

## FXU Distance Learning Officer REPORT

October 2017

### What I've done

- Introduced myself and my role to my peers and other Flexible MA students through the FXU Facebook Group, supporting Student Advisors in promoting and pushing learners to apply for the roles of Students Reps;
- I defined a strategy, in collaboration with the Student Advisor Audrey Bauerschmidt, to simplify and optimise those communications between students of all Falmouth Flexible MAs and the Academic Officer. I proposed to create a dedicated group on Canvas in order to have periodic meetings with Students Reps and discuss all those needs related to the distant learning experience.
- I discovered that Falmouth University's MA course is not listed among the accredited courses at the AOP (Association of Photographers). Membership of AOP will provide us a free access to all those Symposiums, Fairs and Exhibitions in EU that also include Lectures, Workshops and Portfolio Reviews; all good chances to enhance students' careers. After a written submission, Chris Slessor is now deciding who to approach to see if Falmouth Post Graduate MA Photography can be credited to help distance learners, as well as in-campus students, saving money, and creating a more "sustainable" environment to all of us. The AOP also give us the chance to save money while applying to some photographic contests that do not otherwise have a discount for student photographers.
- I asked my Students Advisor and FXU Student Voice if distant learners have the chance to:
  1. communicate to a Career Advisor to obtain information, advices, guidance and support while making realistic choices about their future careers or education path;
  2. how distant learners can contact this professional figure;
  3. is a series of activities are foreseen, like: one-to-one interviews, skills and gaps analysis, career's research and support, guidance to submit a Portfolio, updates related to Market, legislation and professional/academic developments;
  4. if training activities like stages are available to distant learners as well;
  5. is support from Falmouth when applying for a stage in a specific Company is foreseen and how.

These questions were asked to analyse a situation involving second-year students especially, in order to have information to provide Students Reps with and create, from the very beginning, a mutual and trustworthy environment to enhance mutual collaboration. Communication sent for the attention of FXU Leadership Team.

## What I'm doing

- I am organising my work in steps:

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1. Once the Reps will be elected, the Canvas group will be created;
2. I will better explain my role to them (providing examples of those concerns, questions and requests that should address to me and the ones that should still address to the Student Advisors or the Academic Board). My aim is to make Reps and distant learners understand that Falmouth now has a role dedicated to enhance their experience and that a common and shared strategy is possible to do so;
3. I will ask Reps to submit to their peers a series of questions, collecting and organising the answers they will receive in order to forward them to my attention (to be forwarded to the FXU Leadership Team);

### MONTHLY/PERIODIC ACTIVITIES

4. I will arrange periodic discussions with Students Reps that will take place before the arranged meetings with the Students Board;
  5. I will create a mailing list to better address them all those communications and Feedbacks related to their requests;
  6. I will open channels for those urgent communications that might be necessary to receive/share in order to face those more urgent needs;
  7. I will share with Reps all information related to those "facilities" (both physical and virtual) that are currently available at Falmouth and Falmouth Flexible and I will support them in building the new necessary ones.
- I am preparing a list of questions that wants to better analyse the situation related to the Falmouth Flexible environment. Discussing with my peers I saw that a list of Associations, related to different fields of Art, might allow us to have free access to (Photography, New Technologies, Advertising, Events Management, Screenwriting) Fairs, Exhibitions and Symposiums that might help all (flexible and in-campus) students in saving money and being supported in the networking experience. Another question will be absolutely related to those online platforms that can help us in finding customers and co-workers. I would like to understand what is the most trustworthy ones according to students and to Falmouth University and to understand if applying is pricey or if they can already have access to them as Students thanks to our Students Cards/Codes. This could also open a discussion among peers, enhancing communication and collaboration in a fast-paced and, sometimes, overwhelming environment. **Please, see the document named "Officer Activities Sheet".**

## Other

- I received documents related to the first Students Board's meeting, and monthly reports papers and I am currently waiting for documents related to my specific role and a list of contacts containing details related to their roles and what questions I should address who.
- Completing the "Leadership Team Action Plan 2017" in its first version to share it with the Students Board in order to check how to properly create a punctual documentation of the work-in-progress activities.

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