

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

Present:

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

Staff Representatives	Units
Ros Ballentyne	Chair, ISYS114
Christophe Doche	Acting HoD
Michael Hitchens	ISYS123
Matthew Mansour	ISYS123
Manolya Kavakli	ISYS114
Richard Miller	ScienceIT, Labs
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Raina Kim	Minutes

Apologies:

Abhaya Nayak, Scott McCallum, Bernard Mans, Rolf Schwitter

Meeting started 1:05pm

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS123: Unit Convenor- Michael Hitchens

Lectures:

- Students were enjoying the lectures and gave positive comments about MM.

Assignments:

- Student felt that he was unfairly marked due to the lack of detailed instruction. MM pointed out that some trivial comments had been eliminated from the set of question being asked, and the low mark might not have been due to the lack of instructions. MM would consult the practical tutors. MM advised the student to wait for the detailed results.
- MM's folder was very helpful for the assignment.
- ISYS104 will replace ISYS123 in 2010. The contents of the two units will be equivalent. CD advised the students to read the FAQ posted on the website.

Tutorials and practicals:

- Tutorials and practicals are running smoothly.
- Students received very good assistance from the practical tutors.
- RB reminded the students to utilise the tutor consultation times. The consultation timetable posted on the website or on the lab doors. Many students were not aware of the tutor consultation.
- There were no software issues.

ISYS114: Unit Convenor – Ros Ballantyne

- Student complained of the issues posted on the discussion board not addressed. RB commented there were too many unimportant comments posted and advised the students to email academic issues to the unit convenor. The discussion board should be used as a helpful means of communicating with other students. Lecturers would monitor the discussion board every few days. Student suggested putting a tag 'academic' for attention.

Tutorials and Practical:

- One tutor did not give enough assistance in class and did not connect with the students. Although, one student said his tutor was very helpful and reviewed the concepts. RB advised the students to change tutorials if unhappy with current one and utilise the practical classes as a help class.
- The attendance to the tutorials and practicals is not compulsory but is recommended for those students who wish to pass.
- Student was concerned about the legality of the software for remote use. RB advised SQL was safe to download remotely. RB urged the students with software problems to attend the practical classes for assistance.
- Students want more structure in the practical classes to make it worthwhile for students to attend. Students would like the tutors to be more proactive. RB agreed to meet with tutors to decide on a more proactive approach.
- The tutorial submission dates are inconsistent due to earlier problems with Blackboard. The submission date is Monday noon. MK will update the unit guide.
- Student would like the tutorial solutions posted in the website. MK would hand out the first two solutions but encouraged the students to attend the tutorials for discussion because more than one solution found for each question. Some pointers, issues and some correct answers will be posted on the web later. However these are only useful for those students who have tried to do the work.
- Student complained one tutor would not discuss the starred tutorial answers. RB to meet with tutors to decide on a more consistent policy.

Labs:

- There were no issues in labs.

Textbooks:

- The textbook was not available in the first two weeks for purchase. Some confusion about the textbook that a later version came out post ordering and the earlier version was out of print. Second hand books

available for purchase online. Students could also use books in the reserve library.

COMP125: Unit Convenor – Ros Ballantyne

Lectures:

- RB spent extra time to go over some material that were vague to some students e.g., passing reference parameters.
- Students commented the lectures were very good.
- The lecture notes posted prior to the lectures for a preview.

Textbooks:

- The textbook does not cover the material in detail.

Mixed class:

- RB encouraged the students to work in groups to learn and compare different ideas on solutions.
- Students are confused with the homework and practical submission date because there are two submission dates on each weekly task. RB will explain the procedure again.
- Discussion took place on auto marking issues.

Meeting finished at 2:20pm.

Next meeting: week 7