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

15th May 2012 12 pm

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phillip Tsiamoulis</th>
<th>COMP247, COMP249, ISYS254</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Walker</td>
<td>COMP247, ISYS254</td>
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Staff Representatives | Units
---|---
Abhaya Nayak (AN) | Chair of the Committee
Dominic Verity (DV) | Acting Head of Department
Christophe Doche (CD) | Director of Teaching
Steve Cassidy (SC) | COMP249
Mark Dras (MD) | COMP225
Len Hamey (LH) | COMP247
Michael Hitchens (MH) | COMP260
Manolya Kavakli (MK) | COMP260
Stephen Smith (SS) | ISYS254
Richard Miller (RM) | ScienceIT
Melina Chan (MC) | Executive Officer
Renee Vance (RV) | Department Administrator (Minutes)

Apologies: Bernard Mans, Head of Department, OSP

Meeting started at 12.10pm

AN welcomed everyone to the final 200-level liaison meeting for 2012 and called for the minutes from 3rd April 2012 to be approved.

The action items following the meeting on 3rd April 2012 were noted as below:

Item 1 – COMP249
**Action:** SC will provide feedback to the first assignment and would also follow up those 20 students who have not submitted the assignment. SC to follow up on the technical problem regarding the submission.
**Outcome:** Resolved (SC).

Item 2 – COMP249
**Action:** SC to follow up with this tutor – this is the first time for this tutor doing the teaching. SC will try to be more precise in the marking guidelines.
**Outcome:** Resolved (SC).
Item 3 – COMP225  
**Action:** Feedback to timetabling team.  
**Outcome:** MC spoke to the timetabling team and it was noted that timetabling will be more flexible in 2013.

Item 4 – COMP225  
**Action:** MD will explore borrowing laptops from Science IT for this purpose. MD will follow up with tutor.  
**Outcome:** MD advised, that on a Monday night there are fewer students and at the last class, there were approx 10 laptops that the students brought along.

Item 5 – COMP247  
**Action:** LH to put the detailed reading context as an Appendix. LH will follow up with tutor.  
**Outcome:** LH to talk with Ian regarding changing the way of present practicals. Detailed reading to appendix (a re-arrangement of material).

Item 6 – ISYS254  
**Action:** SS to follow up with tutor (in regards to tutor not arriving for a 10am class).  
**Outcome:** SS and MC followed up, SS alerted to tutors not turning up, SS monitoring tutors arriving to class.

**Unit Matters - discussed in order of last meeting**

**COMP249: Unit Convenor – Steve Cassidy**

**Assignment**

Lots of students found the assignment hard, they were struggling as to what the error meant. Student rep, PT spent 5 hours helping students with error messages. SC comments that this was an ongoing problems, ideally they should run Python in Week 1. SC thanked PT for the assistance in the labs. SC comments that a solution would be to have COMP125 as a pre-requisite for COMP249 and both AN and SC agreed that there was no quick fix.

CD mentioned that there could be more videos on debugging techniques in COMP125 as debugger useful in Java.

**COMP260: Unit Convenor – Manolya Kavakli & Michael Hitchens**

**Practicals/Labs**

This is the first time that COMP260 is being offered and it is a learning experience for staff and students.
Assignment

56 submissions of the first assignment, learning first time around.

Student rep spoke on the struggles with using Unity, MH noted that the unit is game design/ not just programming in Unity. There was a suggestion by the student rep for scripts to be dumped to file and then the students can work that that and change around, need to provide a set of libraries, characters. Students and MK to take discussion off line for further comments.

**COMP225: Unit Convenor – Mark Dras**

Lectures

Student rep CW made note that the night lectures seem to go on for too long. AN stated that the 6pm block was also aimed to students that are working. SS suggested that students could go back to watching on line, and a suggestion arose for a bit longer of a break in the middle of the class.

Labs

A suggestion arose by student rep CW to have desk partitions/modesty panels installed on the desks in the labs. There was then discussion on power points on desks and what the OHS requirements would be. RM to revisit.

**COMP247: Unit Convenor – Len Hamey**

Assignment

Student rep PT said that there was not enough details on assignment one and wasn’t sure on how to interpret. The outcome was that he spoke to a few students and assumed how it was to be answered. LH said he had emails regarding the questions in the assignment and stated that he was flexible on the presentation of the assignment. He would like students to ask the lecture straight away if students had any questions.

Practicals

There has been improvement and they are now more interesting.

**ISYS254: Unit Convenor – Stephen Smith**

Assignment

Going well. If a topic on error messages could be printed, that would be helpful. Essentially this year’s assignment is based on last year’s best assignment.

Practicals

Numbers of students attending the practicals are reducing. There is a split between
text based practicals and programming practicals. Student rep PT said that with the database, active email addresses were still there and these should be removed.

**General Matters**

AN thanked everyone for attending, this was the final 200 level liaison meeting for Semester 1, 2012.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.