

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**  
**Minutes of the 100-Level Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 1 pm**

**Present:**

<b>Student Representatives</b>	<b>Units</b>
Ka Tsung Chu	COMP125, ISYS114
Giles Harrison-Smit	COMP125, ISYS114
Lai Fei Ho	ISYS114
Yvonne Ip	ISYS114
Anish Luthra	ISYS123
Lisa lemma	ISYS123
Steffi Peter	ISYS123
Brian Cheng	ISYS123
Carina Luk	ISYS123
Niha Wu	ISYS123
<b>Staff Representatives</b>	<b>Units</b>
Ros Ballantyne	Chair
Bernard Mans	HOD
Louella Almeida	Department Manager
Matthew Mansour	ISYS123
Richard Miller	CTS
Yan Wang	COMP125
Jian Yang	ISYS114
Michael Hitchens	ISYS123, INFO111
Christophe Doche	
Raina Kim	Minutes

**Meeting started 1:05pm**

**Ros apologised to SPL128 for holding meeting at same time as their practical.**

**UNIT MATTERS**

There were no student representatives for SPL128 and INFO111.

**ISYS123:** Michael Hitchens

**Lectures:**

- Students are very happy with the lecturer, Matthew Mansour, and the way he transforms boring material into an interesting topic. MM is very much liked by the students.
- Students like the layout and the pace of the lectures.

- Some students do not bother to buy the required textbook because there is a lot of information on the i-lecture. Some students use the textbook for looking up definitions only.

**Tutorials:**

- Some students think that it is more beneficial to do the work at home rather than attending the classes. Students feel that they are not doing much in the lessons. MM said today the classes would be better.

**Practicals:**

- Student said the practicals were dull and too much work was given for the time.
- Some students didn't do anything in the sessions and some didn't know what to do during the class due to no specific instructions given.
- Some students didn't know their tutor's names and some could not remember them. MM had asked the tutors to put their names down on the board every week. MM said the practicals should have felt like a class rather than a drop in session. MM thinks the tutors should be more engaging with the students.
- Student complained that the work was marked too quickly without going into detail. She felt that the mark was given on an impression. Students said they did not receive any feedback from the tutors and the questions asked for marking were quite random. MH said each time there were about 600 works to be marked and therefore the tutors did not cross check. The tutors were given a set of questions to ask the students to assist in marking the work. Tutors randomly picked the questions to ensure that the same questions were not asked every time.
- Student said a lot of time was spent for extra research but was not asked. MM said the research was more for the benefit of the student.
- MH said students were awarded a full mark, ie. 5 out of 5, if their work were exceptional with extra details and the students had an in depth knowledge of the material. These students will be the top 2 -3% of the unit which will reward them with a HD.
- MM said the liaison meeting was very helpful in evaluating the unit.

**Assignments:**

- Assignment is due this week.

**ISYS114: Jian Yang**

**Lectures:**

- Student attending the night lecture says the session goes on for 3 hours and this is very tiring for him. He prefers a two hour session. He also has a problem in reading off the board because the fonts are too small, especially from the back of the room (E7BT4). RB suggested using the material online.
- Day time student did not have the same problem as the evening student. She prints the material at home if she has a problem in the lecture.
- Those students who can't attend lectures want i-lectures to be available. JY said it is difficult to put diagrams etc on i-lectures which is not very suitable for computing. She does not want the students to completely rely in the i-lectures. JY will soon provide i-lectures.

**Tutorial:**

- Students like the tutor Yihao Zhang and think he is very good and entertaining.
- Student has a problem in defining entities and does not know which is most right. JY suggests setting boundaries on them and putting up only a number of correct answers. She suggests not having more than 7 entities.
- . To overcome the clogging up problem JY set the deadline as Friday.

**Practicals:**

- Student said there were too much to do in the one hour this week. JY said the work was to be extended to the next practical.

**Assignments:**

- There is some time before the due date.
- Student doesn't understand everything that is required to do for the assignment but feels that he will know by then.

**Other matters:**

- Students said all the software used for the unit is working OK.

**COMP125: Ros Ballantyne****Lectures:**

- Everything is going well and most of the students have a good understanding of the work. Writing algorithms helps in understanding the work and believes it will also help with the exams.
- Student said the 3 hours lesson in the evening was too long. This unit is not offered in the day time this semester.

**Tutorials and Practicals:**

- Students like the mixed class of tutorials and practicals.
- Student wanted to know if the work had been marked. Ros said they were marked by hand and posted on WebCT as well. Marked work was handed out in tutorials. All students should have received them already.

**Assignments:**

- Student said the assignment was progressing well. The next check point is this Thursday.
- Student had a problem with Blackboard that when he opened a new tab an error occurred. However, he did not have a problem when submitting the assignment on Monday. RB said blackboard had problems on that Monday morning.

**General Issues:** none

**Next Meeting:** Week 8

**Meeting Closed 1:45pm.**