

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 100-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
16 September 2009 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Christopher Tan	ISYS123,114,COMP125	
James Tocknell	COMP125	
Tyrone Pereira	ISYS114, 123	
David Black	ISYS114	
Maggie Ma	ISYS123	

Staff Representatives	Units
Abhaya Nayak	Chair
Ros Ballentyne	ISYS114, COMP125
Bernard Mans	HoD
Christophe Doche	Director of Teaching
Matthew Mansour	ISYS123
Matt Cabanag	ScienceIT, Labs
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Sherrie Gu	Department Admin
Raina Kim	Minutes

Apologies:

Michael Hitchens, Scott McCallum, Rolf Schwitter

Meeting started 1:05pm

UNIT MATTERS

SLP148 : Rolf Schwitter

No student representative attended for this unit.

INFO111: Unit Convenor – Michael Hitchens

No student representative attended for this unit.

- Matt C informed the practicals were running better than last year with more examples. Classes are bigger this year and not much attention can be given to students. The second half of the semester would get more interesting. Sample questions posted on the web.
- The attendance to the classes is going down due to the assignment submission deadline. The assignment 1 is due this Friday.
- The iLecture attendance is down. No video lectures are available for this unit.

COMP125: Unit Convenor – Ros Ballantyne

Lectures:

- Students are generally happy with the unit and the lectures are running smoothly.
- The midterm exam results out with a good average of 35/50. The core questions covered the material from the practicals and tutorials. This test would be a good indication for the final exam. RB would consider making the test more challenging.

Mixed class:

- Students much enjoyed working in groups.
- Students are encouraged to attend the mixed classes for help. The concept covered in the classes would greatly help with the completion of the work.
- RB commented that the homework was regarded very important.

Assignments:

- Student feels that assignment 2 is not challenging enough for him. However, this is not a global feeling. Some find this assignment difficult. RB will include some bonus mark questions with extra functions for people seeking for challenge.
- RB urged the students to follow strict guidelines from the assignment.

Other issues:

- Students find Blackboard very annoying.
- Email problems in week 2 but has been resolved.
- Some emails sent as a spam.
- Students tend to use PC rather than do more thinking to write the codes.

ISYS114: Unit Convenor – Ros Ballantyne

Lectures:

- Student wanted MK to give more examples rather than just going through the lecture material, which make it quite boring. RB commented that many non-computing students enjoyed MK lecture style. MM pointed out there was a lot of material to absorb in 7 weeks. However, this analysis side was essential requirement for communicating in the real world. The concept covered in this unit would carry further in ISYS227 and would concrete all learnt.
- Some lecture materials on the web updated by MK without notification to students.
- Student who did ISY227 found the unit more helpful.
- MK finished lectures and RB teaching currently.

Tutorials and Practicals:

- Student informed the changes to the classes were very helpful. Practical tutors were more proactive and interactive with the students.
- Tutorial attendance is low.
- Students preferred drawing a diagram to producing a text box for tutorial question 1. RB pointed out that diagrams were more timing consuming to mark.

Textbooks:

- The textbook does not cover all the required material. Students find lot of differences in version 7 and 8. Lecture notes, which are mainly from

version 7, are better but does not cover in depth. There is insufficient information on ER diagram. RB will search for a better textbook to cater for all types of students.

- A good textbook is available for SQL.
- Second hand textbooks are available on the web with reasonable prices.

Assignments:

- Assignment 2 part A, worth 3%, is out. The submission date is week 9.

Labs:

- Disruption caused by noisy students, especially on Friday afternoons. Student suggested having a 'quiet' lab and a 'not quiet' lab.

ISYS123: Unit Convenor- Michael Hitchens

Lectures:

- Lectures are running smoothly.
- MM went through assignment 3 in yesterday's lecture, which was very helpful.

Assignments:

- Students commented that the assignments were marked hard. MM said setting the benchmark was very difficult and only the exceptional students would receive a grade of HD. MM would meet with the tutors to discuss ways to achieve the consistency in marking for assignment 3.
- MM encouraged the students to inform any problems.

Tutorials and practicals:

- Tutorials help with better understanding of the lecture material.
- Students are happy with the tutorial questions.

Labs:

- Office 7 will be introduced next year. Online help is available for those new to the software.
- Disruption caused by other students doing group accounting homework. Some students came to the labs after the library closed at 10pm. BM mentioned that this was beyond our control.
- Students preferred Moodle to Blackboard. BM mentioned that the Department might eventually move to Moodle.

Meeting finished at 2:05pm.

Next meeting: week 11