

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 100-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
20th October 2011

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Benjamin Civitico	ISYS114 COMP125 INFO111	42448456
Richard Combe	ISYS100, ISYS114	42460824
Ryann Shiers	ISYS114	42123771
Anthony Wales	ISYS114 COMP125	42467683

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

Apologies:

Michael Johnson

Meeting started at 1:10pm

The Chair (MO) welcomed all to the meeting Staff started to discuss the problems that arose during the week with iLearn. Some staff thought the problem was isolated and didn't realise it was a problem across the board.

Student representatives and staff spoke on what was useful in iLearn vs Blackboard. Some students noted that information for assignments is placed in a different place as to where you upload the assignment itself. SC said it could be a matter of where the academic puts it. SC also suggested that there may have been a historical reason as to why lectures were uploaded like this but consideration might need to be given to make it more intuitive.

A student representative asked on the calendar in iLearn and asked to see if the was managed centrally. MMcN confirmed that with so many different study periods on offer at MQ, it was up to the unit convenor to manage a calendar for their unit.

MM enquired if iLearn was designed for Firefox or Chrome rather than Internet Explorer. MMcN stated that in a useability test they found that iLearn worked ok in Firefox. Blackboard wouldn't work on Firefox, and on Chrome it was ok.

More people are finding iLearn intuitive to use and from next semester it will be used university wide, currently we are trialling it.

MO asked for comments on teaching, lab facilities, convenors and staff (tutors) for each of the units below

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS100: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

Lectures

- Two student representatives attended this meeting and said that it was a good unit. The unit convenor wanted to find out if the 9am lecture was a factor in attendance. The student representatives spoke on their availabilities and classes during the week.
- A student representative asked why assignments were issued one at a time. The convenor answered by saying that last year, there was 1 individual assignment and assignments 2 and 3 were for group work. What he found was that there was a problem with setting groups up right away and starting right away. After the students discussed as to why having assignment 2 and assignment 3 issued at the same time (ie. Assignment two – blog; Assignment three – video) would be beneficial, MM agreed to accommodate this request as it was a happy medium to reach.

Practicals/Tutorials

- Nothing to report.

General

- The students would recommend ISYS100 to friends
- ISYS100 is a planet unit for a few friends.

ISYS104: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

Lectures

- No student representatives to provide feedback.
- Unit convenor noted that the unit is running fine.

Practicals/Tutorials

- Kristi and Frances are receiving positive feedback.
- MM has listened to iLecture and the students are upbeat.

INFO111 Unit Convenor – Michael Hitchens

Lectures

- Student reported that the lectures are going well and they are looking forward to the guest lecturer from Denmark.
- Exciting subject

Practicals/Tutorials

- MH will be re-evaluating the structure of the practicals for next year.
- Students can talk to tutor and then receive immediate feedback due to the numbers in the tutorials.

General:

- MH had trouble with iLearn in the past few days, he couldn't add new activities to his unit. MM commented that a way around this was to add resources to level zero and then move them week to week.
- BM asked for MH to ask a 'raise your hand indication' of who would enrol in another unit in games e.g COMP260.
- Since there is no exam in this unit, students have to turn up to practicals and talk to the tutors in regards to the submission and would get immediate feedback.

ISYS114 Unit Convenor – Manolya Kavakli

Lectures

- SQL can only be made interesting to a certain level.

Practicals/Tutorials

- The practicals have switched a little.
- Students are now working on the major assignment and getting help from the tutors.
- MK to set a mini quiz in week 11, which can relate to the final exam in week 12. She will provide some direction as to what the quiz is focused on.
- A student representative reported that for one tutorial the tutor didn't show, the tutor since prepared a repeat tute for that so that students can catch up
- SQL developer takes a long time to log into. Students on campus with wireless cannot see the MQ hosted resources, but can at home.

General

- MK to follow up assignment marks.

COMP125 Unit Convenor – Christophe Doche

Lectures

Practicals/Tutorials

- A student noted that it could take ten minutes to log into the pcs and the programs are very sluggish, and less than ideal, it can take up to five minutes to import a file. They use Firefox in the labs on the PCs and typing is so delayed that the PC freezes and then hangs.
- Student representative noted that he didn't know why he lost marks infor him to see why marks can be lost in assignments.SC to take this on board and to ask markers to communicate more with comments.
- RM to look into iLab, a new service at MQ, this might help with students needing to access files within the University.
- SC and student representative had discussion over testing and how students should not/should edit test tile. They were not sure this was the wrong or the right thing to do. Assignment 3 had bugs but it was not started as yet.
- Assignment 2 only took a few hours to do, but the students had five weeks to complete, in comparison with Assignment 3, where they had less time but was much harder to do.

- The student representative liked the mixed classes, Monday 5pm/6pm class numbers are small and issues get resolved very quickly with the tutors.
- The staff reiterated that it is the tutors role to tell others to leave the labs that are not enrolled in that prac/tut/mixed class.

General

- The students noted a drama with the wireless over campus. Near SAM there could be 75% signal strength and then over at X5B, they couldn't connect at all (tried to connect with computer and phone). There could be full signal strength but still no connection.
- RM is trying hard to document evidence as to when the above happens.

COMP188 Unit Convenor – Michael Johnson

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

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS:

A general discussion arose over the need for a Maths Liaison Committee meeting. The Numeracy centre received positive feedback.

MO thanks the student representatives for their feedback.

The meeting closed at 2.05pm