

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

**Present:**

<b>Student Representatives</b>	<b>Units</b>
Ka Tsung Chu	COMP125, ISYS114
Giles Harrison-Smit	COMP125, ISYS114
Anish Luthra	ISYS123
Carina Luk	ISYS123
Nina Wu	ISYS123
<b>Staff Representatives</b>	<b>Units</b>
Ros Ballantyne	Chair
Louella Almeida	Dept Manager( Academic)
Christophe Doche	Acting Director (Teaching)
Matthew Mansour	ISYS123
Yan Wang	COMP125
Raina Kim	Minutes
Michael Hitchens	INFO111

**Apologies:**

Diego Molla Aliod, Jian Yang

**Meeting started 1:05pm**

RB apologised to SPL128 for holding the meeting at the same time as their practical.

**Actions from last meeting:**

- Issues with tutors not staying back for the whole lesson: MM had an open forum with the tutors and MM confirmed that the tutors stayed back. It could have been student's misinterpretation.
- Challenging question for ISYS114: RB did not get to add the challenging question for tutorials but added a challenging bonus for Assignment 2.

**UNIT MATTERS**

There were no student representatives for SPL128 and INFO111.

**ISYS123:** Michael Hitchens

**Lectures:**

- The lectures were running smoothly and there were no complaints about the lectures.

**Tutorials and Practicals:**

- Tutorials are running smoothly with material up-to-date with the quiz.
- One student said her tutor still finished early but covered all the material required. MM physically confirmed that the tutors stayed back and gave help to the students. He said the two tutors were known to be very good tutors. Students agreed that the tutors covered everything.

#### **Assignments:**

- The last assignment was marked and the students were happy with the marking system. One student felt that the marking was rushed (Monday 9 am Prac Class). MM said this could have been due to the size of the class and the fact that the third marker was absent. MM said the marking method was changed over time to improve the marking system but there was no perfect solution.
- MM said he would look into breaking up marking in sections for large assignments in the future.

#### **ISYS114:** Jian Yang, Ros Ballantyne

##### **Lectures:**

- The lectures were running smoothly.
- RB said there will be revision lessons from now on till the end of semester.

##### **Tutorial and Practicals:**

- Students were happy with the practicals.
- RB enquired if Pratt textbook was useful for the unit. Students were happy with the textbook and felt that it was useful however RB was surprised at the low number of students who purchased the book. RB emphasised that the textbook was worthwhile and valuable for the unit.

##### **Other Matters:**

- Students encountered no problems in installing software at home.
- RB will be revising the material for this unit.

#### **COMP125:** Ros Ballantyne, Yan Wang

##### **Lectures:**

- The previous week's lecture was a little bit confusing and the student did not understand the point of the lecture. Not many students understood the material that week. The lecture covered material for Assembler. Student felt that the guest lecturer spoke too fast.
- Student said it took more time to get familiarised with YAAS program than C<sup>++</sup>. RB asked an opinion on the possibility of rearranging the unit so that YAAS is taught before C<sup>++</sup> to give an understanding on what was happening behind the scenes. Students felt that this option would cause more confusion.
- Some students who had time clash with Mathematics lecture preferred to attend Mathematics which they felt was harder to understand without the lecture. There was about 60% attendance to lectures. Students commented that good attendance and participation in lectures made the course easy.

- RB said that those students who were having problems in understanding the course should be warned to drop the subject before the census day to leave a clean record. The census day for 1<sup>st</sup> semester was in week 6 and for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in week 4. RB said perhaps a pre-midterm test should be given in week 3 as a wake up call. This exam could be used as a check point to re-test the material from COMP115 including the understanding about loops. RB commented that there was a big gap between COMP115 which required basic programming and COMP125 which involved writing codes in a more professional environment with sophisticated tools used in the real world.

### **Tutorials and Practicals:**

- Student said the tutor Alex stayed to the very end of the class and made sure that everyone understood the material.
- Students were asked to write codes on paper instead of doing the work on computer. This method helped in achieving a better understanding of the material.
- Assembler is tricky for some people. This week's tutorial will cover YAAS and next week will cover number encoding.
- Exam will be set similar to tutorial questions i.e., there will be no multiple choice questions, and it will be marked harder, not like COMP115.

### **Assignments:**

- The check point for assignment 3 was OK. Student submitted the assignment 20 minutes late and had not received a mark for it. RB did not turn off the check point after the due date and would give the student a mark.
- In assignment 2 a lot of students put in successful attempts.

### **General Issues**

#### **Labs:**

- Labs were running smoothly.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year students could not successfully access Titanic but 3<sup>rd</sup> year students could. RM said the 1<sup>st</sup> year students were denied of access but would turn it on for them.

**Meeting Closed 1:45pm.**