

Roski Undergrad Collective Proposals for Spring 2016

We, the Roski student body, have created this list of proposals to fix problems within our school, all of which we attribute to the leadership of Dean Erica Muhl. This is what we propose to begin that process:

REQUEST FOR A SENIOR SHOW:

There is currently no dedicated show for seniors to display their work at the end of their time here at Roski. The majority of competitive fine arts programs offer such a show, and we believe it is essential for graduating seniors to have the opportunity to show their work, not only to the Roski community, but to the larger Los Angeles arts community as well. Using the Senior Show as the students' introduction to the art world, we believe it is imperative for students to show their work off-campus at a reputable gallery in order to give students a chance to engage with the professional arts community.

For this year's graduating class, we have taken it upon ourselves to organize, curate and install our own senior show after the discouraging response we received about finding loopholes in USC policy to host off campus, although we believe that all future shows should be hosted through the Roski administration.

It is also imperative that this Senior Show not replace the Annual Student Exhibition that takes place at the Fisher Museum. This idea was mentioned at the Open Forum, but we are opposed to taking away the opportunity to show from the entire student body in order to give a Senior Show to the seniors.

REQUEST FOR FACS 150 THEORY-BASED STUDY AND ROSKI-ONLY CLASSES LIMITED TO 20 STUDENTS

At the Open Forum, we spoke extensively about the structure and content of Visual Culture and Literacy 150 (FACS 150). This conversation was cut short by the absence of Dr. Amelia Jones. Dr. Jones has since sent us a long email explaining many of the changes within Critical Studies. We stand firmly by our original assertion that we want Visual Culture and Literacy 150 to return to how it was before--theory based rather than art history based.

Visual Culture and Literacy 150 was previously a small, discussion-based and theory-based class and has changed to a large lecture centered on art history. We understand that as an art historian, Dr. Jones wants to incorporate art history into the Critical Studies classes, but there

are separate art history classes within Dornsife available to Roski students that fulfill General Education requirements.

We believe that the purpose of Visual Culture and Literacy 150 is to introduce students to relevant and applicable contemporary art theory that will inform not only their own arts practices but the way they look at art and art works as a whole. In her email, Dr. Jones said that she does not micromanage the specific content individual professors teach in Critical Studies, but instead creates guidelines for the structure of the class. We propose that these guidelines consist of a critical theory focused curriculum rather than a class structured around the memorization of names, works, and dates in an art historical context.

We also understand that Visual Culture and Literacy 150 now fulfills a USC General Education requirement which helps Roski students fulfill these requirements and take more studio classes. As the overall curricular structure at USC changes, we understand it is important that Roski students are able to fulfill GE requirements within the bounds of the School of Art and Design. However, we are not willing to accept the notion that this new GE obligation should compromise the small class sizes that are so important to the development of a meaningful critical dialogue. We propose a Visual Culture and Literacy 150 discussion section specifically dedicated to Roski students with a TA from either the MA or MFA program here at Roski. This discussion section would need special D-clearance to ensure that it only has Roski students enrolled. Student demand to take the new GE class should not compromise the atmosphere in the classroom for Roski majors.

REQUEST FOR FINE (STUDIO) ART FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES:

We understand part of Nao Bustamante's position is to lead all of the studio areas. However, we need specialized leadership coming from within each area to help ensure that the needs of each area are met and to encourage horizontal communication. We believe it is unrealistic to expect one person to be able to effectively manage the diverse areas within Roski's studio program at the same time as managing the MFA program at Roski. We propose a structure of three faculty intermediaries between Nao Bustamante, faculty, staff, and students. In this system, faculty representatives would be appointed to facilitate community and voice administrative concerns for the following studio practices: Photography & Intermedia; Sculpture & Ceramics; Painting & Drawing. By combining the sections of similar studio practices fewer faculty members will be drawn out of the classroom and into administrative duties.

FORMATION OF A ROSKI STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

We will be forming our own student government this semester. However, to do so, we will need some support from the administration. We plan to elect student representatives to attend faculty meetings, meetings regarding faculty searches, and meetings regarding changes to curriculum both in the present and future, starting as soon as possible.

We would like to have one of the bulletin boards in front of the Lindhurst Gallery dedicated exclusively to the Roski Student Government and its activities. The content posted on this bulletin board would be decided at the discretion of the Student Government. To further aid our efforts, we need a dedicated meeting time and space at Roski to ensure that we will be able to meet routinely.

STUDIO SPACE:

Students at Roski are in desperate need of studio space to make their work. We know there are efforts to construct studio space for us, but there are options available to us now, although they are limited. Because of limited space, we propose that priority be given to seniors.

It is our understanding that the large room off the Harris Courtyard adjacent to the Fisher Museum is intended to be shared every other semester between Architecture and Fine Arts, like the Chapel near the sculpture studio. We propose that Roski take this space every spring semester to give to its seniors as a shared studio space.

We also know there are many empty, unused studios in the IFT Graduate building, which could easily be shared by two or more students. We understand there are insurance issues with allowing undergraduate students into the graduate wing of IFT after hours, but undergraduate photo students are currently allowed into two of those studios to shoot. Because this space is not shared with architecture, students could use these studios year-round.

Regardless of which space we use as shared studio space, it is imperative that students have 24 hour keycard access to their studios, just like they would were it their own studio. Many other fine arts programs offer 24 hour dedicated studio space to students of all levels, and we are only asking for studio space for seniors.

If limited space becomes an issue, students can write proposals to allocate the space best.