

## **Department of Computing**

### **100-level Liaison Meeting 18 March 1pm- 2pm**

**Present:**

Ros Ballantyne (Chair) +Lecturer	COMP125
Louella Almeida, Dept Manager (Academic)	
Richard Miller,(CTS Group Leader)	
Bronwen Wade-Leeuwen (minutes)	

**Staff:**

Matt Mansor	ISYS123
Christopher Doche, Yan Wang	COMP115
Daniel Sutantyo	COMP115

**Student Reps:**

Marijana Susic	ISYS123
Giles Harrison-Smit	COMP115
David Josua Butler	COMP115
Karel Zemek	COMP115

**Apologies:** Michel Hitchens, Diego Molla Aliod

**Next meeting** 16 May 1pm E6A357

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#### **ISYS123 D** (Intro to Info Systems and Technologies, DE1)

**Lecturers:** Michael Hitchens, Matthew Mansour,

**Lectures:** Students find the lectures comprehensive and good and are attending at most times. IT students found it a little slow. Matt replied that there was quite a diverse audience and that many students did not have an IT background and needed the extra information. Student agreed.

**Practicals:** Some practical sessions were good and the practical supervisors were mostly helpful. Other practical supervisors were not so helpful, did not circulate around the prac room and did not provide help beyond telling the students that they should know how to do it.

**Tutorials:** Tutorial sessions were good. Tutors were knowledgeable.

**Assignment:** Assignments going well.

**Text Book:** Students thought that all the information was in lecture notes and wondered if buying the text should be mandatory. Matt replied that the text provided more background and more information on the case studies that they were currently discussing. Many students do not bring the text to the tutorial class and hence cannot work in class. Matt will clarify to students once again in the lecture that the text is essential.

**Other:** All Reps were aware of the Help101 Desk (available for tutor consultations).

There was a query as to whether we were planning on moving to Office 2007. Richard advised not this year, but we are open to suggestion. Students noted that the machines freeze for a couple of seconds. RM will look into, though all first year machines are new.

## **COMP115 (Intro to Comp Science DE1)**

Lecturers: Christopher Doche (CD), Yan Wang (YW)

### **Lectures:**

Lectures and slides good and contain everything.

### **Practicals & Tutorials**

Classes are mixed

Good, gives a good selection for all levels of students

CD -allows for different students with diverse ability-

CD-extra tasks are there for the faster students at the end of the lesson.

Suggested: different modules for the advanced students, however CD commented that this makes assessments a problem – there is no easy answer. Ideally this Unit should have two separate streams.

### **Assignment:**

Students found the first assignment alright, with the check point 10 days ago.

One tutor is hard to understand. He needs to share the solutions or explanations of group work with the entire class, so as to hold their attention, or else many students are found doing their own thing. CD will address this issue and will suggest he use the video projector to help students to visualise the solutions.

Another tutor, Nguyen Vo, was very good and her classes ran smoothly and at an appropriate pace and students were learning. (LA has passed on this positive feedback to Nguyen)

### **Text Book:**

Not everyone has a text book,

Some found them good for referencing only

Download from the web or look on internet- lots of relevant material

### **Other:**

Students enjoying the Course

Bloodshed is good, able to access from home and on campus

Blackboard WebCT- functions off and one, frustrating for both lecturers and students eg won't let students upload. CD is investigating different ways to submit assignments.

RB- can't Zip a file on occasions and have to download and run each program individually.

Some Systems not working from home

Sometimes students cannot access it

Couldn't make connections or submit or get back assignments

Suggest using "moodle" as many of the local schools use it and students are familiar with this program.

RM- could change back to it – will look into this

MUCS – Macquarie University Computer Society- students have joined up but have not been contacted yet. Daniel will take up with MUCS.

Wireless access patchy especially at far end of campus. RM will complain to ITS.

## **COMP125 (Intro to Comp Science DE1)**

**Lecturers:** Ros Ballantyne (RB), Diego Molla Aliod, (DA)

There were no student reps. present. Ros reported that all is going well with the lectures.

RB - Blackboard continues to be a problem. Sometimes cannot download a zip file of the assignments and have to download each assignment individually. Sometimes the zipped file does not contain some students submissions which can be found when go back to blackboard directly. The directory structure of the downloaded files with spaces in the directory names makes it difficult to write scripts to auto mark assignments.

RB closed meeting at 1.55pm

Next Meeting Wednesday, 14 May 1 pm