### Minutes of the 200-Level Liaison Committee Meeting

**15 October 2012 1pm in E6A357**

#### Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representatives</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Civitico</td>
<td>COMP226, COMP229, COMP255, ISYS224</td>
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<td>Nicholas Reynolds</td>
<td>COMP226, COMP229, ISYS224, COMP255</td>
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<td>Blair Hudson</td>
<td>COMP226, COMP255, COMP229, ISYS224</td>
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<td>Anthony Wales</td>
<td>COMP226, COMP229, ISYS224, COMP255</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Tsiamoulis</td>
<td>COMP229, COMP255, ISYS224</td>
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<td>Jacob Johnston</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP229, ISYS224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Guy</td>
<td>COMP255</td>
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<td>Edward Moore</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP226</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christophe Doche (CD)</td>
<td>Chair of the Committee</td>
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<td>Bernard Mans (BM)</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
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<td>Melina Chan (MC)</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Deborah Richards</td>
<td>COMP255</td>
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<td>Jian Yang (JY)</td>
<td>ISYS224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annabelle McIver (AM)</td>
<td>COMP229</td>
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<td>Len Hamey (LH)</td>
<td>COMP226</td>
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The meeting started at 1:05pm. It was chaired by Christophe Doche.

**COMP229 Annabelle McIver**

**Assignment**
The unit is progressing well. Assignment 2 has not yet been released. The students were given extension for 1st assignment submissions. But the extension was given after the due time, which is unfair to those who had submitted in time since they were not able to re-submit.

AM stated that she had manually allowed a student to withdraw the submission and re-submit. Any student who wanted to work longer on their submission could have contacted her. AM also stated that the extension wasn’t long enough to make substantial changes to the submission.

CD queried about how useful the unit COMP125 was for COMP229. Most of the student representatives have done COMP225. One of the student representative mentioned that he felt COMP125 is adequate preparation for 229.

**Mixed classes**
AM queried whether the mixed classes were helpful to the students. The student representatives mentioned that the mixed classes started well but the attendance has dropped in the recent weeks. The interaction with Tahiry is very helpful.

**Exam**
The ‘take-home’ exam went well. The students had good amount of time to complete the exam. However, iLearn was down on Friday night (during the two days of ‘take-home’ exam).

**iLearn**
DV replied that he helped those students who were unable to download resources from iLearn and had contacted him about that.
JP apologized for the iLearn downtime, which was due to a planned outage for maintenance by the hosting server.
COMP255 Deborah Richards

Textbook
The textbooks cover all the topics well. But there are other books in the library which give more explanation. But these gaps are filled during the lecture by DR.

Assignment
The student representatives said that they find it difficult to submit hard copy of assignments which are around 50 pages in length. They queried if soft copy submission would suffice.

DR answered saying hard copies are used by the marker and it is not feasible for the marker to print out every assignment submission. Submitting hard copy is unavoidable.

DR also mentioned that the assignment was marked incredibly quickly, since it was important to return them to the students soon.

Mixed class
DR stated that the week starting on Oct 8, registered very poor attendance in the tutorial sessions except for the session on Monday.

General
A student representative mentioned that design patterns are not covered greatly in 255 and it would be better if it were covered.

DV mentioned that standard patterns are covered in COMP 229.
DR stated that it is an advanced topic and students need more (industry) experience to understand this idea. Usually the second assignment is more focused on design patterns.

ISYS224. Jian Yang

Assignment
The unit is progressing well. The tasks in assignment 2 were straightforward to understand. Not many students attend the practical sessions. Some issue with marking of assignment has been fixed.

JY mentioned that the issue with assignment 1 marking was because some students had generated the logical model using Powerdesigner software, and others had done so manually.

The student representatives queried why the units were not based on software that are free, such as Test professional (available thru MSDNAA).

DR said the idea is to introduce the students to software used in the industry.

COMP226 Len Hamey & Mike Johnson

The student representatives complained that the unit information is spread across 3 systems,
iLearn, web pages maintained by MJ and OpenLearning. The information on assignment was also spread across these platforms. This makes it difficult to find information. The marking guidelines for the assignment was released very late.

The course content is very difficult. Some students are finding it a challenge to keep up with the same. Working on the language C has been a challenge.

LH stated that the use of the 3 platform is consistent with what was mentioned in the initial stages of the unit. LH did not want to present some of the information relating to the assignment in the web pages maintained by MJ which is accessible by everyone.

MJ stated that marking assignment 1 has not yet been completed. But the students have been receiving the weekly feedback.

**General remarks:**

1. The wi-fi access has gone down. Often the students are not able to access external services.
2. The student-reps mentioned that Echo is useful, but they might consider incorporating sub-titles as well.
3. The labs are hot some times and the bins are not cleared regularly.
4. The department could consider having fixed staplers in the labs.
5. The student-reps suggested designing the iLearn page for mobile systems as well.
   
   JP mentioned that iLearn for mobiles should be available from next year.

6. AN mentioned that OpenLearning will be used in COMP225 next year.

Meeting was closed at 2pm.