

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 300-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
10 May 2010 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units	Student ID
Shane Grimson-Smith	COMP340, 342, 343	
Daniel Kenji Toyama	COMP330, 342, 343, 326	
Simon Dawson	COMP330, 342, 343, 348	
Peter Schmidt	COMP343	

Staff Representatives	Units
Annabelle McIver	Chair
Bernard Mans	Head of Department
Diego Molla	COMP348
Manning Li	ISYS302
Manolya Kavakli	COMP330
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Jackie Walsh	Minutes

Meeting started 1:10pm

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

UNIT MATTERS

COMP330: Unit Convenor – Manolya Kavakli

Student advised that have some problems with other students in the lab. Max asks them to leave but they don't cooperate. BM advised that Max should call Security in this case (as classes are at night).

Action Points:

Manolya to advise Max that he should call Security if students refuse to leave the lab.

Student advised that tuts and pracs too big, too many questions and have to submit all of them. When Scott was doing this, it was much smaller.

Action Points:

Manolya to advise Max of this.

Student advised that they are supposed to submit pracs etc by Blackboard. No submission boxes in Blackboard. Have been doing by email etc. Don't know marks. No feedback on what they have done.

Action Points:

Manolya to action.

BM advised that all marks have to be back by week 13.

Student advised when they try to do tuts and pracs they get more confused. Scott's questions pretty good.

Lots of students dropped out, did not understand that C++ has object oriented aspects.

Student advised they are enjoying the unit more than expected but if a bit more structured it would be better. Enjoyed first two assignments but they were a bit big.

ISYS302: Unit Convenor – Manning Li

No Student Representative present at the meeting.

ISYS326: Unit Convenor – Mehmet Orgun

No Unit Convenor or Student Representative present at the meeting.

Student advised that not many people attending the lectures and tuts. Sometimes only 5 or 6 students present. Many people under-estimate the unit – not really technical unit.

Pracs not very relevant, tuts are ok. Still don't like compulsory submissions. Done on Blackboard. Getting marks but not really getting any feedback.

Assignment 1 was quite big. Problem with Oracle which Lee Coady fixed.

Assignment 2 was reduced by Mehmet so it could be completed in less than 10 hours.

Mehmet is quite considerate of students time.

COMP340: Unit Convenor – Frank Moisiadis (Frank away as teaching in city)
Student advised that Lectures were going well.

Frank hands out notices when next lecture is on and sent email when lectures will be.
Room was open last time.

MC advised that an email was sent to OFM to make sure rooms were open.

All groups doing different project. Not always clear what Frank wants, how he wants it.
Needs to be more clear.

COMP342: Unit Convenor – Michael Johnson
No Unit Convenor present.

Students said that Len Hamey had been away sick and it would be good if students could be notified of this online in future. A lot of students only have the one lecture on the Thursday and have to drive in the traffic, only to find a note on the door. This is very frustrating.

No one to pick up their assignments. Eventually came up to Computing Department office as they did not know what to do, hand them in or take them home.

Manolya said it would be good to get mobile numbers from students and text them to notify of absence. BM advised that some students would not want this, as there may be a cost factor involved.

Action Points:

AM to pass suggestion to Len Hamey regarding notifying students online of absence.

Student advised that MJ did not advise how to submit Assignment 2. Students have not talked to MJ about and don't believe they should be penalised if they submit the wrong version and for lack of communication. Makes it hard to allocate marks if students have essentially done different assignment.

Student thinks should have more pracs (clash with ELEC). Good to have someone to guide them a little, although they don't want to be treated like babies (only had 2 pracs this semester).

Assignment 3: Wondered whether Len could provide more information eg in a lecture.

COMP343: Unit Convenor – Josef Pieprzyk
No Unit Convenor present.

Mixed classes going better this semester.

Submission only 1 question – does not take long

Pracs/tuts – well structured.

Christophe very good.

Notes clearer.

More structured.

Change in the way lecture is presented; More prac based rather than maths based.

Christophe demonstrating the calculator which is good.

Christophe asks for feedback which is appreciated. Attitude is different. Good to get feedback straight away.

Assignment 2 a lot better than Assignment 1, which was ambiguous. Eventually the code was very simple. A lot of issues with copying. Students said Assignment 1 was same one as used for last five years, and that solutions are available in the archive.

Assignment 1 comments: JP could not provide a solution for. Criteria was very vague – no parameter – nothing to compare with. Did not get comments from JP.

Christophe put a FAQ online – which was very good.

COMP348: Unit Convenor – Mark Dras
(Mark Dras not present – Diego Molla attended)

Student advised that is going well and Mark Dras is doing good job.

Student advised that Mark Dras answers questions very concisely and replies to emails within one day.

Lectures going well.

Mixed classes are a bit hectic/noisy – trying to juggle with another group in labs at same time.

AM advised that tutors are supposed to get rid of everyone and BM advised that this was made clear in the induction.

Action Points:

Diego to remind tutor to remove students from labs.

Student advised that assignment 3 was going well and that checkpoints helped. The assignment was quite similar to assignment 2.

Diego advised that he will release marks this week.

Student surprised by assignment 1 marks, so hopefully will improve.

ISYS360: Unit Convenor – Bill Dalgliesh (not at meeting)
No Unit Convenor or Student Representative present at the meeting.

AM thanked everyone for attending the meeting. AM will pass comments to the Unit Convenors.

BM advised that as this is the last meeting, he is happy to write a letter to thank everyone – this could be good for references etc.

BM asked how many students using wireless. Students advised of drop out and cannot reconnect, a lot of issues. BM will pass comments to the appropriate representative.

BM asked students how the labs were regarding noise/crowd control etc. Some students advised of an altercation between two groups/heated argument. Security was called to remove students. Students advised situation was better than last year.

BM advised the students that if there were any issues in the lab to either call Computing Department staff or Security.

Students advised no Sygwin in lab – Matt to install.

Students said that 2nd year labs have better computers than they do. BM advised this was done on a rotating basis.

The meeting closed at 1:55 pm.

