

Staff Student Consultative Committee Meetings – How to Prepare for Them

When: The SSCC meets once a term, usually during the second to last or last week of term, or just before the examination period.

Who: All full-time members of the Digital Arts and Creative Industries Department's teaching staff attend the meeting, as do student representatives.

What the SSCC does: The SSCC "terms of reference" describe the committee's membership and also its role. The "terms of reference" will be sent to all staff and students, along with the agenda, ahead of each meeting.

Essentially, the point of the SSCC is to provide a context and an opportunity for staff/student discussions about teaching & learning in the Department of Visual Studies. Discussions may focus on:

- problems that arose during the semester;
- challenges that appear to lie ahead;
- experiences that were especially positive and deserve to be noted;
- aspirations/dreams/hopes/future directions

Preferred approach: We look to approach these discussions in a positive/constructive and fair-minded way. In practice, this means that:

- constructive feedback and thoughtful suggestions for further development of the courses are always welcome;
- critical comments should be carefully thought through and should also reflect some thinking about how best to resolve the identified issue;
- students are encouraged to approach their teachers directly about issues, before bringing these issues to the SSCC;
- critical comments should not be raised only about the teaching of teachers who are absent from the meeting or who are the most junior;
- critical comments should capture the wider context of a problem—if the comments are being articulated by someone who did not put a lot of work into the course in question, this should be made clear;

It is very important to remember that SSCC discussions can also look to the future. So give a bit of thought to where you would like to see teaching & learning go in the Department of Digital Arts and Creative Industries and let us know if you have some good ideas you would like to share with us!