

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 300-Level Liaison Committee Meeting

16th August 2011 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units
James Lim	COMP332, COMP355
Jason Liu	COMP332, COMP333, COMP355
Evan Conway	COMP332, COMP333
Max Gobel	COMP332

Staff Representatives	Units
Michael Johnson (MJ)	Chair of the Committee
Bernard Mans (BM)	COMP333
Rajan Shankaran (RS)	COMP347
Igor Shparlinski (IS)	COMP333
Les Bell (LB)	COMP344
Christophe Doche (CD)	Director of Teaching
Len Hamey (LH)	COMP347
Tony Sloane (TS)	COMP332
Debbie Richards (DR)	ISYS355/COMP355
Peter Busch (PB)	ISYS301
Yan Wang	COMP344
Ian Joyner	ISYS301
Matthew Roberts	ISYS303, COMP332
Richard Miller (RM)	Science IT
Melina Chan (MC)	Executive Officer
Jackie Walsh (JW)	Department Administrator (Minutes)

Meeting started at 1:04pm

MJ welcomed all to the meeting and gave a brief explanation about the purpose of the liaison committee meeting. Staff and Student Representatives introduced themselves.

Unit Matters

COMP332: Unit Convenor – Tony Sloane

- Lectures interesting and TS explains concepts in lectures really well.
- 3 hour evening lecture following a 3 hour lecture before – manage to stay awake.
- TS explained concepts of assignment well.
- Assignment good.
- Assignment due in week 6.
- Student Rep (exchange student): As an exchange student he finds the Pracs good – don't have this at his Uni.
- Helps solidify things after the lecture.
- Enrico doing good job in pracs (does both pracs).
- Student Rep: Suggested to have something like Scalar for Dummies.
- TS can provide this.
- TS advised that lecture room (C5A 229) is too hot – OFM have been contacted about this.

COMP333: Unit Convenor – Igor Shparlinski

- Lectures going well.
- Assignment due on Monday – found it interesting, challenging.
- BM advised that he will probably give feedback tomorrow.
- Student rep finds F9C a bit big for the class – a bit echoey.
- The paint of the whiteboard wall in F9C – hard to rub off the marks.
- Students cannot hear clearly what the lecturers say.
- These problems with F9C will be reported to OFM.
- Pracs and tuts ok.
- This week focussing on complexity analysis.
- 1 hour mixed class.
- Student rep said Tahiri doing well but needs to speak more loudly.
- BM will talk to Tahiri about this.

COMP344: Unit Convenor – Yan Wang (No Student Reps)

- YW asked for Student Reps in the lectures and did not have a response but he will keep trying.
- TS asked the student reps what would entice other students to come along to the liaison committee meetings.
- Tuts are in lectures.
- Evening lecture – 3 hours. Only had two.

- Everything ok.

COMP355/ISYS355: Unit Convenor – Debbie Richards

- Student Rep advised his group selection algorithm did not work that well. Many of the group work during the day and they can only meet on Sundays for a short time.
- DR advised that they would have to work out ways to get work done without meeting face to face, such as Skype.
- Student Rep advised that some in the group are not that savvy.
- Wanted to use survey to form teams. Rather annoying as it had been promised it would be ready at the beginning of the week. DR advised it would have been better if they did survey. If just done on GPA, it would not be any guarantee at all. Cannot take everybodys time constraints into it.
- If you enrol in that unit, you have to be available. DR can talk to the group.
- Student rep sure they can work it out.
- DR advised that industry people are not available after 5 pm.
- DR advises at the start that if students are working full time and cannot be available, they should withdraw, as it is not fair on others.
- DR – participation units – need to prepare for them.
- Student rep said it felt weird having capstone for Comp students. Has not done any ISYS units. Bit disjointed. Have to rely on other team members to do assignment.
- DR: Given a feasibility study and 4 of the 20 submissions failed that.
- DR explained that the capstone had two purposes and part of that was preparing for working with/in industry.
- DR considered if should be kept separate but would be a lot less work ready if we did that.
- DR advised that employers say that students are not ready for business.
- DR said that have to fill in knowledge gaps – have not been done in other units – because this is what happens in industry.
- MR asked what we could do to help students if they feel unprepared.
- DR: Now doing agile processes – a bit of a challenge.
- DR: Part of students learning is what you don't know and how to get it.

COMP365: Unit Convenor – Deborah Richards (No Student Reps)

- Going ok.

COMP347: Unit Convenor – Rajan Shankaran (No Student Reps)

- RS: Given 1st assignment and this is due in week 8 – will discuss assignment this Thursday.
- RS: One prac session already – feedback was enjoyed.
- RS: 3 x 1 hour blocks – finds it difficult to cover 50 slides in day time mode. No difficulty in evening mode. Not sure why this is.

- MJ: Hypothesis is that evening students are keen to go.

ISYS301: Unit Convenor – Peter Busch (No Student Reps)

- PB: Need to drum up more students to the meeting.
- PB: Evening offering seems to be ok.
- PB: Diagnostic assignment due next week.
- PB: Ian will take over in week 6.

ISYS303: Unit Convenor – Matthew Roberts (No Student Reps)

- MR: Evening class – going well. A few teething problems.

COMP388 (No Student Rep)

- 1 student – going smoothly.

COMP350 (No Student Reps)

- 4 students.
- MJ will remind students to come to meetings.

Technical Issues

- DR: Group support thing – a lot of work went into it – should have been told if IT could not support.
- DR: Printing problems – do not leave things to the last minute – lesson learnt – need to plan.
- iLecture a problem this year. At department level – someone following up.
- CD asked exchange student about experience – iLearn.
- Exchange student student: Prac system is good – like it. Felt academically prepared. Really enjoying the class.
- BM asked student reps what is the best time to set a deadline for submission of assignments.
- TS advised that he found that noon works best.

MJ thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their valuable input.

The meeting closed at 2:00 pm.