**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the 300-Level Liaison Committee Meeting**

**8 April 2013 1pm in E6A357**

**Present:**

**Student Representatives** | **Units**
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Benjamin Civitco | ISYS302, ISYS326, ISYS355, ISYS360
Nicholas Reynolds | ISYS302, ISYS326, ISYS355, ISYS360
Jacob Johnson | ISYS302, ISYS326, ISYS355, ISYS360
Ed Moore | ISYS355, ISYS360
Blair Hudson | ISYS302, ISYS326, ISYS355, ISYS360
Helen Browitt | ISYS302, ISYS326, COMP330, COMP360
Doug Shearman | ISYS360, [ACCG358]

**Staff Representatives** | **Units**
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Manolya Kavakli (MK) | COMP330
Stephen Smith (SS) | COMP355/ISYS355
Richard Miller (RM) | Science IT
Mehmet Orgun (MO) | ISYS326
Abhaya Nayak (AN) | ISYS326
Rolf Schwitter (RS) | Director of Teaching
Annabelle McIver (AM) | Chair
Bernard Mans (BM) | Head of Department
Josef Pieprzyk (JP) | COMP343
Mark Dras (MD) | COMP348
Diego Molla-Aliod (DMA) | COMP348
Scott McCallum (SM) | COMP330
Yasaman Motazedi | Minute taker
Camille Hoffman | Dept Admin.

**Apologies:**
The meeting started at 1:02 pm. It was chaired by Annabelle McIver who welcomed the attendees and explained that these meetings aimed to identify what was working and if there were any issues or problems.

**Unit Matters**

**COMP330 – Scott McCallum/Manolya Kavakli**

Textbook is really good. Lectures are great with lots of good examples.

**COMP343 - Josef Pieprzyk/Les Bell**

The material would be more clear by providing some more examples from past exams/past tutorial questions, especially for harder question like XO profiles.

AM asked if there are more examples in the textbook? JP said he uses a chapter from his book each week. Also he put the solutions on iLearn.

**ISYS302 – Peter Busch/Cathy Campbell**

Assignment (#2) was fairly unstructured which neither aligns with the course materials nor with the degree. Though CC highly insisted on using the specific materials in HEW 2012, she uploaded 2011 version instead. CC updated the assignment but still student found it irrelevant.

Student reps advised they have found the last hour of lecture unproductive since PB left. It was supposed to be an hour of tutorial but it turned out more into Q&A hour. It is likely that lecturer expects student to ask questions and be active but what really happens is students with no question leave the class. Student reps believe this one hour could be more structured.

Diagnostic assignment was ok. However, the grades were put up on iLearn with student IDs. *(Student IDs are indexed by Google analytics so students can find out other student numbers and thus, grades. This has been raised previously.)* It is good in a way they can have more statistics about the class performance. AM mentioned that statistics can be retrieved through iLearn.

Assignment 2 has already been released and students are working on it. The last assignment is more of a group project. The assignment has been released but groups are not formed. So people cannot really work on it. The draft is due on 2nd of May and the main submission is due on 23rd of May.

Practical tutors are really good.
ISYS326 - Abhaya Nayak/Mehmet Orgun

Student reps found this unit both good and relaxing. The content is interesting to them (eg. Relational Databases and Object-Oriented databases). Since not many students showing up in the lecture it is more productive.

They report a problem with microphone and recording the lectures in E7BT3. The audio was noisy in the recorded lecture (not during the lecture itself).

ISYS355 - Stephen Smith/Deborah Richards

It is going well. Student reps appreciate SS conflict resolution strategy. Apparently there were some conflicts regarding the projects with external party that was smoothly resolved.

There is an ongoing issue with A/C in the classroom. SS has already reported this and spoken with OFM.

ISYS360 - Gary Lau

Several issues raised by the student reps:

1) There is no Echo360 uploaded on iLearn for the lectures.
2) Workshops are not really workshops but more of a tutorial where the tutor reviews the latest lecture material for them and finishes with Q/A. Students expect the practical element to work on examples and problems.
3) The lectures are good; the lecturer is enthusiastic and the information provided is valid but the course itself is unstructured. For example, the assignment was not clear. There was no page of what to do, what to deliver. It was described in several slides and not even prepared with MQ letterheads.
4) Marking was also unstructured and the marking scheme was vague. For the assignment they had to write a critique on another group work and presented it to the class and pass the notes the group which was being criticised. Student reps remarked about how different markers marked the assignment with different level of details. As another example, they talked about the obligation of using a particular software to make the presentation (MindMeister) which they have never worked with. One of the teams did not use that one but it was not reflected in their mark. Minimum number of people in the group was seven to be as close as possible to 'real-world' teams. Considering the short time between receiving the feedback from the draft and presentation day (3 days), some groups had to come to uni during the Easter holiday to prepare the talk, though not all the members made it. Another issue brought up by student reps was having these presentations in two separate rooms.
5) Considering the fact that BIT is expected to have less accounting than BIS, IT students have no Accounting background though the project required having accounting knowledge.
One of the student reps positively concluded that this assignment was similar to a real-life business situation (in regards to the challenge) than a Uni course assignment.

There is one project left as a whole semester project.

This course has no practicals or labs.

BM encouraged students to talk to GL. AM proposed using marking grids.

**General IT issues**

Student reps reported that the wireless access is still an issue and needs to be fixed.

Student reps reported that Admin privileges had been allowed on computers in E6A 119. This makes some vulnerability like installing a spyware code allowing a student to install WinZip, or uninstalling Microsoft Office Suite from another PC.

Student reps reported printers in lab E6A119 running out of paper once in a while. The printer in E6A119 is printing ‘streaky’ pages. Also, the printer in lab E6A114 is not active. They also mentioned the power points that placed on table top in E6A114 are great and it would be great to have in E6A119.

RM asked about students experience with Windows 8 and student reps replied that it took them a while to find where stuff is re-organised in this version but most of them are doing fine.

The meeting was closed at 1:50.