

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 100-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
8th April 2009 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Ahmad Faril Rusman	COMP115,ISYS123	
Cynthia Liu	ISYS123	
Claudia Chan	ISYS123	
Jennifer Nicholls	ISYS123	
Carole James	COMP115	

Staff Representatives	Units
Ros Ballantyne	Chair, COMP125
Benard Mans	HoD
Tonay Sloane	COMP115
Yan Wang	COMP115
Jian Yang	Acting Director of Teaching
Michael Hitchens	ISYS123
Donna Hua	Administrative Officer
Richard Miller	ScienceIT
Raina Kim	Minutes

Apologies:

Diego Molla Aliod, Matthew Mansour

Meeting started 1:05pm

UNIT MATTERS

COMP115: Yan Wang

Lectures:

- Students had some positive comments about the lectures.
- There was a lot of material covered in the lectures.
- The lectures used to be quite disruptive with some noisy students. Since then Yan has made the students behave and the lectures have settled down.
- The catch-up classes taken by Yan were very helpful and were liked by many students. Students would like to have more catch-up classes.
- The study groups had helpers from the 2nd year students. Students would like more 2nd year helpers.
- RS advised the students who require extra help to request for paid private 2nd year tutors.
- Only the lecture notes were used by some students.

- Video lectures were viewed by many students.
- One student had problem viewing the video lectures. TS advised the students to report the problems to the people in charge of iletures.

Tutorials and Practicals:

- All is going well in the mixed classes.
- Some students are not paying attention and some only do the work that is assessed.
- Students would like the tutor to participate more and engage with the class.
- Students would like more details with the weekly exercises. Students were advised to ask the tutors for more help.
- One student said her tutor would rush through the questions because there were a lot to cover.
- Tutors use different techniques to teach the students. Student said the Computing tutors were much better than the tutors from Mathematics.
- Abeer and the Wed morning tutor received very good comments from the students. They seemed to bring the classes together.

Labs:

- All the software is running smoothly.

Assignments:

- Students were happy with the 1st assignment and the feedback given.
- The 2nd assignment looks alright.

ISYS123: Michael Hitches

Lectures:

- Lectures are going well.
- Student missed the last lecture because of the fire evacuation which happened twice within the same lecture. The iLecture was disrupted for this lecture. Students would like a backup iLecture to be available in such cases. TS mentioned that the lecturers could contact the people in charge of iLecture to re-do them.
- Many students do not use the textbook because it contains too much material, although some find it very informative. The textbook will be more useful later in the semester.
- MM controls the noisy students very well.
- Student enjoys the interactive nature of lecture.

Tutorials:

- Students were generally happy with the tutors. Tutors explained well and one tutor would give notes on the board to help with understanding.
- One tutor was not so responsive in the class, would rush through the questions and finish early.

Practicals:

- 2 assignments were marked in the practicals.
- The marks were not given in the order the of the students arrival. There was generally a long waiting time before the assignments were marked. A system should be worked out to minimise the waiting and also to make it fair for those who made the effort to arrive early.
- Monday morning tutor came to the class 1 hour late. The tutor did not interact with the students very well.

- Student asked about the marking system since she thought that the mark given was dependant on the difficulty of the questions asked. She received a low mark because she was asked an easy question. MH advised the student to go back to the tutor to ask for a harder question. MH commented that the tutors were given check points and also a sheet to be filled out. MH also stressed that full marks were given only to the exceptional students with knowledge beyond requirement. The main purpose of assessment was to distinguish the students.
- Student was very happy with MM for providing quick responses with answers.
- MM will put up the solutions to the quiz very soon along with the answers to the tutorials.

Labs:

- There were some pen marks on the LCD screen. All should take care to keep our equipments in good order.
- Differences in Microsoft Office version used in labs and home created a problem for some students since some features could not be saved. MH informed that in a year or two the Office version would be changed to 2007. Students could bring their own laptops for marking as long as the tutors were informed before hand.

COMP125: Ros Ballantyne

There was no student representative for this unit.

- Everything is going well.
- Mid term test was be marked by the person who would be marking the final exam. Some students received a low mark.
- A catch up class will be opened for those having problems in understanding the material e.g., loops etc if this is required.
- DM will be taking over the unit.

General Issues:

- A possibility of opening up a discussion board on Blackboard for all students including the 2nd and the 3rd year students was discussed. It was discussed that problems could arise such as, moderation issues and/or confusion for the 1st year students if too complex/advanced information were provided by others.
- Student wanted to know which software to focus on, Eclipse or Dev C++. Student was advised that Eclipse would be needed for Java later on whereas Dev C++ is used in COMP125 and COMP225. However, it was most important to learn a programming language well and to be familiar with one of the development tools.

Meeting finished at 2pm.

Next Meeting

13 May 2009