



AVSSU 2017 Town Hall

Time: November 30th, 2017, 4:15 – 6:00 PM

Part 1: Comments & Concerns

- ARC361/ARC363 Course feedback:
 - The syllabus was not properly followed in some sections
 - Fast-paced
 - Suggestion: Potentially a two-day gap between the two lectures (for classes next year)
 - As some of the sessional professors come from Ryerson and Waterloo, they bring their studio atmosphere to this studio as well
 - Suggestion: the sessions do not necessarily need to be more spread-out, but the professor can have better control over the content in the first & second classes

Response:

 - The pace of the classes: it won't be possible to change that for next semester, but the feedback will be taken into consideration
 - The availability: although pin-up can be stressing for students, it is the best way for maximizing the effectivity of the teaching, so it will be continued
 - Note: The faculty do not wish to turn the studio into a undergraduate version of the graduate studio
- ARC180 Course Feedback
 - Third-year student feedback: the class size is too large, thus people have very diverse level of understanding on the same issue, which makes it challenging for the majority of the class to comprehend the content
 - Suggestion: make recording of the lecture available for the students after class
 - Marks were not given back to the students after the course drop date, and there was little feedback on the projects as well

Response:

 - Resources available: Lynda.com
 - Not too much can be done about the class size
 - Video tutorial is part of the plan
- ARC362/ARC364 for next semester
 - Previous email on the matter has been sent to the student body.
 - ARC399 will be offered
 - ARC314 will be offered during the summer for the last time
 - There is estimated to be 140 spots available for students to take a second studio

Part 2: Resources Available

- Avssu.ca/me available
 - Thoughts on the faculty/program/curriculum/studio space, etc.
- Mental health issue & Students feeling mistreated
Avssu.ca/report available
 - Note: Students cannot wait till course evaluation to report urgent feedback. They should voice their concern whenever.
 - Students can have these kinds of discussions anonymously.

Part 3: Other Topics (Study, Student spaces, etc.)

- “What’s the focus/core value in undergraduate’s architectural learning?”
Response:
 - An exposure to history, methods, representation, that characterize architecture study, and then the students can have the opportunity to develop more specialized learning on architecture. Architecture & Vis is more about a way of thinking than can be used as a lens to have access to the world. Another focus in our Arc & Vis program is being interdisciplinary – both in art practice and be engaged in intellectual activities
- “Where do the students get direct feedback when having any concern?”
 - Curriculum issue: the students should be comfortable with talking to the professor/TA’s about the issue
 - If it’s a behavioural issue, the student should go to the student services
- Vis: sometimes critics of a project can feel like a personal attack (communication issues)
 - Feedback: for some “early stage” misunderstandings, it is best to clarify the issue directly with the professor/TA.
- Visual studies: \$100 studio course fees
 - The faculty is in the process of tracking the usage of this fee for the past two years
 - There’s a communication gap between the 10-year professors and the sessional professors: some sessional professors do not know about the fee, which leads to a confusion on this issue
 - The student should approach the instructor on specific cases
- Undergraduate studio space
 - Note: The building, in general, is shared by both of the programs
 - More tables needed (for class uses) & acoustic issue: movable barriers

Response: we have a protocol for cleaning
The faculty is looking at better assignment of spaces and working on sound control
The construction will be continuing for a few months
Plan to separate two sessions, but at least it is not practical for next semester, so this situation will continue for a while

 - Suggestion: the stools should be adjustable
Response: no
 - Suggestion: Storage space for the students in the studio
Response: the faculty is working on a space for storage as well
 - Cleanliness issue
Response: we need to have a better protocol for cleanliness ourselves
 - The mesh in the middle of the space
Will be brought up during the faculty meeting

2017-11-30

- North & South Borden Studio Space
 - Various responses to the current space (availability, etc.)
 - The students should not be working in the studio while there's another class going on (for cases like both of the painting studios)
No, the students should not interrupt in process classes
But the faculty will book working sessions (time slots) for those studios (i.e. VIS220)
 - The materials in the studio should be available all the time for the students in that session (the materials in "the closet")
Response: TAs should be available for this request
 - The size of the thesis class doubles this year, the students are requiring better spaces to install their projects.
Response: the faculty will figure out a solution for this request

Part 4: Motions/Proposals 2018

- "What's in a student union?" – student space
 - A campus-wide survey, to look into how we can serve the students better
- Refuel Project
 - Stocking the kitchenette with drinks and food
- Recreate student lounge
 - The west side of the building, in front of the elevator (easily accessible)
 - The existing "student lounge" will be the computer space
 - Furniture in the studio

Part 5: Student Organizations

AVSSU Representatives – the door is always open!

VSSP