DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 300-Level Liaison Committee Meeting

18th October 2011 1pm

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representatives</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evan Conway</td>
<td>COMP332, COMP333</td>
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<td>Stephen Guy</td>
<td>COMP344</td>
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<td>Oliver Liu</td>
<td>COMP347, ISYS303</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Representatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christophe Doche (CD)</td>
<td>Chair of the Committee and Director of Teaching</td>
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<td>Matt Roberts (MR)</td>
<td>COMP332, ISYS303</td>
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<td>Igor Shparlinski (IS)</td>
<td>COMP333</td>
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<td>Les Bell (LB)</td>
<td>COMP344</td>
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<td>Bernard Mans (BM)</td>
<td>COMP333, HOD</td>
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<td>Len Hamey (LH)</td>
<td>COMP347</td>
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<td>Tony Sloane (TS)</td>
<td>COMP332</td>
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<td>Deborah Richards (DR)</td>
<td>COMP365, COMP355/ISYS355</td>
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<td>Peter Busch (PB)</td>
<td>ISYS301</td>
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<td>Yan Wang (YW)</td>
<td>COMP344</td>
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<td>Ian Joyner (IJ)</td>
<td>ISYS301, ISYS303</td>
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<td>Tahiry Rabehaja</td>
<td>COMP332, COMP333</td>
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<td>Richard Miller (RM)</td>
<td>Science IT</td>
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<td>Melina Chan (MC)</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Toni Kernick (TK)</td>
<td>Department Administrator</td>
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<td>Jackie Walsh (JW)</td>
<td>Department Administrator (Minutes)</td>
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<td>Margot McNeill</td>
<td>LTC</td>
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Apologies: Michael Johnson.

Meeting started at 1:05pm

CD welcomed all to the meeting and advised that he would be chairing the meeting in place of Michael Johnson, who sent his apologies.

Matters arising from last meeting
Margot said she had passed on the feedback mentioned in the last liaison meeting. iLearn team is looking at the resources and training support.

Unit Matters
COMP332: Unit Convenor – Tony Sloane

- Student Rep: the unit is going really well.
- Assignments are challenging enough.
- Students liked the lecture.
- Some of the computers in the labs have been slow. It took 15 mins at least to update Scala. This did not happen before.
- RM advised that there was a significant issue with server. Issue was a load problem with Claudius. Worked on this last Thursday, so this issue should have improved since then. CD asked if students had noticed any improvement.
- TS thanked Tahiry for stepping in at the last minute to fill in for Enrico.
- Students really enjoyed the unit.

COMP333: Unit Convenor – Igor Shparlinski

- Student Rep: The unit could benefit from the 2-hours mixed class as one hour duration would be too short. 3 hours block lecture is intense, preferable to split up in 2-hour and 1 hour blocks.
- Change of lecturer has been ok.
- The first assignment was a presentation to the lecturer. This was good but would like to see the other students’ presentations. BM said we had done this in the past but some students were a bit shy and did not like doing the presentations in front of other students.
- BM advised he could publish the slides of other students presentations.
- Student Rep agreed this was a good idea.
- Unit is going well.

COMP344: Unit Convenor – Yan Wang

- Student Rep: Going well.
- Lectures are good.
- Additional information on notes in Tuts are good
- Pracs are good. Maybe two pracs were a bit too easy but most of the others have been helpful to get started on assignments.
- Samples in tutorials were useful on what are required
- Student Rep put notice on Forum about missing submissions to iLearn – there were two students – not sure if they have contacted CD. Student Rep can pass on names to LB/CD.
- DR: Some students reported similar thing about submissions to iLearn Some incidences that students got unenrolled and all the marks related to that student were lost. Some might forget to push the submit button.
- Some students had issues with programming languages used.
- Some students putting things on the discussion forum that are a bit unprofessional. Student Rep suggested that a course to prepare students for professionalism would be a good idea.
- CD thought this was a good idea and perhaps it could be part of the induction.
- MR: Most students understand the Forum etiquette – it is a communication channel.
• Margot: Good suggestion to include in the induction.
• Student Rep: Very good – learnt a lot of things.
• Good mix of programming and theories.
• One issue was choice of programming language used. Using ASP at the moment but things YW and LB have a good point that it would take a lot more time to teach another programming language.
• LB: Students interested in PHP and think would be most useful after graduation.

**COMP347: Unit Convenor** – Rajan Shankaran.

• Student Rep: No more hardware problems. Problems with cables fixed.
• For LH’s part – teaching is a bit slower and would like to spend more time on new stuff but not on revision of old stuff.
• Pracs are alright.
• Assignment 1 was marked very hard by RS but it is good for students to see how they are doing.
• Assignment 2 is great.
• SR asked for more case studies.
  LH said he could consider to cut some revision stuff. As for case studies, for network design – a case study would be a good thing to have.
• Student Rep: Overall – great.

**Project Units**: Debbie Richards (No Student Representatives)

• DR: Meeting with groups on Friday – exam preparation and final report.
• DR: Time-consuming meeting with different groups.
• DR: Would like to phase-in next year – bringing in sponsor companies

**ISYS301: Unit Convenor** – Peter Busch (No Student Representatives)

• PB: Think it is going ok. Had a few plagiarism cases. There were some complaints about the grouping as some students didn’t turn up until the assignment is due
• PB: Assignment due next week.
• PB: Group presentations – Week 12. It is a group presentation but is marked individually
• IJ: Lectures are not well attended, they are evening classes at 6-9 pm.
• PB: 40% roughly using iLecture.
• TS: Worry that whether this be not as good for those who want to be there. He had a couple of questions at the beginning if there was going to be iLectures – but not now.
• PB: Some students like to just listen but do not write notes.

**ISYS303: Unit Convenor** – Matthew Roberts

• Student Rep: Hardware problem – some of the machines are not working for
some of the accounts and gave an error message. Just happening in the labs.

- MR: hopefully it will be better further down the track. Pracs need to run more smoothly next year.
- MR: ISYS303 is designed in such a way that lab computers are available if they don’t want to do any technical problems. Students have all different laptops. More benefits to let students check their technology stack. However, students do not come to see Ian or him re installation problems.
- Student Rep: The reason is that some students are too shy to approach the teacher to say they have installation problems.
- MR: Also some students think they are not up to scratch.
- TS: The problem of students not seeking help is quite widespread. There is a reluctance to seek help – not sure why. Noticed it more with international students.
- MR: Asked Student Reps why this might be – have they had some experience where they are scared to ask for help.
- Student Rep: Thinks this may be a carry-over from high school.
- MR: Thinks his lectures are much better when he writes on a whiteboard.
- Margot: If you communicate to students that you can access some things but the need to come and attend certain things seems most successful.
- MR: No difference in attendance in lectures with iLecture, probably is the habit of the students.
- PB: A lot of the 3rd year ISYS students get a full-time job and want to do iLecture.
- MR: Asked if he was to move to a delivery broadcast approach rather than a to and fro approach – what do students think? MR will chat to students directly.
- Margot: May not show up all the time but definitely still want the lecture
- Student Rep: said in SIBT, the class had high class attendance. Teacher remembered names of students. One of the teachers talked to students and asked if they need help.
- CD: Asked Student Rep about iLearn.
- Student Rep: Quite impressed with it. Good separate section on assignment submissions. Would probably like a separate section on tutorial submission that is different each time.
- Student Rep: Discussion forums are good which not sure whether it is part of iLearn.
- Student Rep: Clock on iLearn is different to real clock. Has been locked out of iLearn. Makes it difficult if it is 10 pm at night and have assignment due.
- Student Rep: If something is said to student like “don’t you know that? – you are a third year student” – it affects some students personalities – it goes over other students heads.

CD thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their valuable input and advised this was the last meeting for this semester.

The meeting closed at 2:05 pm.