DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 200-Level Liaison Committee Meeting

13th March 2012 12 pm

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Tsiamoulis</td>
<td>COMP247, COMP249</td>
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<td>Ryann Shiers</td>
<td>COMP247, ISYS254</td>
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<td>Peter Reeves</td>
<td>COMP225, COMP260, COMP249</td>
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<td>Joshua Ducie</td>
<td>ISYS254, COMP247</td>
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<td>Ian Cheng</td>
<td>COMP260</td>
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<td>Dennis Tsai</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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Staff Representatives | Units
Abhaya Nayak (AN)    | Chair of the Committee
Bernard Mans (BM)    | Head of Department
Christophe Doche (CD)| Director of Teaching
Dominic Verity (DV)  | Acting Head of Department
Len Hamey (LH)       | COMP247
Stephen Smith (SS)   | ISYS254
Steve Cassidy (SC)   | COMP249
Manolya Kavakli (MK) | COMP260
Michael Hitchens (MH)| COMP260
Annabelle McIver     | COMP225
Richard Miller (RM)  | ScienceIT
Darius Taslim (DT)   | ScienceIT
Melina Chan (MC)     | Executive Officer
Jackie Walsh (JW)    | Department Administrator (Minutes)

Apologies:

Meeting started at 1:05pm

AN welcomed everyone to the first 200-level liaison meeting for 2012. AN invited everybody to introduce themselves.
Unit Matters

COMP225: Unit Convenor – Annabelle McIver

General

Everything good so far – no complaints from students.

Annabelle is keen to hear any suggestions for improvement – especially class participation.

COMP247: Unit Convenor – Len Hamey

In general things are going well.

Lectures & Tuts

Students are happy with the lectures and tuts. They pointed out that the Echo system does not record material displayed on one of the screens. LH said he will make the handwritten notes as pdf files available online, a couple of days after the lecture.

Practicals

There is a feeling that more elaborate instructions on the use of Wireshark would be useful, and the prac material needs to be updated. LH mentioned that the lab materials are being improved over the last couple of years, and that he will take up the suggestions made to further improve the labs for the next year.

LH encouraged students to send him specific questions by email, or post them on the discussion board, and he will address them.

COMP249: Unit Convenor – Steve Cassidy

Lectures

Students commented that they are having a great time using Python, which is very powerful. Requested to be reminded to watch video lectures before the actual lecture. Steve promised to remind the students in Friday lecture and again on Monday.

Labs

Trouble in executing programs in lab computers, Steve asked students to send him the details and he will see whether he can recreate the problems.

General

Student replied to Abhaya that other students know who the student reps are.
**COMP260: Unit Convenor – Manolya Kavakli**

**Lectures**

It was suggested to introduce the games industry stuff at the end of the course rather than at the beginning, and introduce unity game engine content in the beginning instead. Students were eager to learn about game engine, the usage and the relevant tools and coding. They also suggested that it would be good to introduce the basic concepts in the beginning.

Manolya replied that these materials are to be covered in week 5 and some are to be taught in COMP330. A bit of programming knowledge is required in the unit. MH also agreed that explaining a few concepts is a good idea. Since this unit is offered for the first time, there might be some teething problems.

**Practicals**

General feeing is that the pracs are good. Manolya suggested the students to use the 2 hours practical class to ask questions. Students suggested that it would be good to give for each prac a high level statement explaining what will be achieved in the prac (learning outcomes) will be beneficial.

**Tutorials**

Tutorials are ok. Have issue with Wed 3pm class as students didn’t get explanation from tutors, and students were given the impression that they could leave after half an hour. MK and MH to look into the matter, and will have discussion with relevant tutors.

**General**

Some Media students might be struggling as they haven’t got the basic concepts.

**ISYS254: Unit Convenor – Stephen Smith**

**Lectures**

Students are happy with Stephen’s lecturing style, which is quite similar to Matthew’s. SS gives relevant notes to Industry etc., which is very good.

It was felt that the textbook was too expensive at $134.00. This textbook was picked because it was 2012 and SS wanted the students to have the most up to date version and that this textbook was used extensively. This issue can be discussed with sales rep or can look at option of bundling up textbooks with other units.
Timetable

ACCG250 is a core unit in BIS, and timing conflicts with ISYS254 lectures.

Students and Lecturers will prefer to have a 2 hour block of lectures rather than 2 hour lectures on the same day with a 5 hour break in between. This feedback will be given to the timetabling people.

Tutorial

Students enjoy tutorial and Matt makes everyone very comfortable. There is about 60% attendance at 8 am on Friday.

Pracs

Feels like has been focussed around the assignment which is good. The first prac was breaking students into groups for assignment.

Labs

Students did not know about the iLab.mq.edu.au facility but thought it sounded like a good idea.

Students agreed that the wireless was fantastic. It was confirmed that the wireless routers have been upgraded. There was a question if the web drives could be accessed from home and RM will look into this. RM will also look into if any restrictions on VPN for students.

RM advised that IT staff ghost the lab computers whenever necessary, usually several times per semester.

General Matters

CD advised that students can still continue to do Information Systems major and to please pass this information around to students.

The meeting closed at 12:55 pm