

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

7th April 2011 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units
Nathan Gorney	ISYS302, ISYS326, ISYS360
Adrian Melara	ISY302, ISYS326, ISYS360
Jye Murray	COMP348
Den Allen Angeles	ISYS326, COMP348

Staff Representatives	Units
Len Hamey (LM)	Chair of the Committee
Bernard Mans (BM)	Head of Department
Peter Busch (PB)	ISYS302
Mehmet Orgun (MO)	ISYS326
Christophe Doche (CD)	COMP343, Director of Teaching
Josef Pieprzyk (JP)	COMP343
Robert Dale (RD)	COMP348
Debbie Richards (DR)	COMP365
Gary Lau (GL)	ISYS360
Richard Miller (RM)	SciencelT
Melina Chan (MC)	Executive Officer
Fiona Yang (FY)	Department Administrator (Minutes)

Apologies:

Meeting started at 1:05pm

LH welcomed all for attending the meeting. He also pointed out that these committee meetings could help all to identify what was working, or if there were any issues, problems, and suggestions.

LH also provided feedback regarding the lab issue raised in the last meeting. After he inspected the lab, he agreed with ScienceIT team that it would not be possible to change the set-up at the moment. However he would like to bring students attention to ergonomics, such as how they could sit properly in front of the computers, as currently not many students were in good practice, and most students would not move for at least an hour.

Unit Matters

ISYS302: Unit Convenor – Peter Busch

Lectures:

- LH asked if C5C T1 facilities were working for the lecture. PB confirmed yes. The new style lectern was workable, although the older style was better. Unfortunately there was no dimmer for the lights in the lecture room, and they were either on, or off. Stu Rep agreed the lecture room worked okay now.
- Stu Rep said it was difficult to attend the Friday class. PB advised he could understand the struggle.
- PB would announce the grouping for the assignments on the Bulletin board.

ISYS326: Unit Convenor – Mehmet Orgun

Lectures:

- Stu Rep was hoping that the night class could be changed to day class. LH explained that due to a lack of students, the department could not run both day and night classes, therefore these classes were offered in alternate year. BM further added that the day and night classes were actually offered every three years now.
- Stu rep commented that the lecture room C5C T2 worked better, which turned out to be quite a nice room. MO added that now the internet connection worked, and there were two to show the slides from the computer and the visualiser. There are power points at the students' seats.
- **Assignment:**
 - Students were asked to work in pairs for their assignments, which was due during the semester.

Practical:

- MO advised that some students had experienced problems with their OneIDs when connecting to Oracle. Lee Coady would look at this for them.

COMP343: Unit Convenor – Christophe Doche

- There was no student representative from this unit present at the meeting.

Lectures:

- CD started teaching this week. It was noticed that the student turn-out was not great.
- JP commented that in earlier weeks lectures went okay, and the attendance was around fourteen students.

COMP348: Unit Convenor – Robert Dale

Mixed Classes:

- Stu Rep advised that the tutorials by Abeed were a bit behind the lectures, which was difficult for student to relate what was taught in lectures to the mixed class.
- RD asked if Abeed would leave what was not covered in the last class, or would he still catch up with the unfinished bit in the next class. Stu Rep said Abeed would still catch up.
- Stu Rep also advised that some students did not feel like they were getting much feedback for assignment questions in mixed classes. RD addressed that it was impractical for Abeed to provide individual feedback to students on their submitted solutions.

Assignment:

- Stu Rep thought the assignment was structured well - easy to reach the base mark, but hard to reach high marks.
- Stu Rep complained about the early closure time at 10pm of the labs. BM explained the closing time was changed from 1am to 10pm was for safety reasons, and would like to know if students had to be in the lab to work on their assignments. RD advised that students did not need any special software for their assignments, and could work anywhere. Further discussion was carried on regarding the possibility of utilizing the new library, however it seemed that at the moment the new library also closed at 10pm. LH summarised that due to security issues, the department would not extend the opening hours of the labs, and would like to apologise at this time and instance. However hopefully in the near future the new library will be available 24/7.

COMP365: Unit Convenor – Deborah Richards

- There was no student representative from this unit present at the meeting.

Lectures:

- DR advised that sixteen students enrolled in this unit. Unfortunately no student representative could attend this meeting, although a few did show interest to do so.
- DR introduced that GL was one of the industry partners to work on the project with the students. GL commented that the group he worked with was quite good, and their presentation skills were quite impressive. LH was glad that the students left GL as the industry sponsor such good impression.

ISYS360: Unit Convenor – Gary Lau

Lectures:

- Stu Rep commented that the lectures were pretty good. It still appeared to be an issue for all the students to attend the five hour class on Tuesday nights. GL also advised that class attendance dropped a fair lot especially when the assignment was due.
- Stud Rep advised that iLectures were working well.

Assignment:

- Stu Rep commented positively on the assignment. The assignment was a group assignment that student could work on independently, rather than in need of supervision from tutors. This would help students work on their own initiatives, which was good.
- GL asked for suggestion regarding managing various feedback from students. With some particular group, some students felt like they were being pulled down by those group members who did not seem to be contributing as much. DR suggested that GL could adopt different marking models if he had concerns regarding management of student complaints in group assignments. DR would speak to GL in more details after the meeting. PB also advised that he could provide GL sample peer review forms, which could be of great help too.

General Matters

Labs:

- Stu Rep reported some issue with log-ins. Once logged in, the folders under personal profile were missing, and the background was black. It seemed that

the connection to server was not working properly. RM was not sure if this was happening across board, or was it a technical, or profile issue. The network connection should be available, however downloading of profile should happen before the interface.

The meeting closed at 1:50 pm