DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 200-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
18th May 2010 1pm

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representatives</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Stephens</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Kentomo Otani</td>
<td>COMP249</td>
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<td>Cameon Chang</td>
<td>COMP247</td>
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<td>Shi yu Zheng</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lau</td>
<td>ISYS254, COMP247</td>
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<td>Sina Fakihizadeh</td>
<td>ISYS259</td>
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<td>David Bardouh</td>
<td>COMP225</td>
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<th>Staff Representatives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Len Hamey</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<td>Bernard Mans</td>
<td>HoD</td>
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<td>Christophe Doche</td>
<td>Director of Teaching</td>
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<td>Ros Ballantyne</td>
<td>COMP225</td>
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<td>Michael Hitchens</td>
<td>COMP247</td>
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<td>Manolya Kavakli</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Rolf Schwitter</td>
<td>COMP249</td>
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<td>Yan Wang</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Rajan Shankaran</td>
<td>COMP247</td>
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<td>Melina Chan</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Raina Kim</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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Apologies:
Steve Cassidy, Scott McCallum

Meeting started 1:08pm

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS254: Unit Convenor – Yan Wang
Lectures:
- Student said the availability of the lecture notes posted a few weeks ahead was very helpful as he had a timetable clash with another unit.
- Student would like the unit to concentrate on one programming language rather than learning multiple languages. Student suggested to cover ASP.NET. YW commented it was much more complex than ASP and asked for the knowledge of Web Services technology. And it
would go beyond the scope of ISYS254 and would be too difficult for most students who has no prior programming knowledge.

- Student would like remote access to Visual Studio or other softwares required for the unit. This would help especially the distant or external students. YW advised VPN was deployed on campus. HoD informed VPN access for students considered and were being looked into. Logging on to VNP had been difficult as the Macquarie structure was not stable.
- LH asked what aspects the students liked about the unit. Students replied the tools used and the well-prepared notes.

**Tutorials and Practicals:**
- Students would like a proper feedback rather than just marks. YW explained it was too difficult to give detailed individual feedback to 120+ students. But in the beginning of each mixed class, the tutor summarised typical problems in submissions. YW commented lenient marks were given for the weekly submissions.
- The general feedback was if all the material studied, the work required in the practicals would not be difficult.

**COMP249: Unit Convenor- Rolf Schwitter**

One student representative sent the feedback via email.

**Lectures:**
- All was going well for the special topics covered in the last three weeks.
- Video lectures on the whole continued to be good.
- Student commented this was his favourite unit.

**Tutorials and Practicals:**
- Tutorials are running well.
- The integration between practicals and video lectures could be better. Some students in practicals found the AJAX submission difficult to get up and running.
  - Video lecture didn't explain cross-domain AJAX is not allowed by default (due to security issues). This means you can't have a local HTML file using AJAX to load data from a server.
  - Practical supervisor didn't realise/wasn't told cross-domain AJAX was an issue.
  - Already been discussed video lecture example didn't look like it needed 3 nested for loops (O(n^3) complexity).
  - May have been better giving a simple example, asking students to get it up and running, and then asking students to improve or modify it, perhaps a text version that needs to be converted to use XML?
- Students would like some sample solutions to the practicals posted for preparation for the final exam.

**Assignment:**
- Some students were confused about the concept of creativity for assignment 3. The students were struggling with the level of expectation. RS advised to set own goals and take small steps to extend and build on the assignment 2. Testing each step would help to
be on track. Also advised students who had the original proposal rejected to review and resubmit the work. This assignment would take approximately 20 hours for a High Distinction student to receive a HD.

- Some students preferred to use software not taught in this unit as they were also undertaking other units - COMP254 ASP and COMP249 Java Script and Python. RS advised not to be too concerned about the software, as if the proposal were approved; students would be free to implement in any software. The implementation could be different to the original proposal.
- Assignment 3 is due Friday week 12.

**Labs:**
- No issues raised in the labs.

**COMP247: Unit Convenor – Michael Hitchens**

**Lectures:**
- Students would like a 10 minutes break between the 2-hour lectures as it was very tiring to concentrate for 2 hours.
- Student commented MH was a very good lecturer.
- Student would like the current lecturer to deliver the material at a slower pace.

**Tutorials and Practicals:**
- Students said more tutors were required in the class, as it took too long for marking. RS explained this would not be possible due to the budget.
- Some students had difficulty in understanding the questions. Discussion took place on ways to make the classes more effective for students. E.g., arranging the classes by skills, develop FAQ site. Student informed some questions could not be addressed in advance or posted on FAQ as the cases could only be shown. MH would request for a feedback from the tutors.
- One student representative had undertaken this unit in the last offering and informed a lot of Wireshark information were available on the web.
- Tutor LB explained very well and helped the students. IJ did not explain as much.

**COMP225: Unit Convenor – Ros Ballantyne**

**Lectures:**
- Student was not very happy with the structure of Moodle as it was hard to track the interface. RB advised it would improve in the next offering as this was the first time using Moodle.
- It was very hard to follow the lectures material in the earlier weeks as 3 pdf files were used for one lecture.
- Students prefer to shift away from the textbook and concentrate on the lectures notes. Student would prefer to have all information in one location.
- RB had previously informed the students of various web references to the material required for this unit.

**Tutorials and Practicals:**
- Students would like sample solutions to practicals and tutorials posted. RB posted later ones and would ask SMc to post earlier ones.
Assignments:
- All was going well for the assignment 2. This would be a good checkpoint for all material learnt so far.
- The auto marks for assignment 2 not posted on Moodle. RB would look into this.

Labs:
- There were no software issues.
- Remote access to the required software was available.

General Issues:
- Students would like to have an integrated source to centralise information. Moodle was the preferred option to Blackboard as Moodle was more flexible. It was quite confusing to have different system for each unit and problems encountered with Blackboard. HoD informed the contract with Blackboard was finishing and many units were deploying to the in house developed Moodle.
- Labs: Firefox complained of not being the latest version. Students did not have the admin access to update it.

LH thanked everyone who attended the meeting.
HoD thanked the student representatives for attending the meetings and informed they would receive a letter to thank for their participation.

Meeting finished at 2:02 pm.

This was the last meeting for the semester 1, 2010.