VSWSU

VISUALSTUDIESWORKSHOPSTUDENTUNION

a framework for peers to engage their academic environment through social community

What will a VSWSU do?

• Orient and connect students through stewarding semesterly, annual, and often unexpected events, decisions, and questions.

Who is part of VSWSU?

• All VSW students whether they are aware or not. There is no sign-up.

When does the VSWSU meet?

• That depends on each group of students. Some may see a need for a few times a semester. Others only once-and-a-half. Possibly only through online messaging or social media forums. Certain years may prefer bars, pizza shops, or leaving each other notes in their mailboxes. And there may be those seasons who never engage. The organization will exist through organizing.

Why should VSW have an SU?

• Students are the heart of VSW and the more aware they are of each other the richer their graduate experience will be, and the more robust a VSW community at large will become. Cultivating attentiveness to the dynamics of new student orientation, studio space interaction, and the ever-changing nature of how the program exists inside such a unique building, will make for an engaged student body that can adapt creatively to it's circumstances.

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Potential VSWSU Framework for Academic Year:

End of Summer/Fall Semester

• Set a date and instigate a **New Student Orientation** potluck
(Usually held 1st week on front lawn with grill. VSW community at-large invited, including faculty, past AIR's, alumni, spouses, family.)

• **MFA Studio Welcoming** 1st week. Show new students the space, clarify usage, recent history, door-locking, food and garbage policies, cleaning schedules? Use-it-or-lose it? Empty tables? Assign new students spaces organically or through lottery? Clean out unused objects? Sit and talk with each other?

• Organize an early September casual outing for all-students? Bar? Pizzeria? Diner? Park? Join with a current event? (i.e: Basketball game, Debate watch, Birthday party?) Possibly a series of meals at one-another's homes?

• **Mid-Semester Formal** VSWSU meeting. Oct. 15th'ish? MFA Studio or Classroom roundtable clarifying state of VSW, questions from students, studio check-up? How is class structure going? VSW events? Potluck? What is VSWSU?

• **Workshare Space Clarification:** Post-Thanksgiving, VSWSU takes up figuring out desires for workshare space placement. Utilize a building plan map? Group email thread with students to figure out who's where for what and when? Auditorium? Media screening? Upstairs, downstairs? What type of workshare format? Who's coming? Inform Excecutive Director, Facilities, and Faculty on lay-out.

• **Workcall**: Keep in touch with VSW faculty on what is to be expected at work call. Put together any facilities needs or concerns that could be addressed those days. Utilize lunch gathering to communicate any ongoing thoughts, issues, ideas, questions as a group. Give a formal/casual VSWSU presentation of student experience? Talk with Executive Director, Facilities, Collections Management and Faculty all at once! Get on the same page! Town hall debate?

• **End Semester Holiday Gathering:** In the auditorium? Week before VSW "closes" to the public? Joined with a VSW event?

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Winter Break/Spring Semester/Summer Session

• **New Year Formal** early January roundtable. Discuss roles of students in passing-along VSWSU? Email threads? Online documents? Update frameworks? Print copies? Archive past VSWSU files? Social media forums? Everyone on same page? Studio check-up, shape-up any questionable spaces, poise for new semester!

• **Mid Semester Formal** before Spring Break? MFA Studio or Classroom roundtable clarifying state of VSW, questions from students, studio check-up? How is class structure going? VSW events? Potluck? How is VSWSU going?

• **Workshare Space Clarification:** Mid-April, VSWSU takes up figuring out desires for workshare space placement. Utilize a building plan map? Group email thread with students to figure out who's where for what and when? Auditorium? Media screening? Upstairs, downstairs? What type of workshare format? Who's coming? Inform Excecutive Director, Facilities, and Faculty on lay-out.

• **Workcall**: Keep in touch with VSW faculty on what is to be expected at work call. Put together any facilities needs or concerns that could be addressed those days. Utilize lunch gathering to communicate any ongoing thoughts, issues, ideas, questions as a group. Give a formal/casual VSWSU presentation of student experience? Talk with Executive Director, Facilities, Collections Management and Faculty all at once! Get on the same page! Town hall debate?

• Summer-session/public events? Who's working in studio over summer? New students showing up for tours? Engage potential students? Anyone using Project Space? Keeping clean while "closed" with no facilities staff budget?

• **Early July Potluck:** Front lawn? Week before VSW "closes" to the public? Joined with a VSW event? Who's working in studio over summer? Who's carrying on VSWSU to Fall Semester? Update framework? New email threads? Archive past VSWSU files? Social media forums? Everyone on same page? Studio check-up, shape-up any questionable spaces, poise for new semester.

• Set date for **New Student Orientation** potluck (Usually held 1st week on front lawn with grill. VSW community at-large invited, including faculty, past AIR's, alumni, spouses, family.)

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Visual Studies Workshop Student Union is a framework for peers to engage their academic environment through social community.

All VSW students are part of it whether they know it or not.

It works best when engaged organically, or prescriptively, or however the current student body is feeling.

Some years may go by where it is used to the fullest potential, and-than-some.

Others, it may pass unnoticed,

but, it exists   waiting   for any number of students

eleven

thirty-three   seven, ate,

four

or just one

to engage it.