

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 100-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
18th August 2011

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Abir Hossain	ISYS114 ISYS100 ISYS104 INFO111	42526760

Staff Representatives	Units
Mehmet Orgun	Chair
Bernard Mans	Head of Department
Christophe Doche	Director of Teaching, COMP125
Steve Cassidy	COMP125
Michael Hitchens	INFO111
Manolya Kavakli	ISYS114
Matthew Mansour	ISYS100, ISYS104
Kristi Ovsthus	ISYS100, ISYS104
Richard Miller	Science IT
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Renee Vance	Minutes

Apologies:

Michael Johnson

Meeting started at 1:07pm

The Chair (MO) welcomed all to the meeting and invited staff representatives and the student representative to introduce themselves.

MO asked for comments on teaching, lab facilities, convenors and staff (tutors).

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS100: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

Lectures

- The student representative AH enjoyed the lectures, reported convenor MM was engaging, interactive, gives examples of real life situations, the main difference is that it is fun.

Practicals/Tutorials

- MM asked for the students experience on the practicals/tutorials and it was noted that for him, it was too easy, it was teaching at a basic level and it appeared to be more appropriate for students with no IT background. MM answered this by stating that it is a challenge as it is a service unit for everyone, even if with no IT background.
- AH conveyed that the tutors are very helpful, the practicals are fine and appropriate, it can be a bit boring and redundant, however the practicals are not compulsory.

General

- The student chose ISYS100 as the title, IT & Society, as it was appealing. KO advised that in the first few weeks, it is a process of getting the students up to the same level.

ISYS104: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

Lectures

- AH stated that the lectures are fun.
- Lectures are held in E7B T5, but the lecture is still interactive and is “personal”, not had the feeling of in a big class.
- MM talks to students, the lectures are lively, students give input and it is fun.
- The textbook we used this year, Experiencing MIS has a constant theme every week.

Practicals/Tutorials

- The mixed classes are good, some weeks a tutorial, some weeks are a practical. The Tutors are helpful, understand the course content more.
- KO stated that the diagnostic quiz that is conducted in the mixed class was a way for us to test students ability in handling basic excel functions.

General

- KO stated her concern with monitors, which drop out for a few seconds. It occurred in a practical exam last semester too,
- **ACTION:** SciencelT (RM) to follow up screen drops outs in the computer labs. Aside to this MO advised that this occurs in his office also
- **ACTION:** MM to verbally ask more students to attend the liaison meetings, (rather than just reply on web-based communication).

INFO111 Unit Convenor – Michael Hitchens

Lectures

- The lectures are interesting and the unit convenor MH was referred to as a “Super Genius Coder“, he is interesting, has lots of students attending the lectures, the practicals are vocal and students breaking into groups is a good thing.
- Rowan Tulloch will be giving the lectures in the second half of semester.

General:

- AH went with the course description/names when selecting the unit to study.
- MH said that the handbooks may have a different description as MAS111, and he is not sure on how this happened but it is the same unit.
- The following week, a lot more examples will be displayed with games being hooked up to a display. This unit is run in the media building in Y3A T1. The hook up of laptops won't translate with iLecture and some units screen flow will have to have a screen capture. The size of the movies for students would be too large, it may have to be placed on YouTube.
- AH advised that the teachers are informal and it is a nice change from overseas studies (student previously based in Hong Kong) where it can be much more formal.

ISYS114 Unit Convenor – Manolya Kavakli

Lectures

- A suggestion would be to have more real life examples to make the lecture more interesting and engaging, however with a dry topic like SQL, it is hard to do.
- The two-hour lecture is in C5C T1 which is refurbished.

Practicals/Tutorials

- Some students find the tutorials too fast for them
- A technical problem is that no power designer installed – certain aspects not installed.
- Many students are not aware of the HELP101 tutor consultation/help sessions. MK to promote in the lectures.

General

- The iLearn experience is good.

COMP125 Unit Convenor – Christophe Doche

- No students represented at this liaison meeting for this unit, convenor to make announcement at next lecture.

COMP188 Unit Convenor – Michael Johnson

- No students represented at this liaison meeting for this unit, convenor regrettably can't unable to attend future 100 level liaison meetings and apologies noted in advance (clashing timetable).
- **GENERAL DISCUSSIONS:**

MO thanked everyone for attending and he would like to have more student representatives recruited to attend the meeting so they can share their concerns, comments, good and bad.

The meeting closed at 1:40pm