

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

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Christopher Tan	ISYS123 COMp125	
James Tocknell	COMP125	
Tyrone Pereira	ISYS114 ISYS123	

Staff Representatives	Units
Abhaya Nayak	Chair
Ros Ballantyne	COMP125, ISYS114
Christophe Doche	Director of Teaching
Matthew Mansour	ISYS123
Manolya Kavakli	ISYS114
Michael Hitchens	ISYS123
Scott McCallum	COMP125
Richard Miller	ScienceIT
Matt Cabanag	ScienceIT, Labs
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Raina Kim	Minutes

Apologies:

Rolf Schwitter

Meeting started 1:05pm

Minutes from the last liaison meeting approved.

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS123: Unit Convenor- Michael Hitchens

Lectures:

- Students had no more concerns about the unit and were generally happy. All previous problems had been resolved. MM asked the students to report any issues or concerns arising.

Tutorials and Practicals:

- Some tutors did not go through all the solutions. MM would usually discuss the assignments in the lectures. However, MM would talk to the tutors in this regard.

Labs:

- There were no issues in labs.

Action Points:

- *MM to talk to tutors to go through all the solutions.*

ISYS114: Unit Convenor – Ros Ballantyne

Lectures:

- Students were notified of the \$1000 DEEWR award.
- Exam scheduled for Friday 27th November.

Tutorials and Practicals:

- Students complained of disruption caused by students who do not belong in the practical classes. RB said a decision was made last year to control the access during class times. CD mentioned that it was up to the tutors to control the traffic.

Assignments:

- It was a general feeling that the students preferred to use Moodle to Blackboard as Blackboard occasionally caused problems. Some students took advantage this issue with blackboard for late assignment submissions. Both electronic and hard copy submissions required for each assignment, and multiple submissions also allowed.
- Assignment 2, part B and C handed out. RB acknowledged of bad timing, as there were only one-week gap between the submission date for part B, and C being the most difficult part. RB advised students should work ahead to meet the deadline. RB make it clear from week 7 that students would have to work ahead as lecture break and public holiday meant that they would have less time to work on harder parts of assignments, i.e., this was discussed well ahead of time and they were warned frequently - it wasn't a last minute decision (so students cannot use it as an excuse).
- Students would receive the marked assignment in week 13 before the exam.

Labs:

- MC took down a list of names of students who played games other than the INFO111 prescribed games. He would consider making the labs more secure.
- Student reported of a malfunctioning projector in tutorial room E6A109. The problem reported 2 weeks earlier but not been fixed yet.

Action Points:

- *MC to look into ways to make the labs more secure.*

COMP125: Unit convenor- Ros Ballantyne

Lectures:

- Lectures are running smoothly.
- Student felt that the lecture on cryptography was not relevant to the unit.
- Many students were struggling with the ADD function.
- SMc mentioned there were 2 distinct groups of students in terms of ability. RB thought many missed the fundamentals of the unit and she would be willing to give catch up class on request. She would go through old exam papers.

- Students who used ilectures could not see material written on the board. SMc would consider using the visualizer, uploading online note, or posting the scanned lecture notes on the web.

Mixed class:

- Tutorials and practicals are running smoothly.
- Students are keen on learning in the mixed class.

Assignments:

- The assignment 3 is quite challenging which involves implementing large integer arithmetic. Student informed the specification was vague. Some diligent students have started already but not many have a working version. The submission date is Monday 9th November.
- SMc had one good practical exercise that would help with the assignment.
- Some students complained of not been notified of the bonus task for assignment 2. RB stressed that this part was only for those seeking more challenge, and that she had posted an announcement and discussions on blackboard a month before bonus was due.

Labs:

- No noticeable disruption caused in the labs.
- RB would like more whiteboard in labs.

General Issues:

- AN asked the student representatives to collect any feedbacks/ideas from the students on ways to improve the unit for future offerings. Student said it was difficult to reach all the students. Many did not know the names of the student representatives.
- Discussion took place on ways to make the liaison committee more visible. Changing the web site or the use of the suggestion box would be a useful means of collecting more feedback from the students.
- RB suggested moving the liaison meeting to 5pm to take into account of the evening students.

Meeting finished at 2:05pm.

AN thanked all the students for attending all the meeting for the semester 2 2009.

This was the last liaison meeting for semester 2 2009.