Minutes of the 200-Level Liaison Committee Meeting

14th August 2013 (Wednesday) @ 1pm

Present:

**Student Representatives**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Heimlich</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP226, COMP229</td>
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<td>Ronald Hancock</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP229</td>
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<td>Felix Buda</td>
<td>COMP255</td>
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<td>Wen Jun Liang</td>
<td>COMP226, COMP229</td>
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<td>Dominic So</td>
<td>COMP226</td>
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<td>Darcy Le</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP226, COMP229</td>
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<td>Frank Altamirano</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP226, COMP229</td>
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**Staff Representatives**

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<tr>
<td>Mark Dras (MD)</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard Mans (BM)</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rolf Schwitter (RS)</td>
<td>For Christophe Doche (Director of Teaching)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Len Hamey (LH)</td>
<td>COMP226</td>
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<td>Michael Johnson (MJ)</td>
<td>COMP226</td>
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<td>Deborah Richards (DR)</td>
<td>COMP255</td>
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<td>Matthew Roberts (MR)</td>
<td>COMP229</td>
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<td>Tahiry Rabehaja (TR)</td>
<td>COMP229</td>
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<td>Mehmet Orgun (MO)</td>
<td>ISYS224</td>
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<td>Jian Yang (JY)</td>
<td>ISYS224</td>
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<td>Melina Chan (MC)</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Lee Coady (LC)</td>
<td>Science IT</td>
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<td>Amara Atif</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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**Apologies:** Christophe Doche
Meeting started at 1:05 pm – E6A 357.

Rolf Schwitter (RS) acted as a Director of Teaching in place of Christophe Doche. The chair (MD) welcomed everyone to the first 200-level liaison meeting (week 3) for semester 2, 2013. The chair asked student representatives to give their feedback on lectures, tutorials, assessment tasks and IT support.

UNIT MATTERS

COMP226: Computer Architecture
Unit Convenor - Len Hamey

Lectures:

- Lectures are good and students appreciated the explanation of the lecture material.
- Students requested more detail on lectures to be available on iLearn. (Note: This unit is not using iLearn).
- One student had looked at the SPARC Assembly Language Reference Manual and found it very difficult to understand. MJ explained that, while admirable, students were not expected to go to such lengths to discover intricacies of SPARC. All the details that students needed would be covered in lectures and practicals.

Workshops:

- Workshop classes started in week2, so students had only one week of classes at time of meeting.
- Students enjoyed the workshop and appreciated the content (length) of the workshop.

Assessment Tasks:

- The 1st assessment task was pretty straightforward and was based on the workshop.
- MJ reminded students that feedback is not just about finding out results (marks). In the first six weeks of Comp226 students get individual feedback on their work in each practical class.

Other:

- A student representative asked how students can check their tutorial results. MJ explained that he would be contacting people individually who had performed inadequately in tutorial submissions.
- Students are happy with the unit timetable and lecture length is good.

COMP255: Software Engineering
Unit Convenor - Deborah Richards

Lectures:

- Students said the block of 3-hour lectures scheduled on Monday night is not ideal as it is too long and also for some students, the lecture was tedious and tiresome.
- Some students found week 1 hard as they had to go through 4 chapters and books were not available.
- DR explained that reading was suggested to increase the background knowledge of the unit material.
- Students also requested that iLearn be accessible before semester starts, perhaps a week earlier.
- DR added that the process of publishing the unit guide was long and complex. JY also seconded DR that she has also difficulties with UNITS.
- One student said that often the unit guide is changed during the semester. DR explained that the new system (UNITS) does not allow that.
- RS said that currently it is not possible to open the iLearn before semester starts.
- MD emphasised to consider making the unit outline available earlier to students. More publicity to students about the availability of unit guide on UNITS.
- BM also highlighted to consider how to integrate or stabilise UNITS with iLearn.
Workshops:

- Workshops started in week 1 and students commented that workshops are pretty good and all tutors are friendly and energetic.
- DR explained that she & her team ensure that a consistent approach is followed for all workshops.
- Students appreciated that the tutorial questions are good and well managed within the available time.

Assessment Tasks:

- The assessment tasks so far (tutorial questions) are well prepared.
- Some students found difficulties in forming a group.

Other:

- Students found the text book good and easy to follow.

COMP229: Object-Oriented Programming Practices
Unit Convenor - Matthew Roberts

Lectures:

- Lectures are good, more content oriented up to now (week 3) and students are enjoying it.
- Students complained about the lecture theatre E7B T4 (seating & desk arrangement) and the lecture screen (position) is not comfortable for the students.

Workshops:

- Students said that the tutors are good and they receive good feedback on their work from tutors.

Assessment Tasks:

- Students voiced their concern that deadlines for marking of weekly workshops was introduced during week 1 rather than before it.
- MR said that student feedback will be taken on board and feedback on weekly submissions will be available to students off-line. In addition, no marking will be done in workshops and is consistent among all tutors.

Other:

- Students asked when the lecture/unit material for next week is available on iLearn.
- MR explained that the material for next week is uploaded a week ahead to iLearn.
- Students found the text book good and easy to follow.

ISYS224: Database Systems
Unit Convenor - Mehmet Orgun

Lectures:

- Students found lectures good and interesting.
- Students are happy with the lecture breakdown of 2 hours+1 hour.
- JY said students need more practice, so for 2 hours she goes through the concept and in the 1 hour lecture, she helps students to practice with a case study.
- Students found case study good.
Workshops:

- Students said that practicals are well designed and all tutors are good.
- Students found the demo of Power Designer-data modelling software tool very useful.
- Students also commented that tutorial questions are good and easy but they need more feedback from the tutors on their work and to be more engaged in the class. In addition, attendance is not marked in tutorials.
- JY said that she will ask the tutors to change the strategy and students should present their results of the weekly tasks.
- Students requested that it is of great help if the tutorial content and solution is made available on iLearn by the end of the week.

Assessment Tasks:

- Students showed their concern that assessment task 1 is much bigger as it is worth 10%.
- JY said that assessment task 1 has changed from last semester. It is now a diagnostic assessment focusing on the conceptual modelling of databases using the Power Designer tool.

Other:

- Students found the unit text book good but expensive.
- RS mentioned that the library should consider buying e-books for students.

**IT SUPPORT MATTERS**

- Students voiced their concern regarding limited access to the labs other than their workshop timings.
- LC and MC explained the Labs self-study time slots introduced this semester is for students to access the labs other than the scheduled class times.
- BM said that students should activate their iLab sessions to access particular software/applications whether they are on campus or off campus.
- Students expressed their satisfaction with the lab environments and services (all computers are working).
- The Wi-Fi access has been better this semester.

MD thanked everyone and would like to see all again in the next liaison meeting in week 7 (11 September, 2013).

**The Meeting closed at 2:05 pm.**