School meeting – February 7, 2018 in the Project Studio

Participants: APD 0, IxD 4, TD 3, BFA 1, IDI 16, PhD 1, Staff 13

Agenda

- Work environment
- Equal opportunities
- Looking forward

Work environment

Physical work environment
Keep in mind, don’t bring your bikes inside. Among other things, it’s a serious fire safety issue.

Studio culture was discussed; What is ok and what is not? Please talk to each other in the student studios so that you agree on how to behave in the studio. Follow the general “studio rules”, but please also set your local rules or agreements for the studio. For example, no group work should be carried out in the studio. Students are encouraged to use headphone, not speakers. When you get a phone call you should step out. People’s personal belongings should of course be respected at all times. (That goes for UID equipment as well, borrowed from from Rikard or Peder). If you need a reminder of the general UID studio rules, you can find them here in the Student handbook: http://www.uid.umu.se/en/for-our-students/student-handbook/student-studios/

Psychosocial work environment

Work load and life/work balance. It was discussed how you can manage study life and other non-school activities in reference to stress. How can we create an environment where we don’t always have to work, where it’s ok to have time off for social activities? Ideas on finding sustainable ways of working, and studying together can be to use your team to make sure that you make time-effective decisions together. Students are encouraged to share experiences from internships and work life to shape our culture so that we can do things differently when necessary. Students should support each other and discuss these amongst themselves as well.

Students were also recommended to get in touch with student health services to deal with issues related to stress and overworking. Getting to know yourself and your early warning signs is key to address this issue. Also, if you see someone acting differently, talk to them. You can also always talk to staff, most of whom are used to dealing with these issues.

Questions were raised as to whether some of the courses are in fact able to complete during normal hours. It was agreed that passing the courses is doable in work hours, but many often overwork, and it has to some extent become the norm. A discussion on how we can change this culture needs to continue. It was agreed that we need to further discuss ambition levels, work load, consequences of burning out and how we can better promote qualitative learning.

Equal opportunities

After the last pub, obscene pictures were drawn outside the staff kitchen. It was perceived as offensive and a harassment towards the staff. This incident should be used to forward a discussion on how we think about what harassment is and what constitutes unacceptable behaviour. Students were informed that they can always talk to staff if they feel abused, harassed or mistreated in any way. We want to build a culture of openness and inclusion, so we need to talk about these issues. The metoo-movement has further brought forth discussions about how we can work with these issues even more systematically. You can always approach the Equal opportunities group (Sara Eriksson, Niklas Andersson, Carolyn Wegner, Sebastian de Cabo) with questions or if there is something to address, but all of staff should be approachable in regard to these matters. And you can always remain anonymous. http://www.uid.umu.se/en/for-our-staff/plans-and-policies/equal-opportunities/

Looking forward

Students were reminded to partake in “health on campus” on February 13th. There are many free events and lectures arranged: http://www.umu.se/english/about-umu/news-events/calendar/display-page?eventId=16861