Department of Computing, Macquarie University

Minutes of the 100-level Liaison Committee Meeting

13 March 2013 – 1pm

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representatives</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Hixon</td>
<td>COMP115</td>
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<td>Felix Buda</td>
<td>COMP115</td>
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<td>Eunice Wong</td>
<td>COMP115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bek Coote</td>
<td>ISYS100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradley Graves</td>
<td>ISYS100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alia Alidenes</td>
<td>ISYS100, COMP115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pierre Rodrigues</td>
<td>ISYS100, ISYS104, COMP115</td>
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<td>Gregory Passos</td>
<td>ISYS104</td>
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<td>Thant Thitsa Aung</td>
<td>ISYS104</td>
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<th>Staff Representatives</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard Mans (BM)</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
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<td>Rolf Schwitter (RS)</td>
<td>Director of Teaching</td>
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<td>Mehmet Orgun (MO)</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<td>Tony Sloane (TS)</td>
<td>COMP115</td>
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<td>Gaurav Gupta (GG)</td>
<td>COMP115</td>
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<td>Josef Pieprzyk (JP)</td>
<td>COMP125</td>
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<td>Diego Molla (DM)</td>
<td>COMP125</td>
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<td>Jian Yang (JY)</td>
<td>ISYS104</td>
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<td>Matthew Mansour (MM)</td>
<td>ISYS104, ISYS100</td>
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<td>Richard Miller (RM)</td>
<td>Science IT</td>
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<td>Melina Chan (MC)</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Mitchell Buckley (MB)</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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Apologies:

Yan Wang

Thomas Goth-Towney
Meeting started at 1:04pm

MO welcomed all who attended the meeting. Students and staff did brief introductions.

COMP115: Unit Convenor – Tony Sloane

Lectures:

- TS said that the general feedback from students has been positive: the students say that they are following the material and are happy with lectures, practicals etc.

Practicals:

- Students asked why Monday tutorials are scheduled before the Monday lecture (suggesting that students are not yet equipped to answer the questions). TS responded by saying that the tutorial questions are based on the material from the previous week so there shouldn’t be any problem there.

Assignment:

- Students commented that the move from tutorial to assessment is quite a big jump and that some students are not going to keep up with that.
- TS said the students are over-thinking the assessment a little. The assessments are a few weeks delayed from the lectures and the assessment due this week only needs material from week 2. The assessments are scheduled so that students have had plenty of time to practice.
- GG said that weekly exercises will become more complex as more material is available to the students through lectures.

i-Lectures:

- Students said that the online videos are pretty good but it is sometimes hard to hear the comments/questions made by students.
- GG said that he’s already attempting to solve that problem by getting a microphone to the students.
- Students said that the online videos lack a view of the lecturer and whiteboard.
- MM said that there is a button in the viewer that lets you switch between the powerpoint display and a view of the lecturer and board. The student will have a look and see if she can get it to work.

COMP125: Unit Convenor – Joseph Pieprzyk

Lectures:

- Students commented that the lectures have been great but sometimes the video lectures have audio but no video.
- RM said this is being addressed: there has been intermittent success in dealing with it and they’re still working on it.
DM asked whether the small screens on Wednesday lecture is a problem for students. Student said no; will check with other students.

Other Matters:

- TS asked if there have been any problems with the transition from COMP115 to COMP125.
- Students said it is a big step up from processing to java, but the level of help is good so it’s fine.

COMP188: Unit Convenor – Michael Johnson

- No representative students present.

ISYS100: Unit Convenor – Matthew Mansour

Lectures:

- Students said they’re enjoying the lectures from MM. Teachers are great. Having fun.

Tutorials/Practicals:

- Students said classes and pracs are really good. Teachers are great. Having fun.
- Students said there was some confusion about the quiz that happened in the tutorial. The tutor was not clear about which questions the students were supposed to attempt (those on the board or those on the sheet).
- Students said that Charanya (tutor) teaches in such a way that some students are getting bored; material a little too slow.
- MM acknowledged that it’s unfortunate and suggested to let her know so she can accommodate different ability levels. It was suggested that the student could offer help to weaker students and be accommodating for their slower progress.
- Another student commented that they’re finding it a bit harder and was hoping to spend time with tutor at some point to sort some things out.
- MM commented that the second hour of the tutorial is precisely for that: to ask the tutor to look at your work and give feedback. Students should also feel free to attend other tutorials in addition to their own.
- MM also commented that every semester same feedback received regarding too fast or too slow. It’s just the case that some students come in with varied background knowledge.

Other matters

- Student asked whether it would be possible to run PAL classes for the struggling students in this unit.
- BM responded that this has been done in the past and is being considered for other units and this may be possible here if there is demand. Just need to make sure there is demand and excelling students available to do it.
- MM also commented that they probably won’t do PAL in this unit but will talk about it more.
- MM is really enjoying this semester, really likes that the lecture is full and really appreciates that lots of students are turning up. Thank you.
• MM asked how the students were finding Windows 8. Students responded that it was fine.

**ISYS104: Unit Convenor – Jian Yang**

**Lectures/Tutorials:**

• Students said that the lectures are pretty good as well as the workshop. The tutor is very accommodating.
• Students said that sometimes the practicals are not exactly linked to lectures, or that the tutor is not good at drawing the link.
• MM responded that the examples need to be quite simple at the beginning of semester because if we jumped in too early it’ll be too much. The particular tutor is new so MM will chat with him to double-check he’s on top of it. Week 4 will have a clearer link to the lecture material.
• Students said that they would like more sets of data as exercises in the mixed class; the single example didn’t seem enough.
• MM said that week 1-3 is a taste of things to come and the coming assignment will be more challenging.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Labs:**

• MM asked for comments on conditions in the labs.
• Students commented that wireless connections on phones and laptops seem to have varied success on both ONENET and PUBLIC wireless connections.
• RM said that the problem is known: It stems from a technical fault and it’s not clear exactly where the fault lies. They will continue working on it.
• Students said that it’s not a major issue.
• Students commented that Windows 8 and log-on from different machines is great - way better than last year!
• Student commented that when friends use the labs in C5C they cannot use web browser to download files to print. Can print through ilab but not otherwise.
• RM said that is managed by another IT group, but he’ll follow up on it.
• Student said that they print from a few different locations but sometimes run out of credit. It’s inconvenient to have to walk all the way to the library to pay for printing - it’s really inconvenient to not be able to pay from any location.
• RM said there is a plan to unify that system, but they’ve been talking about it for a while and not sure when a solution will arrive.
• RM said that regarding shared storage: there not much enthusiasm for 1GB of space (it’s not considered very large). But it’s not a problem, just a comment.

**iLab:**

• TS asked if any students use ilab from home.
• One student said that they had tried but it was too hard. There haven’t been any complaints, maybe other students don’t know that they can do that.
A student said that a mentor told him there was a crash-course for a whole bunch of units but it doesn’t seem to be running this time. What are these courses and can we get them?

TS said that he was probably referring to the Numeracy centre. Those courses offered by the numeracy centre rely on demand from the students and to some extent rely on support from the university.

MO asked the students whether there was a demand for this kind of thing.

Students said it would be very helpful as it has been very helpful for other units.

MO suggested that the students should find out how much demand there is from the body of students and communicate to unit convenors and liaison committee about it.

**Communication:**

- Student asked who to communicate to in the period between meetings.
- TS said that your unit convenor is probably best.

**The meeting closed at 1:44pm.**