

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**  
**Minutes of the 300-Level Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**14 September 2010 1pm**

**Present:**

<b>Student Representatives</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Student ID</b>
David Black	COMP347, 332, 340	
Shane Grimson-Smith	COMP332, 333, 340	
Daniel Kenji Toyama	COMP332, 333, 355, ISYS303	
Steen Cummings	COMP332, 333	
Simon Dawson	COMP332, 333, 355	
Meryl Baquiran	COMP332, 333, 355	
Ollie Wang	ISYS301, ISYS303, ISYS355, COMP329, COMP344	
Den Allen Angeles	COMP344, ISYS303, ISYS301, ISYS355	

<b>Staff Representatives</b>	<b>Units</b>
Annabelle McIver	Chair
Bernard Mans	COMP333, Head of Department
Tony Sloane	COMP332
Rajan Shankaran	COMP347
Michael Hitchens	COMP344
Abhaya Nayak	COMP329
Peter Busch	ISYS301
Igor Shparlinski	COMP333
Matthew Roberts	ISYS303
Len Hamey	COMP347
Christophe Doche	Director of Teaching
Dominic Verity	
Jian Yang	
Melina Chan	Executive Officer
Jackie Walsh	Minutes

**Apologies:**

Frank Moisiadis

**Meeting started 1:05pm**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

## UNIT MATTERS

### COMP332: Unit Convenor – Tony Sloane

- Feedback was assignment 1 was boring – too mechanical – difficult to be creative.
- TS will do differently next time.
- TS will return marks this afternoon. Coding done well but testing and report not particularly well.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment will be harder.
- Writing report was a bit hard – did not know what to say.
- TS advised that trying to encourage you to think more about what you are doing and why. First one is lets see what you can do.
- Running very well – enjoying the course.
- Lectures and LOTW very good.
- Tuts/pracs good.
- Assignment was interesting, though ideas for extensions hard to come by.
- Also, perhaps a demo video of building the first parser or how to interpret SBT/Kiama's compiler errors (which were present until you basically completed Part One of the assignment) would have been good.

### COMP333: Unit Convenor – Igor Shparlinski

- Tut marking is a bit harsh. If we get one tiny thing wrong, we get zero for that question – put in a lot of work – a bit heartbreaking. Would like effort recognised.
- IS said that giving you a full mark is very misleading – a great disservice to you.
- IS will think about differentiating the marks a little bit more.
- BM will post the tutorial solutions.
- Presentations were a nice addition to our assignments. Student said it was a very enjoyable experience. First time he had done this in 3 years.
- BM advised that the quality of the presentations was very good.
- Lectures and Research Topics quite interesting (except for number theory partly due to its overlap with COMP343 Cryptography, though we acknowledge its necessity as an important foundation for what we need to do).
- Tutorials seem to be quite brief with few questions.
- Some points on Assignment 1 Part B (group work): Good – e.g. able to take advantage of previous assignment, able to work with a partner, able to share algorithms and ideas with other groups. Not so good – e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> set of automated tests very different to previous tests, were also released close to assignment deadline and initially did not comply with input specs. Interesting – e.g. working on what we believe is an NP-complete/hard problem, not very satisfying to some students.

**ISYS301: Unit Convenor – Peter Busch**

- Assignment ok.
- There is a problem with BPM Workbench – the software seems to have a bug and it will not perform the calculation function.
- PB advised that the calculation could be performed manually.
- AM suggested putting a note on Blackboard to this effect and PB advised he would do this.
- Lecture pretty good – moved on topics smoothly.

**ISYS303: Unit Convenor – Matthew Roberts**

- Better than beginning. Tuts a lot better. Improved a lot.
- Technical support – problem facing most students.
- MR: Group projects – much stricter on enforcing being students involved in programming – not sure what to do about students not attending. Aware of this – encouraging students to jump an initial technical hurdle.
- Grant (Informatics) came along – someone from industry coming along is good.
- Lectures good.
- Regarding participation in lectures: seems like the nature of the problem is sometimes it just needs to be a lecture – a collection of facts so there isn't room for discussion.
- It is good to be encouraged (and presumably rewarded) for asking good questions – perhaps that should be the focus.
- Tuts ok though those at 11 am are still overcrowded while Wed 3 pm remains a small group (~ 4 last week, ~ 8 week before).

**COMP340: Unit Convenor – Frank Moisiadis (not present)**

- Going well.
- Projects coming to an end.
- FM has asked for projects to be submitted by this Friday.

**COMP344: Unit Convenor – Michael Hitchens (not present)**

- Really good having two lecturers switching between technical and theory.
- Some students love to attend Michael's lectures and some love to attend Les's lectures.
- MH explained that the switching was because had to fit what topics Les was able to cover and when.
- MH: Assignment 1 due on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of break not 1<sup>st</sup> Monday. Will announce at Lecture. Will not announce when 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment due until first one due.
- Len asked if students prefer switching – one student liked another one didn't.
- MS advised that 344 was forced upon us because staffing not sorted. Discussions between two departments.
- Student asked if tutorial solutions would be published.

- MH advised to address question to Les for solutions for previous weeks.

**COMP347: Unit Convenor – Rajan Shankaran**

- Student questioned whether IP Version 6 would be covered in lectures. RS advised that LH does some lectures on IP Version 6.
- Student asked how to answer questions in quizzes. RS advised that in relation to quizzes the answers need to be precise, to the point and need not be lengthy.
- Lecture slides too long.
- Tuts good.
- Pracs getting better.

**COMP355/ISYS355: Unit Convenor – Frank Moisiadis (not present)**

- Regarding the project, the students tightened scope on what they were going to do and what they will implement.
- A lot of students got hammered with a lot of assignments last week.
- Students can be more clear with scope if they have discussion with Frank more. Frank advised students they could call him or email him any time.
- Only have two hours face-to-face contact hours every fortnight.
- Conflict within group on what they think is right – hard to resolve with Frank with only 2 hours every fortnight.
- Need someone outside of group.
- Questioned whether there was a project leader to resolve issues.

**COMP329: Unit Convenor – Abhaya Nayak**

- Really good. The Logic lectures went smoothly. Few students not sure – topic is challenging.
- AN made some changes.
- Some students cannot turn up to lecture because of work and would like video lectures.
- Students asked if they would have slides in Abhaya's lectures.
- iLecture – available only in audio format in small rooms.
- MR advised that one of his labs did not have audio recording so doing recording on his own computer – going ok so far – find out how well they are working.

**General comments on labs:**

- Can Office 2007 can be updated so you can save as pdf?

**Action Points:** Science IT to be advised.

- Moodle is no longer sending emails. This is on the to-do list.

AM thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.40 pm.

