



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Notes Education Board meeting, 2 June, 2020

Participants:

Staff members

Katrin Holmqvist-Sten (chairman)
Gerd Aurell
Robert Djärv
Christoph Draeger
Per Nilsson
Jeanette Nilsson (secretary)
Karin Wibron

Student representatives

BFA1 – Josefine Borgström
BFA2 – Maria Olsson
MFA1 – Judit Kristensen

Agenda:

COVID-19 situation and the upcoming semester

Situation now

- ✓ Folkhälsomyndigheten and the government informed last week (Friday 29th of May) to reopen the schools from the 15th of June, see this page as to how Umeå University relates to it: <https://www.umu.se/covid-19/anstallning/undervisning/> This however doesn't mean it will be without restrictions, everybody still needs to follow the restrictions regarding social distancing and gatherings. We need to find solutions for the manning of the building as to staff being present and also to find good routines together with the security department at the university. What we know at this point is that in the weeks 30 and 31 the school will be totally closed. Katrin will send out information about this as soon as it has been decided. The school will be open for the future BFA2, BFA3 and MFA2 students so not for the graduate students unless you're taking one of our summer courses. This however doesn't change the fact that the summer courses will be offered online as the teachers have already prepared and sent out schedules for their online teaching. Since last education board meeting it was decided that we can offer a third summer course this year; a course in critical writing that is, to interested students in BFA2 and MFA1. Teachers in this course: Per Nilsson and Imri Sandström.

Evaluation

- ✓ Evaluation of this semester, as was brought up at last meeting, is worked upon and will shortly be distributed to the classes. Katrin will work on them digitally and add questions about the COVID-19 situation, Jeanette will then send out the links



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to each class (deadline for answering: Friday 12th of June). A common wish among our students is to have an evaluation after each course and workshop rather than just one at the end of the semester because it's difficult to remember everything that has taken place. A difficulty with that is that many of our courses run parallel to the main course and sometimes are not finished until the end of the semester. An option however could be to have mid-term evaluations as well, and possibly also after a workshop. This is something to look into for next study year.

Studios – how things will work in the fall and info on emptying it now/after the summer

- ✓ We will follow the same system as previous years when it comes to distributing the studios meaning the MFA2 students get to choose first, then the MFA1, the BFA3, BFA2 and last BFA1. We hope that this year the selection process will run more efficiently as we learnt from last year's mistakes and will correct a few things. In addition it's planned for two separate welcome meetings this year (as an approach to avoid too many people in the seminar room at the same time); MFA will have their's at 10.00 and BFA will meet at 13.00 which gives the MFA students time in between to choose so that hopefully the BFA can take over after their gathering.
- ✓ For the ones emptying their studio now wishing to keep stuff for the fall you can from next week (w 24) and onwards store furniture and other belongings in the monumental workshop, just make sure you mark everything properly! A skip is right now available outside the school until the 18th of June for those of you who want to throw stuff. For those of you continuing in the fall, emptying your studio space after the summer, you will have a chance to get rid of things later on as we plan to bring another skip to the school sometime in August. Robert will send out info when it will happen.

Schedule for the fall semester

Planned workshops and collaboration projects..

The performance festival organized by Bildmuseet and Norrlandsoperan that was planned to take place in Sep/Oct is postponed until same time next year instead. Eric Bünger will come and have an open workshop. Lisa will also have an open workshop. Thanks to extra funding that the school received Tryggve is planning to have a sculpture workshop together with our partner school in Newcastle and Gerd is planning for Luleå biennale in November. Another collaboration project is Vita kuben where we can invite artists for lectures, e.g. 6 women (former students) and painters will come for lectures and studio talks. A "survival" workshop (language Swedish) is planned for (Gerd and Micael). The Monday lectures when we invite artists is something we plan to continue with.

Possibility for more open workshops..

No suggestion from the BFA1 class, Julia Bondesson is a suggestion from the BFA2 class (has informed Gerd that she much rather comes next spring semester), ... Chester? and Klara Kristalova are two suggestions from the MFA1 class. The classes are welcome to send in suggestions to Katrin.



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- ✓ Open house will take place in January instead of during the fall, which is better for future students who want to apply to us, and also it's a good way to start off the semester with such an event.

MFA2: will continue with Ariane Müller as guest teacher/supervisor for the main course "Artistic practice". Fall exhibitions will as part of this take place in the Gallery/Monumental, possibly 4 students per show, 2 in each space, with group crits over Zoom. Per Nilsson and Lisa Torell will hold the course "Critical writing" as well as the course "Artistic research".

MFA1: new professor to be appointed in the ongoing recruitment process who will be responsible for the main course "Artistic practice". The course "Art in today's society" will be taught by Marianna Feher. Regarding study trip a decision will come in Aug/Sep. An idea if it can happen is the Berlin biennale, a more local alternative is the Luleå biennale.

BFA3: Katja Aglert will continue as guest teacher/supervisor for the main course "Artistic practice", together with Micael who hopefully is back from his sick leave in time for the fall semester. Imri Sandström will give the critical writing course together with Pelle and Lisa. The other two courses "Art history and theory related to art production" and "Artistic work in today's society" will be taught by Imri Sandström.

BFA2: Gerd will be responsible teacher for the main course "Artistic practice" and invite artists who will offer workshops/seminars, e.g. Chiara Bugatti who will come for in total 2 weeks (one week at the end of Oct for a material workshop and one week in December for an exhibition). An additional week can be offered by someone, preferably based in Sweden – not yet decided who so suggestions are welcome. The theory course will be taught by Emily Fahlén, one week in Sep is planned for and over Zoom due to travelling restrictions still.

BFA1: Katrin will be responsible teacher for the main course "Artistic practice". Regarding the introduction course we'll have to find a way to avoid large groups in the workshops (same applies for the MFA1), moreover the first week when we plan for a series of lectures/presentations by different departments at the university. The library is interested in continuing last year's collaboration with Senioruniversitetet but this needs to wait until decided as we don't know the COVID-19 situation then. This goes for other guest teachers that we invite how they regard the safety with travelling to Umeå.

News from the classes

Nothing in particular from the BFA1 or the BFA2 class. From the MFA1 Judit brings up how it was now with Ariane and the work with the online exhibition "Cabin Fever" when Sebastian Lütgert was helping out although there was no budget for it. Also the dates were changed short in advance which makes it difficult for some if you have made other plans plus it's not ok since the schedule is something you should have at least one month in advance and not just the dates but in detail. The fact that the schedule is presented late is a quite common problem. One way to avoid that could be to be clear with



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the guest teacher from the beginning/when invited and it's confirmed that he/she is coming and to then send a checklist what the school needs and a deadline for it. The best is always to be informed about a problem as soon as it appears so that one can easier deal with it/prevent it from happening in the future.

What's up?

- ✓ Karin informs us about a recently started work of a brochure that ideally could be handed out at the beginning of the semester. This is supposed to be a summary of FAQ (frequently asked questions) so that one can easily be reminded about common routines at the school and what is informed during the introduction.
- ✓ The wall in the gallery has been taken down and parts of it are saved. The school will try to find a solution for how it possibly can be rebuilt. Karin welcomes ideas for this and will mail out later on when it is decided if/how the wall should be built.
- ✓ Because there has this year not been an existing student union group at the school it has from time to time been difficult to know who to inform.. a recommendation for next study year is to try to form a group of engaged students who are prepared to take on that kind of work!