

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 100-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
11 May 2011 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Eric Mare	ISYS100, ISYS104, COMP115	
Jeff Zaroyko	COMP115	
Alexander Mouromtsev	COMP115, ISYS104	

Staff Representatives	Units
Jian Yang	ISYS104
Bernard Mans	Head of Department
Christophe Doche	Director of Teaching
Mark Dras	Chair
Matthew Mansour	ISYS100, ISYS104
Tony Sloane	COMP115
Richard Miller	Science IT
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Jackie Walsh	Minutes

Apologies:

Robert Dale (ISYS100), Matthew Roberts (COMP115).

Meeting started at 1:05pm

MD welcomed all to the meeting.

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS100: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

General:

- Student rep said assignment regarding creating Blog etc went well. Noticed a few groups that had last minute posts. Wikispaces was good, did not have to meet up.
- MM said that some students asked if there was a penalty for not creating the wiki or loading regular posts, he replied that there would be.
- MM advised that students could fill in a peer review if they wanted to but it was up to their discretion. Some students felt uncomfortable with this. MM tried not to push this.
- MM: 3rd assignment is a video and the quality of videos so far was very good. Video is based on 2nd assignment.
- Student rep said that 3rd assignment was fun.
- CD asked how relevant this unit was for IT students.
- Student rep felt it was.
- Another student rep said from what he had heard, it was not relevant.
- Student rep advised that prac tutors were good and helped with video and with blog etc.
- Student rep said that feedback from tutors was good and tutors were personal with them.
- BM asked if students were happy with the lab upgrade.
- Student rep replied that they were.
- MM advised that students had commented to him that they liked the privacy lecture.
- MM next semester topics may change, may add more.

ISYS104: Unit Convenor – Jian Yang

General:

- Student rep noticed a lot of questions on Forum for assignment 2. Do not have enough learning time for Access.
- MM asked if these students were going to pracs.
- Student rep replied that they were but just didn't know how to use Access.
- MM said his argument was that plenty of students come to see him during consultation for ISYS100 but not for ISYS104.

- MM said that did not want to hold your hand with Access and that at some point, you need to do it on your own.
- MM said that this assignment was handed out before the break and students had not posted comments during the break.
- MD suggested reminding students in the lecture to ask if they have questions.
- MM and JY: Prefer to have 2 hour slot for lecture.
- MM said that as long as we have 2 hours in one go – it is much easier to gauge your timing.
- Student rep asked would it make sense to have a Wiki so that students can share ideas.
- MD: Students that are willing to help each other. If you contribute to unit – maybe you can get extra marks.
- MM: If you can do assignment 1 and 2 you will find prac exam quite comfortable.
- MM will talk to prac tutors and advise they need to give more guidance.
- MM advised they could push assignment back to Week 12 so students have extra week to go over the material.
- MM will email tutors to let them know what is happening and put a notice on Moodle.
- JY will mention the one-week extension in the lectures.
- Student rep advised not finding it difficult – straightforward.
- Student rep: Finds a lot of these students that are having trouble with Access are not turning up to lectures or listening to iLectures.
- MM: Thinks the split of hours makes it a bit more difficult.
- Student rep asked if they can see their tutors if they need extra help.
- MM advised that all the tutors have consultation hours.
- JY will remind students of this in the lecture.
- MD said that these students needing help are not reading unit outlines.
- Student rep: Finding unit really good and that JY and MM are doing an awesome job.
- Student rep having trouble pulling up assessment 2 file from Moodle.
- RM advised that MC had fixed this problem.
- Student rep noticed that a lot of students finished the mid semester exam early.
- MM said that the marks so far have been pretty varied.
- Student rep thought the timing was good – he studied a lot for this exam.
- JY said that some students complained they did not get feedback for 1st assignment and asked if this was correct.
- Student rep said he did not have any problems with this.
- MM said that maybe it was a specific tutor and will look into this.

COMP115: Unit Convenor – Tony Sloane

General:

- Student rep is tutoring a student who approached him after having difficulty with assignment 2. Other students having difficulty too. For example, the student did not understand the difference between Java and Javascript. He is not attending the lectures as is struggling with the material.
- Students are reminded to attend lectures – even if struggling – so they can ask questions.
- MD suggested finding some other piece of code that someone has written and tweak it, that is how he learnt.
- Student rep thinks that some students have not learnt the basics first and will struggle how to implement those things (arrays, loops etc).
- TS suggested student reps reporting back to other students to ask for help – no one is coming to see him and asking for help.
- MM said that we are offering more help than ever before, such as more consultation hours etc and promoting it but students not taking advantage of it.
- JY said that students often did not know what to ask help for.
- Student rep said that a lot of students do not do their assignments till the last minute.
- TS: had 4 hours during recess where students could come and ask for help and only a few students did.
- MD asked: generally the logic and concepts are the problem not about the language of processing. Reps: yes.
- Student rep said tutors are good.
- Student rep said the only complaint he has heard is that the prac lab (E6A 112) is sometimes too hot.
- RM: students are aware of “room occupied” switches near door that controls air conditioning. Reps: yes.
- Student rep: everything ok.
- BM asked about new computers in the labs.
- Student rep said there was no perceived differences with old ones.
- Student rep said he tended to use his own laptop.
- Student rep liked the practice test – he did not prepare for it. Not worth any marks, but worth exposure to questions.
- Student rep: some students freaked out about some questions – design style.
- TS advised that there would be another practice test next week and this will be the last one.
- Student rep said there was no dramas and that everything was relevant.
- Some discussion about other units students could do to help with their thinking and logic. EG MATH106, but that is a terminating unit. Various PHIL units were mentioned.
- Student rep asked about his desire to transfer from BeBus to BIT. CD and BM: should be possible at end of semester.

- CD and BM: Would be useful to do induction sessions on how students can transfer etc.
- TS: Could do a 15 minute induction video and put up on website.
- MD: The benefit of having a live session is that students can ask questions.

MD thanked everyone for attending the meetings this semester and that their feedback was really appreciated.

BM advised the student reps that they would receive an appreciation letter signed by him and told them to feel free to mention his name as a reference.

The meeting closed at 2:00 pm.