

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 100-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
15th September 2011

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Genevra Howard	ISYS10	42116643
Elaine Hsia	ISYS100	42502381
Renee Cobcroft	ISYS100	42466253
Alexandra Stock	ISYS100	42466318
Nicole Leong	ISYS100	42099323
Anthony Wales	ISYS114 COMP125	42467683
Benjamin Civitico	ISYS114 COMP125 INFO111	42448456
Gurpreet Singh	ISYS104	42144817
Alex Melrose	ISYS100	42444829
Luke Vergos	ISYS104 ISYS114	42600995

Staff Representatives	Units
Peter Busch	Chair & Acting Head of Department
Francis Louise	ISYS100, ISYS104
Christophe Doche	Director of Teaching, COMP125
Steve Cassidy	COMP125
Michael Hitchens	INFO111
Matthew Mansour	ISYS100, ISYS104, ISYS114
Margot McNeill	LTC
Richard Miller	Science IT
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Renee Vance	Minutes

Apologies:

Michael Johnson, Bernard Mans

Meeting started at 1:05pm

The Chair (PB) welcomed all to the meeting and invited staff representatives and the student representative to introduce themselves.

PB asked for comments on teaching, lab facilities, convenors and staff (tutors) for each of the units below

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS100: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

Lectures

- A student representative noted they preferred iLearn over Blackboard, one of the features that is regarded well is the week format view.
- MM on iLearn, it is easier to provide feedback each week, he can be sure the students receive the notifications, any message can be forwarded from gmail to another email account.

Practicals/Tutorials

- Student reported that in the practicals there is a display driver issue with flashing screens. ScienceIT noted this.

General

ISYS104: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

Lectures

- Convenor reported no issues with iLecture, the emails are coming in, keeps the work up to date and likes the weekly view. Discussion followed over iLearn vs Blackboard. Some students liked the Blackboard layout and liked the forum in Blackboard. SC noted that it depends on how the layout was enabled. MM finds that students will participate and answer questions on the forum to assist others.
- Lecture is in T5, hot, tight room with no ventilation, small theatre not ergonomically sound.

Practicals/Tutorials

- The mixed classes have had a good response in student numbers, more people are attending.
- Content wise, they have had to adapt 24 hours worth of work to 12 hours, however the feedback has been positive.
- RM asked for comments on Wifi in E7B and a student noted that on occasion, he had to restart nine times to the wifi.
- Outdoor wifi would be useful!

General

INFO111 Unit Convenor – Michael Hitchens

Lectures

- Student reported that the lectures are going well, well structured.
- Exciting subject

Practicals/Tutorials

- Practicals a too laid back, needs direction.
- MH will rectify in 2012.

General:

- Exam in previous years was 6 questions out of 8 questions. The degree is focused on design, so the assessment is re-jigged. Kodu MS game development tool, programming.
- 180 students enrolled, class of 165 submissions in stage one of the assignment..

ISYS114 Unit Convenor – Manolya Kavakli

Lectures

- The lecture is in C5CT1 which is a favourite room, comfortable, with power points under the seats, good tables. MM said it was a good room to teach in too.

Practicals/Tutorials

- The mixed classes are working well, however the time given to do the work is not enough. The software PowerDesign is good, however discussion arose over licence requirements (i.e. Students can only trial for 14 days)
- MSDNAA – students can only download this at home, not at MQ, would take too long.

General

- Assignment one was well structured, clean cut design based on SQL – SQL Developer. Assignment two to be released over the coming weekend, due on Monday of Week 13.
- iLecture, academics can't see the 'student view' of iLecture.
- When students submit an assignment early, they can be cautious of the due

date, no hardcopy, only online and some items are hard to submit.

COMP125 Unit Convenor – Christophe Doche

Lectures

- Lectures are held in the Price theatre.
- Having the lecture 3-6pm wasn't favoured and a preference would be to have two smaller lectures.

Practicals/Tutorials

- Two hour mixed class is good, tutor gets to everyone, marked in time
- Student reports that in labs, you can spend too much time logging in, and the once open, programs holds for a long time. There is slow network connection on Eclipse and when typing mid sentence, it freezes.

General

- Students would like to see three parts of assignments at once, not broken up. As it is nice for the students to see all parts to know where they are going with the answers. Allows time read and think about it. SC spoke on mixed feedback over bonus marks.
- SC spoke on the options of a single file upload or a multiple file upload to iLearn.

COMP188 Unit Convenor – Michael Johnson

- No students represented at this liaison meeting for this unit, convenor regrettably can't attend future 100 level liaison meetings and apologies noted in advance (clashing timetable).

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS:

RM called for any first year issues with the labs e.g. print quotas. Some students may need an option of colour printing e.g for printing out assignments. PB thanked all those that attended.

The meeting closed at 1.50pm

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 20th October 2011 at 1pm.