Notes Education Board meeting, 31 May, 2021

Participants
Staff members:
Annika Eriksson
Katrin Holmqvist-Sten
Trygve Lundberg
Jeanette Nilsson (secretary)
Per Nilsson
Micael Norberg (chairman)
Edith Pasquier
Lisa Torell
Karin Wibron

Anton Öhrlund
(Umeå Studentkår/ Umeå Student Union)

Student representatives:
BFA1 – Hannes Iversen
BFA2 – Josefine Borgström, Dani Liljedahl
BFA3 – Guro Aae, Maria Olsson
MFA1 –
MFA2 –

Agenda
1. Welcome
2. Information
   a. Covid-19
   b. Recruitments
3. Work environment
4. Evaluations: results & procedures
5. Planning for Fall semester 2021
6. Round-the-table

1. Welcome

Last meeting was supposed to take place on the 12th of April but due to no student representatives that time it was cancelled and today’s meeting will be the last one. Anton Öhrlund represents Umeå Student Union. WHB, our school’s the student union, finally is up and running with Dani as education supervisor. WHB had a start-up meeting at Zoom on the 26th of May.

2. Information

   a. Katrin informs us briefly about the Covid situation. In the society it seems to be more relaxed and less restrictions with 1st of June as a little bit of a turning point however no new information from the university. It is still until the 29th of September that we have the new restrictions but hopefully new information will come soon. We are striving to have as much
physical education as possible with at least some of our guest teachers coming to Umeå but there are also practical problems at the moment with difficulties in booking flights etc.

b. The recruitment of a new professor will be announced by midsummer. Gunno will end his position with us and we will need to recruit a new teacher to the workshops. The recruitment group consists of Katrin, Micael, Tryggve and Karin. Artistic skills and experience is important in this position. Hopefully it can be announced in August so that the person being recruited can start asap in the fall.

3. Work environment

After the incident at the school last weekend it was a discussion with Per Ragnarsson and the security manager when it was decided that the caretaker from Balticgruppen is to be removed from his work at Arts campus. If anyone suspects something is missing it is important you inform Katrin, Micael or Robert about it.

4. Evaluations: results & procedures

Micael reads a text in Swedish concerning the purpose in general with evaluations and last year’s results (added as an appendix to this protocol). In addition it is decided that we will start sending out the protocols and not only publish them at the school’s website. A problem with previous evaluations is that it has oftentimes been focused on a particular teacher rather than the content itself. Another problem is that the evaluation is taking place only at the end of a semester and not directly after a course or a workshop as you tend to forget and it’s therefore difficult to answer all the questions. A common wish among the students is that the questions are more clear/specified and not of a general character. Another wish that many of the students have is that they are involved at an earlier stage and can influence how the questions are formulated, also if evaluation can be done more regularly in connection to a course or a workshop as a discussion is preferred. Annika suggests the open question “what do you miss” to be added among the other questions as a good way to find out if there is anything in particular that the students lack and would like to have more of. Anton points out that it is the course content that is to be evaluated not the individual teachers which is important to keep in mind.

Micael will shortly email this semester’s evaluation to all the teachers in the different classes for input. After this it will be sent out.

5. Planning for the Fall semester 2021

The schedule for BA1 is falling into place and is soon ready, same goes for BA2. BA3 is under discussion. The aim is to have them all ready by midsummer so that we can send them out. This coming semester Bildmuseet can offer single lectures and open them up to all students at the school. A lecture series about public art will be run for those who are interested. Gerd will hopefully continue on Fridays and possibly also have a workshop for the BA3, MA1 and MA2. There should be one offered to the other classes too, either in the form of a one-week workshop or in the form of tutorials spread out through the term. So many paint and the demand for that is very high. Gerd has pointed out that many of the students lack the basic skills normally taught in preparatory art schools.

Tryggve talks about workshops that he has some plans about that, Karin mentions the introductory courses for the new students will be scheduled, Johannes will take care of the photo lab. He points out the fact that the schedule is oftentimes too full and so the photo lab turns into some kind of helping-service, also the exhibitions takes time from the workshop staff when they need to help out installing. Annika comments that exhibitions is very instructive for the students as they learn a lot
by having exhibitions. Karin finds it ok as long as not all the exhibitions run at the same time and we communicate with each other.

6. Round-the-table

**BFA1:**
One reflection concerns cleaning equipment. Katrin says that a problem is that equipment disappears, same as with hand tools. Some shopping will take place before the semester starts and we’ll try to keep track of what is bought but we all need to help out with this avoiding that stuff disappears. HTBQ certification among the teachers? RFSL are having courses. Regarding the wish for a dish washer there will be a renovation of the students’ kitchen as well as the staff kitchen one or two weeks during summer, most likely in August (info will be sent out). Another thing is the graffiti in the building causing us to close the school for some days up to a week due to the toxic fumes coming out when removing it (info will be sent out).

**BFA2:**
Project room on the 3rd floor, people want to get rid of the studio there. The school is aware of this problem and will try to come up with a solution for next year. The wall by the entrance is something many want to get rid of. Katrin says that she and Robert have been discussing the need of this room and it is needed as long as we have restrictions to take into account but as soon as we can use the spaces that we have in an efficient way these walls can be taken down. Textile workshop? Curiosum had a textile workshop last year but after that it wasn’t mentioned so people are wondering what happened and why students cannot use the facilities. Soft lab is the name of Curiosum’s textile lab and Katrin is part of the group that meets to discuss issues like how the students can access the lab and she will bring it up for discussion at their next meeting to find out as the response up until now has been negative.

**BFA3:**
Trip? The reason why there has not been a trip this year has to do with the pandemic and therefore it hasn’t been possible to travel. The money has instead been spent for covid-19 measures, for example last spring semester there were costs in the form of extra teacher resources. A course about scholarship applications, economy and to start your own is something that many would like to have. Usually this has been offered early during the last study year but was cancelled this year due to sick-leaves. If on Zoom in the fall it may be possible to invite you who graduate and feel that you want to have what was not offered as planned.

Another common wish in the class is the lack of a network after having graduated. Previously the students at the school were at our website but not anymore, why–does it have to do with GDPR? Could easily by solved with people giving their consent to their names being published. Katrin explains that we’re moving towards a different platform for our website together with the rest of Arts campus. Would be nice to have info from the ones who graduate what has happened–a form of an alumni network.

Little text support/tutorials! A course with Imri Sandström in the fall yes but nothing in the spring. Imri should have come back to teach. Another question that many have is why not everyone can have a key, as for now only a few have. If it has been a problem with keys disappearing when leaving school that could be solved with a deposit. If not returning the key the money could be used for making new keys for instance.

No student representatives from the MFA1 and MFA2 class.