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

16th October 2013 (Wednesday) @ 1pm

Present:

**Student Representatives (SR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Hancock</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP229, ISYS224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Heimlich</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP226, COMP229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darcy Le</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP226, COMP229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Altamirano</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP226, COMP229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staff Representatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Dras (MD)</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Mans (BM)</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christophe Doche (CD)</td>
<td>Director of Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Len Hamey (LH)</td>
<td>COMP226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Johnson (MJ)</td>
<td>COMP226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Richards (DR)</td>
<td>COMP255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehmet Orgun (MO)</td>
<td>ISYS224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Roberts (MR)</td>
<td>COMP229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tahiry Rabehaja (TR)</td>
<td>COMP229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melina Chan (MC)</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Miller (RM)</td>
<td>Science IT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amara Atif</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Apologies:** Jian Yang
Meeting started at 1:05 pm – E6A 357.
The chair welcomed everyone to the third and last 200-level liaison meeting (week 10) for this semester.

UNIT MATTERS

COMP255: Deborah Richards/Michael Johnson

Lectures:
- SR said that the content of the lectures is good.
- They also added to the discussion that the lecture on “Software Testing” by the guest speaker this week was very good. They all enjoyed it a lot. It was very interesting and contained some hands on experience for students on software testing.
- MJ asked the SR about the attendance in the lecture for the guest speaker and SR felt that maybe no assignments were due so attendance was great.

Workshops:
- SR requested to have the tutorial slides uploaded on iLearn.
- MJ said that he will talk to the tutors and will make the slides available to students by next week.
- MJ asked SR about the reasons for the low participation from students in lectures and workshops.
- SR collectively think that maybe it is because of the class culture.
- SR requested on behalf of a student that works full time and would appreciate if the weekly submission deadline can be extended so that the student have more time to work.
- DR explained that lecture is on Monday nights and there are workshops are on Tuesday and Wednesday and most of the material in workshops cover the required reading and lecture material. By Friday, students should be able to complete the submission. DR further said that she will try to accommodate the requests and extend the deadline to mid-night on Friday.

Assessment Tasks:
- SR asked MJ to go through the disaster pattern again in the lecture which is related to assignment 2.
- MJ happily agreed to revise the disaster pattern in the next lecture.
- SR showed their concern with the assignment 1 submission in the assignment box. They said most assignments were too thick and could not fit in the submission box.
- MJ thanked the admin staff for their cooperation in accepting the assignments in the office.

COMP226: Len Hamey/Michael Johnson

Lectures & Workshops:
- SR found lectures more challenging this half as compared to the first half.
- SR also showed their concern that lectures are too fast and they are finding it hard to keep-up with the lecture material. SR requested to slow down the pace of delivery.
- MJ suggested a remedial lecture.

Assessment Tasks:
- SR asked when the marks for Assignment 1 will be released.
- MJ said that students will get their marks in their practical classes next week.
- One SR liked the assignment 2 but other SR found it pretty intense.
- SR appreciated LH flexibility in changing Assignment 2 by cancelling part 2 of the assignment and gave all marks to part 1 without affecting the overall weighting specified in the unit guide.
• SR said that workshops are great and they are learning at their own pace.

ISYS224: Mehmet Orgun/Jian Yang

Lectures & Workshops:
• SR said that difficulty in lectures went very steep when they started PL/SQL. SR found PL/SQL a jump from a simple SQL independent statements to more complex structures.
• MO explained that he understands that SQL developer environment has very limited help but workshops (tutorials and practicals) are designed in a way to include more practice with PL/SQL.
• SR showed their satisfaction with the practical classes.
• SR showed their concern that workshop this week (week 10) was too lengthy as there were too many questions and students cannot finish them in time.
• MO explained that next week students will get more time to finish questions.
• ISYS224 does not require COMP115 as pre-requisite, BM suggested to look into the requirement.

Assessment Tasks:
• SR found assignment 3 quite easy.
• MO said that maybe it is because assignment 3 is based on assignment 1 and 2. MO also suggested students to start the assignments earlier rather than to leave them to the very end.

COMP229: Matthew Roberts

Lectures & Workshops:
• SR showed their satisfaction with 2 hours of lecture and then go on to the tutor’s consultation.
• SR requested more challenging exercises in the workshops to prepare themselves for the assignments.
• SR also enjoyed the assessed questions and would like this activity to be continued.
• MD asked SR about the amount of feedback they are getting for their work. SR said that feedback they are getting is quite detailed, great and very helpful.
• SR appreciated the idea of take home exam.
• BM asked students if they would like to do the take home exam(s) for other units as well and SR said that they will like it.

Assessment Tasks:
• SR found assignment 2 good.

IT SUPPORT MATTERS

• Student reps showed their satisfaction with the lab environments.
• Student reps showed their concern about the cleaning was not thoroughly done in the labs during the term break.
• MC said she has made a note of it for future purposes.
• Student reps showed their concern about the Adobe pdf installed in labs.
• RM explained that it is the new version installed in labs. He will look into the compatibility of the new Adobe pdf version with the hardware.

The Meeting closed at 2:05 pm.