

October 25, 2021

**Statement of Students' Council Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw regarding The  
Department of Fashion at the Faculty of Design**

Dear Staff, Dear students,

last semester, in collaboration with the Students' Council's Equality Committee, we attempted to resolve a situation regarding events connected to the Fashion Department that occurred within social media. Through statements issued by the Equality Commission, we have reached out directly to resolve the issues discussed in our presence. Since March, we have actively participated in several meetings discussing ways to continue the case, that turned out to have unfortunate consequences.

At this point, we would like to sincerely apologize to all the people working in the Fashion Department for the infringement of their interests, which was a result of impulsive reaction to the emotionally charged information provided to us. Such a reaction, although it seemed appropriate at the time, was unnecessary and we deeply regret the damage it has caused. In our previous statement we have used phrases, that at the time seemed justified and were a result of trust we have put in people describing their experiences. Time has shown that the terms we used were pejorative and proved to be hurtful to many people. For that we are deeply apologize.

Despite taking what we believed to be appropriate actions and measures, we have not been up to the task of supporting people who reported their negative experiences. What failed here was the lack of dialogue between student council-students-graduates which were directly affected by the situation under discussion. Everyone, especially the Students' Council, acted intending to resolve the situation, not focusing on the quality of internal communication.

The turnout of reports to the Ethics Committee was almost nil, hence no further steps were taken to report the existence of any issues. This led to an official closure of the matter at the Academy and Faculty authority levels.

Should a situation occur in the future in which any member of the student body needs our assistance with the subject matter, we stand ready to provide all the necessary

information and support. Although our weaknesses have been highlighted, the situation taught us how to deal with similar incidents, equipping us with the right tools to do so. While we hope that confronting similar issues will not be necessary, we intend to continue gaining knowledge on topics that affect the student body to varying degree and to participate in activities that will contribute to creating procedures that should prevent similar incidents in the future. Remember that as Students' Council, we hope to provide you with help and support in any circumstances, however our abilities are limited by the degree of your involvement.

Yours sincerely,

President of the Students' Council of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw

 Daria Medrzycka

Students' Council of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw