

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 300-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
27 October 2009 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Peter Schimdt	COMP340 COMP347	
Arun Neelakandan	COMP329 COMP344	
Hui Lioong Leung Kai Yuen	COMP332 COMP333 COMP347	

Staff Representatives	Units
Annabelle McIver	Chair
Bernard Mans	HoD, COMP333
Christophe Doche	COMP333
Tony Sloane	COMP332
Peter Busch	ISYS301
Abhaya Nayak	COMP329
Yan Wang	COMP344
Rajan Shankaran	COMP347
Josef Pieprzyk	COMP344
Matthew Roberts	ISYS303
Richard Miller	ScienceIT
Matt Cabanag	ScienceIT, Labs
Len Hamey	COMP347
Debbie Richards	COMP340
Daniel Sutanty	COMP333
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Raina Kim	Minutes

Apologies:

Jian Yang

Meeting started 1:05pm

UNIT MATTERS

COMP329: Unit Convenor- Abhaya Nayak

The unit is running smoothly with no problems reported.

COMP344: Unit Convenor – Yan Wang

Lectures:

- Some students complained that the second part of the unit is too mathematical and difficult to follow. JP explained that the unit changed from the last year and included e-cash and micropayments that rely on cryptographic tools. JP strongly encouraged students to attend the lectures and tutorials so they could immediately seek help when the material is not clear. Currently the pre-requisites for this unit are COMP224/ISYS224 and COMP249, which do not cover discrete mathematics.
- JP will provide a supplementary class in discrete maths for the students seeking extra help.
- It was suggested that the pre-requisites for this unit to be reviewed to include discrete maths, or make the unit less challenging.
- Student wanted to know how to read research publications. AMc suggested using the discussion board to receive advice from other students.

Action Points:

- *The pre-requisites for the unit are to be reviewed.*

COMP347: Unit Convenor – Rajan Shankaran

Lectures:

- The unit is running smoothly with no issues.

Tutorials and practicals:

- Students are happy with the regular feedbacks received in the tutorials and practicals.

COMP333: Unit Convenor – Christophe Doche

Lectures:

- Students have difficulty in understanding the lecture material.

Mixed class:

- The mixed class is running smoothly.

Assignment:

- The lecturer would scale down the complexity of the assignment 2.

COMP332: Unit Convenor- Tony Sloane

Lectures:

- Students are generally happy with the lectures.
- Lecture material was a little behind. TS assured that nothing important missed and this offering was different to the previous offerings. One new topic originally planned for Week 13 has been dropped, but the overall coverage of topics is quite similar to previous years.

Assignments:

- Student said the specification for the 3rd assignment was a little vague and therefore more work was done than required. TS commented that he was always ready for students to approach him for any queries.

COMP347: Unit Convenor- Rajan Shankaran

The unit is running smoothly and no problem has been reported.

COMP340: Unit Convenor – Debbie Richards

This is an industry project.

- Student was concerned of the extra presentation that was scheduled without their knowledge. DR informed the students that the scheduling of the final exam and the extra presentation was notified in week 9, the previous presentation, also via the web and the email. It was a general feeling that many students did not read the emails. DR stressed that email is the main means of communication for this unit and it was up to the students to make sure that the emails do not end up in spam filters.
- DR thanked the student representative for informing the 1st year and 2nd year students of the DEEWR award. Two students were nominated for the award as a result.

General Issues:

Labs:

- The problem with random system freeze still occurs. The issue is irrelevant to having multiple users logging onto the system.
- Student felt that the condition of the labs has improved.
- Some disruption caused by 1st year students playing games. MC said students could play two games on the C drive without doing INFO111. Students were asked to leave if not belong to the practical class.
- There was a disruption in lab 119 last Friday afternoon. MC asked the students causing disruption to leave the lab. BM mentioned that it is a crucial time of the year with all the assignment due. Many students had complained about the issues in the labs.
- Eclipse is performing better after more space allocation.

Meeting finished at 1:45pm.

This was the last liaison meeting for semester 2 2009.