

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 300-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
Wed 17 May 2006 at 1.00pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units
Victor Hui	COMP330
Carl Svensson	COMP343 & 342
Eric Dalglish	COMP342 & 330
Staff Representatives	Units
Ros Ballantyne	Chair
Scott McCallum	COMP330
Manolya Kavakli	COMP330
Len Hamey	COMP342
Mike Johnson	COMP342
Josef Pieprzyk	COMP343
Huaxiong Wang	COMP323
Mark Dras	COMP348
Lee Flax	COMP345/6
Louella Almeida	Program Manager (Minutes)

Apologies: Gillian Miller – COMP326

UNIT MATTERS

COMP330

- Lectures fine, tuts fine.
- Pracs – not much incentive to do them.
- Students would like more 3D exercises.
- Time given for working assignments is not enough (4 wks). Manolya explained that this is in line with the marking rate - 40% for 3 assignments. Discussion took place as to whether to reduce the number of assignments or make the current 3 easier. Perhaps only 2 assignments for next year.
- Not many participate in the on-line tut. Students don't find it helpful and would prefer a normal lecture. This was introduced as there were some students that had a clash with the Tuesday lecture. We introduced a new component of 3D modelling, of which we had limited copies. Student do the tut work before coming on-line and then have the opportunity to ask questions. Students found WebCT chat rooms inaccessible for the first 2 weeks of semester, now it is fine. But students are still not attending. They tend to do the work, but do not connect to the chat session. 300-level labs are full at this particular time.
Discussion took place as to whether on-line training is a good teaching method?

Students could not find the torque-game engine. Or some could install it but could not run it. Manolya to check 300-level labs as this is especially needed for Assignment#3.

- Could the tut answers be made available online? Manolya prefers not to as it is observed that attendance then drops. Manolya will inform the students that miss a class, to see her if they would like to discuss their solution.
- Manolya noted that lecture and tut attendance was good.
- Students commented that overall they liked COMP330 and were enjoying the unit.

COMP342

- Students respond well to Mike's lectures especially his enthusiasm and the content that he covers. Mike noted that he was prepared to teach for more weeks, but the department's workload allocation did not allow for this.
- Len is now doing the lectures. Students are concerned about what will be in the exam from Len's section? Assignment ratings and markings? Students would like to have a bit more of a tut structure eg practical questions. There is also concern that Section B changes from year to year. It is perceived that there is no practical side to Len's part of the course.
- The self-guided format of the tut is not that useful. Students would like more specific questions like in the text. Mike will provide specific questions. Mike commented that in his tut he had a group of very capable students who raised interesting questions. Not all students can attend his tut, due to other clashes. Mike will pass on his material to the other tutor.

COMP343

- Tuts are going well and both tutors cover everything very well. Josef encouraged students to keep asking their tutors especially re Metlab as they are experienced in this area.
- Pracs relate to the tut material and are also going well.
- Students asked for more information on binary operations eg what type of C++ will you need? Josef has put up some templates but will also ask the lecturers of COMP115, 125 and 225 to incorporate these types of operations in their units. We assume it is known, but we take this as a valid point.

General

Liaison website & email messages

Students are not receiving the email announcements re the meeting dates/times. For example for today's meeting, students looked up the web as late as yesterday and found out.

For next semester Lisa Chanell will send out reminders, about the meetings/minutes etc as soon as decided upon, using the alias that goes directly to students, ie not via the unit convenor. This should speed up the process. Students were also alerted to the website, which they were not aware of <http://www.comp.mq.edu.au/undergrad/info/>

Staff expressed a big thankyou to the 3 student reps that attended.

Student Liaison Reps

Students are not aware of this role or of these committees. Consider more promotion and also putting up the photos of the student reps. It was also suggested that an email go out to all students in about the 2nd week of semester. We will also look to revising the Study Guide Template to have a separate section on Liaison Committees.

Louella alerted students to the Student Newsletter, a new feature which was introduced last month. It did carry an item on the Liaison Committees. These letters are also available on the same webpage

<http://www.comp.mq.edu.au/undergrad/info/>

Next Meeting

Yet to be decided on, Ros to advise.