what they are choosing and avoid overlap in content. The department are also working with marketing to illustrate module descriptions, and Jennifer Pybus is working to restructure the website. The marketing material can state the distinctions between BA Digital Culture and Digital Marketing, for example.	PEP- ongoing

		Attendance/participation		
Year 2		There has been a lack of participation in seminar groups. As presentations are not graded and seminar readings are not always enforced, students don't feel compelled to come. It was noted that attendance has been especially low in second year.	PEP is reviewing assessment methods for the BA programme, which may include class presentations, group projects, and take-home exams. There is a move to diversify the existing range of assessments. This may help to reinforce attendance and participation in classes.	PEP- ongoing
		Assignments It was noted that students are able to complete assignments without attending the full complement of classes- i.e. students can focus on a topic covered in week 2 or 3, and have no need to engage with further topics for their assessed work.	As above- the department is devising alternative assessment methods, i.e. for a 15-credit module, changing two 2,000-word essays to just one.	
		Some essay topics are too similar to those assigned in Year 1, particularly in Digital Foundations (core module).	In response, the Department plans to reduce the scope of Digital Foundation in Year 2, and abolish it altogether in Year 3. This will allow more space for optional modules, a more diverse range of assessment, and less overlap.	Ongoing
		Lecture capture This is not always available for some modules, making content difficult to refer back to. It is easier to understand key concepts if the lecture is recorded.	It is at the discretion of the lecturer whether this is used and depends on the nature of the class- due to privacy and copyright issues it is not always possible. If a student wishes to record/capture a lecture that would not normally be recorded, please ask the lecturer's permission first.	

Year 3	**Strikes** Students who feel that their work was impacted by last year's strikes are still encouraged to submit appeal forms and push for a response.		
	Teaching issue Due to a staff member going on leave, all teaching on a module has been taken over by other staff. Students have noted that this was quite unexpected and that the teaching is now not cohesive/contradicts what has been taught previously.	There are fixed principles of evaluation for all modules, and all work is double-marked according to rubrics. This ensures that all work is marked fairly, regardless of who is teaching the module. However, if students have any concerns, they are encouraged to speak to their personal tutor or to raise with KCLSU.	
	Internships Convenors of the internship module should work with students to create LinkedIn accounts to encourage them to apply for internship positions and gain relevant experience. Public speakers could be encouraged to collaborate as part of the internship module.	Any improvement has to be managed within the confines of the department, as the internship is managed externally (by the King's Careers & Employability service) but this could be discussed at the next department meeting.	Department meeting- 21/11
	Dissertation supervision Students seem to be meeting with their dissertation supervisors quite late in the year.	Four hours of supervisory time must be given, but when this happens during the year is up to the supervisor and the student.	

PGT	**Seminars** It was highlighted that seminar groups are considered to be too short, and do not facilitate discussion. In other programmes, there are two-hour tutorials.	Although some programmes have two-hour sessions, students have the same hours- some courses are organised differently. It was felt that attention span may be unsustainable over two hours.	
	Printers There are a lack of printing facilities available to students, leading to queues in some areas.	This is a Business Support issue that can be passed on- Beverly to obtain a list of locations/rooms where this is happening and send on to digitalhumanities@kcl.ac.uk.	Chair- Next meeting or sooner
	Overseas students There is a high proportion of Chinese-speaking students on the programme- this doesn't encourage learning in English, which students would like to do.	This is due to the structure of the Admissions process, as students from European countries receive their grades later on. By this time, places on the programmes have been filled, as Chinese students receive their grades sooner. This is being reviewed by the Department so that in future years there will be a greater mix.	
	Timetabling The timetable is very crowded and students are having difficulties getting between consecutive classes. This is also an issue for staff.	There is limited manoeuvre for timetabling classes and this is a particular issue for DDH. All lecturers and seminar tutors should be reminded that classes should start at five past the hour and finish at five to the hour- please can programme convenors send out a reminder? Students can also speak to their seminar leader if they are having problems catching up.	Convenors- please send out reminder email to staff by end of next week (23/11)
	Practical skills As the MA programmes last just one year, students are looking for technical skills to take into the jobs market. Workshops on using Adobe, for example.	PEP is looking in to developing and improving practical assessments with a greater emphasis on practical skills. This will give students a clearer sense of the skills development that is available.	PEP- ongoing

PGR	Nothing was discussed- no PGR rep in attendance		

Any issues identified for Faculty-wide consideration at the Student Experience Forum