

Town Hall Zoom Chat – May 6, 2021

- 01:08:30 Nicholas Jones (They/He): What are some of the action plans that are set in place to accomplish these goals?
- 01:09:07 Nicholas Jones (They/He): How/who is making sure people are "living by the draft"
- 01:09:10 Kaede she/her: Can you make the document larger? I personally can't read anything on the screen
- 01:10:56 Drake Flood he/him: If anyone has any questions they'd like to be shared anonymously feel free to direct message them to me or any of the other student reps
- 01:11:03 Maria Noguera: I understand that it might be impossible to enforce it but what would you say is a student's course of action if they believe that these goals are not being followed as you have said.
- 01:11:17 Amanda Whitley: Something I didn't see acknowledged but should be is the different financial backgrounds of the students? maybe I missed it
- 01:11:31 Nicholas Jones (They/He): How will this document be distributed ?
- 01:14:19 Nora Laos: Is there any way in the "wellness" section to address the amount of time that students work outside of their studies? I have found that students who work 30 or more hours per week and try to study full time find it very difficult to do both well.
- 01:14:22 Nicholas Jones (They/He): Im worried that this document without an action plan and a way to enforce it is empty. Students are having issues with professors right now that don't live by this code of honor. How do we as students protector education and ourselves without a way to enforce these ideas ?
- 01:15:58 Alan B.: certainly there is a lack of understanding and perhaps trust that asks
- 01:16:07 Alan B.: asked this question
- 01:16:58 Nicholas Jones (They/He): how do we know that actions are be taken on the admin side when a student brings up an issue
- 01:18:09 Alan B.: how do we move from an agreed-upon statement to actionable plan?

- 01:19:00 Jayla Huseyn: I joined in a little late, so this might have been addressed already. But the second to last paragraph seems to be far from reality to many of us from what I personally observed, especially in the first two years of architecture school. With that being said, will this document serve as a basis to change and create a healthier and more balanced studio culture?
- 01:19:16 Alan B.: can we have 'safe places' for students to share their points of view?
- 01:19:56 David V. Espinoza: I suppose one thing to consider (in terms of work/study balance) is if professors are okay with flexible studio times, just as we can try to ask employers for flexible work schedules. Depending on the job we may need some leeway in times we can turn in studio work
- 01:20:24 David V. Espinoza: To be clear I know certain professors can be flexible so its not uncommon
- 01:22:46 Rodrigo Gallardo: could it be useful to list more specifics within the document? since some of the phrasing is vague and could possibly allow for readers to simply continue how they are with no change. is there a plan to be more specific or is it going to remain as more of just a foundation document w no specifics?
- 01:23:15 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I think that it is EXTREMELY important that there is a action plan inside the original document to help guarantee that this document is followed and to protect students. no action means there is no way that students are actually protected
- 01:23:48 Maria Noguera: I personally believe that we are here because there are many students who don't know what is happening in the school or why and how choices are being made. In addition they don't know how or when they can provide their opinion in a conversation not just a form/survey.
- 01:24:10 Susan Rogers: Could the task force consider replacing "encourages" in the last section with a more active word such as "supports"
- 01:25:09 sara Romero: At the risk of sounding harsh, It looks like the document is only intended for the University to be able to say they did something while not actually doing something
- 01:25:15 Amanda Whitley: and how do we make sure the students are involved with making these action plans?

01:25:38 Mad Hatter: I agree with Nicholas.

01:25:49 Jayla Huseyn: Definitely agree with Nicholas.

01:25:51 Kaede she/her: I don't want there to be any misunderstanding-- I advocated for this meeting to happen last semester, and to be organized and run by our task force, at the BEGINNING of our process. It is happening at the end of the process and was not organized by our task force. So I was just seeking clarity on how the event you've organized is going to be leveraged to create a better statement. I don't think we'll be able to incorporate all these comments in an hour long meeting next week.

01:26:45 Rodrigo Gallardo: I agree with Nicholas

01:27:29 David V. Espinoza: @Amanda Whitley Yes I don't mind putting in some effort myself to make certain actions, whatever they need be happen.

01:29:48 Alan B.: what is systemic vs what is cultural?

01:30:27 Kaede she/her: Comparing holding faculty accountable to police brutality...

01:30:38 Nicholas Jones (They/He): there needs to be some sort of accountability!!

01:30:43 Rodrigo Gallardo: yes, i agree with maria

01:30:59 sara Romero: I agree with maría

01:31:17 Nicholas Jones (They/He): great point Maria

01:31:22 Alan B.: how to create this safe space?

01:31:30 Amanda Whitley: Yes Javi on point

01:32:49 Alan B.: how do student course evaluations come in to it?

01:33:27 Emmelia Ward: ^ That is a potential way to enforce this document, maybe?

01:33:43 Amber Quinn: I agree with Javier and Maria, students need explicit and accessible channels to ask for help without fearing their reputation as a student might be hurt by them speaking up.

01:33:45 Alan B.: cougar ally is a good model!

- 01:33:55 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I think there needs to be a accountability board that will investigate and look into comments and issues brought fourth from the reporting party
- 01:33:58 Rachel Chan: Once this document is finalized, what are the plans to distribute or present this to the college? I wouldn't want this to just be an attachment to an email and believe that it needs to be directly addressed in an all-college meeting perhaps. A meeting where students and faculty are present, so that everyone sees that everyone should be following this policy.
- 01:34:21 David V. Espinoza: Students are more likely to lean on other students, so that's a good first step.
- 01:34:29 Emmelia Ward: Yess accountability boarddd
- 01:35:12 David V. Espinoza: Just someone who address specific concerns. Allies for different corners for different concerns
- 01:35:53 Nora Laos: There is a student grievance policy in place. Can this policy be somehow linked to this document?
- 01:36:33 Drake Flood he/him: The student reps will make sure the comments in the chat are addressed at the next meeting, so please share any thoughts you have
- 01:37:43 Amber Quinn: Feeling safe I feel would be a space separate from studio. A space where what you say is separate from your reputation as a student.
- 01:38:36 Maria Noguera: I agree, Student organizations are constantly trying to support first and second year students and get them to get to know others/ join events but there isn't administrative support in pushing students to grow outside of studio at all.
- 01:38:38 Alan B.: those are areas to work on, Jayla!
- 01:38:43 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I agree amber I think I would be worried that a future prof or jury member would remember me after the safe space
- 01:38:47 Trang Phan: Thank you, @Amber.
- 01:38:55 Maria Noguera: Lord knows I learned so much more from my peers than my professors at times.
- 01:39:10 Loryn LaMonte: I agree with Amber.

01:39:22 Imran Ahmed: I agree with Amber's definition of a safe space

01:39:23 Carla Rios: I agree with maria

01:39:45 Javier Guerrero: These townhalls need to be happening on a regular basis. not once the work is done in reference to the final draft coming from the College Culture TF

01:40:21 Ashton Ezell: I agree with javi

01:40:31 David V. Espinoza: This is what Nora Laos referred to, perhaps we can work off this as a base: <https://uh.edu/architecture/current-students/studentservicesandresources/student-grievance/>

01:41:09 Maria Noguera: I agree. Frequent town halls will ensure that people feel like this is a continued conversation rather than a mad dash to get as much into a short time span as possible which ultimately will lead to faculty/student/administration tensions and students feeling unheard/unappreciated.

01:41:29 Mad Hatter: Who can we talk to about course frequency, re: having the freedom to create balance in our own schedules?

01:41:42 Nicholas Jones (They/He): Prof. Laos mentioned if "there is a student grievance policy in place. Can this policy be somehow linked to this document?" I think that making that document that is easily accessible like a google form could be a great way to fix the action plan gap in the document. makings sure that there is a way for students and faculty to address the issues directly and securely is very important.

01:41:45 Maria Noguera: I don't think that 2 hours long events once every semester is helping the conversation to be honest.

01:43:17 David V. Espinoza: So I guess we gotta ask then, when should the next meeting be?

01:44:25 Javier Guerrero: I would suggest minimum one every other month

01:45:56 Rodrigo Gallardo: yeah more townhalls

01:46:17 Jayla Huseyn: I agree with Javi. Having these townhall discussions regularly would be amazing

01:46:44 Susan Rogers: I recommend a college wide prioritization of the DEI action items so the TF knows what students/faculty/staff care about most

01:46:47 Maria Noguera: I don't mind emails but I know that we get bombarded by UH as a whole through our emails so many students will mass delete emails from the school.

01:47:34 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I think that the CoAD could carve out time in a Friday studio to have these town halls

01:47:55 Sarah White: Promoting these on the college Instagram could also be a good idea

01:47:56 Alan B.: carving out Studio time is good!

01:48:11 Lindsey Weaver: i agree with nick! more people would attend

01:48:12 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I think making sure that students don't have to take time out of their peroneal life to attend these meetings because students have a lot of happening after studio

01:48:35 Rachel Chan: We should schedule them ahead of time during the summer so that the orgs can schedule around them

01:48:37 Zush Bettoun: we don't have a set lunch time

01:48:48 Loryn LaMonte: Yes! It can be very difficult to stay after studios for commuters.

01:48:59 Amber Quinn: Students have classes during lunch times often.

01:49:02 Elvia: agreed

01:49:02 Pooja Desai: A lot of studios are during lunch time: 11am - 2pm

01:49:02 Alan B.: when we are Back in the Building we can do some actual social Town halls

01:49:19 Maria Noguera: I don't think that the struggle is so much finding a time but more so again having administration stress the importance of being a well rounded student and getting involved in the school outside of just studio MWF

01:49:20 Rodrigo Gallardo: I think maintaining the zoom format in townhalls could help with attendance and participation as well, if the plan was to be in person

01:49:41 Pooja Desai: agreed with rodrigo

01:49:46 Jayla Huseyn: Agree with Nicholas. Some of us have to work. We have assemblies in the first hour of studios, can't we do the same with the town halls?

01:51:14 Carla Rios: not everyone is going back to school so zoom meetings as of now will continue to be the best way

01:51:15 Ross Wienert: If Friday afternoon studio time is used for the town halls, steps should be taken to assure that first year students are able to attend as well. (their studios are in the mornings)

01:51:37 Nicholas Jones (They/He): agreed ^^^^

01:52:25 David V. Espinoza: As in make it kinda sorta mandatory to increase attendance to these? Sorry if that makes it sounds negative.

01:54:09 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I agree Cynthia

01:54:10 Javier Guerrero: one suggestion that I have heard several times. Especially from our TAs is that if you add extra credit to attending these events, it would drive students to be there to at least listen

01:54:12 David V. Espinoza: I agree that first years are the ones who need to know this the most, and they attend these the least I think.

01:54:57 Imran Ahmed: 100% agree with Javier, if we offer incentives like extra credit or points, students would be more likely to come

01:55:15 Elvia: I agree

01:56:33 Nicholas Jones (They/He): Thank you Drake

01:56:40 Stephen Schad: <https://uh.edu/architecture/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/final-dei-report-2020.pdf>

01:56:43 Lisa Evans: A lot of times students are highly incentivized by professors recommending something, whether it be visiting a site or attending a lecture. I think that making sure the studio professors push this would be a good idea.

02:00:17 Maria Noguera: on that note! please everyone vote for stuco reps the voting closes tomorrow

02:00:38 Angela Tran: ^^ Thanks, Maria!

02:01:00 Maria Noguera: link to vote here
>>>[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://forms.gle/Q9kFhFWsFwDSXunP7__!!LkSTljo!V6o1hoz-5CetrbgIAGCqy6KSVSlie3YKRkiPbA453gl88LL87SU1_lcytozoOFxXRHK\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://forms.gle/Q9kFhFWsFwDSXunP7__!!LkSTljo!V6o1hoz-5CetrbgIAGCqy6KSVSlie3YKRkiPbA453gl88LL87SU1_lcytozoOFxXRHK$)

02:02:44 Susan Rogers: Data is in the report

02:02:58 Nicholas Jones (They/He): Is it possible to have a separate town hall that goes over specially the action Document and talk through the primary goals one by one. I think its important that students fully understand what this document is trying to do

02:03:07 Zush Bettoun: so I see notes on future student experience and admissions. can we address the current policy of the university where students at different levels can enroll in classes before others, based on seniority. Resulting that education is not "equal" to students even within the same year. How does the taskforces plan to address this inequality?

02:03:36 Nicholas Jones (They/He): Are those meetings open to the public ?

02:03:49 Rodrigo Gallardo: i know this is a growing doc that will change with time, is there a timeframe for the recommendations and goals that are listed to be achieved?

02:04:21 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I think that's a University of Houston policy Zush but that is a very good point

02:04:58 Zush Bettoun: it is but change can start within one dept,

02:04:58 Maria Noguera: I am almost certain that is a UH wide policy that all colleges do so I think it might be out of the scope of this meeting.

02:06:21 Kaede she/her: What's the point of making it easy if it ends with a result that isn't in line with peoples' actual needs? The door has to stay open. I agree with Javi. Open meetings as early in the process as possible and as consistently as possible.

02:08:32 Alan B.: Open meetings good !

02:08:34 Nicholas Jones (They/He): wait you can put you hand up. how do you do that so I stop interrupting people

02:08:46 Imran Ahmed: So are these point person assignments equally distributed throughout the DEI members? Or are some members taking on more than others?

02:08:53 Javier Guerrero: under reactions @nick

02:08:57 Sac Cynthia: at the bottom there should be an icon that says Reactions. I believe you can chose from that

02:10:49 Drake Flood he/him: From a student: Happy to be having this meeting at the beginning of the process rather than rushed at the end

02:11:18 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I understand that not every meting I am able to speak at but I would like to be able to attended the meeting similar to city hall meetings or city council meeting

02:12:25 Imran Ahmed: I agree with Nick

02:13:28 Rachel Chan: Can we stream these meetings?
02:13:48 Nicholas Jones (They/He): I know how silly it sounds but just like an Instagram live would be enough

02:14:01 Amber Quinn: Meetings have been scheduled during studio in the past, that should be avoided at all cost to increase accessibility.

02:14:07 Sarah Holloway: A little plug on behalf of the Alumni Association - 1) If you ever need support or connection to an alumni as a student or student organization, we have placed a form on the website where you can make the request. (I will send the link next) 2) We will be looking for student representatives to serve on the Alumni Association board. If you are interested, please email coadalumni@uh.edu. We would love to have your input with that group as well!

02:14:17 Sarah Holloway:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vboLF_CikEytSw6PDwxCWRWTZFogGvhGrk3wkmQTE6ZURDJHOEJQWDZWMEzXUFDNNEpRTlk2OS4u&wdLOR=coA82F321-76C7-984A-B27D-0593F736AD80