Department of Computing - Macquarie University
Minutes for the 100-Level Liaison Meeting
1:00pm - 20th October 2014 - Room E6A357

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Li</td>
<td>ISYS114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Tran</td>
<td>COMP125, ISYS100, ISYS114, COMP111</td>
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<tr>
<th>Staff Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Len Hamey</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christophe Doche</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Cassidy</td>
<td>Director of Teaching, COMP125</td>
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<td>Melina Chan</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Richard Miller</td>
<td>ScienceIT</td>
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<td>Nick Reynolds</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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<td>Frances Louise</td>
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<td>Deborah Richards</td>
<td>ISYS114</td>
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Meeting opened at 1:05pm by Len Hamey.
ISYS114 - Introduction to Systems Design and Data Management

Deborah Richards, Yifan Gao, Jasmine Lee

Students commented that the unit has improved since the last liaison meeting in week 7. Students have been respecting the forums. Students were pleased that marking criteria has been provided for the next two assignments.

Deborah informed the students that the average for the first assignment was 13 out of 18.

Assignment 3

Students were surprised at the length of 12 minutes for their paired presentation for assignment 3. Deborah expected students to spend a decent amount of time on the content and then present their findings; she hoped students would chose topics that interest them which would then easily fill a 6 minute presentation. Deborah also commented that students should be taking notes on each presentations as they can be used as revision.

A student asked about distributing the presentations throughout the semester but Deborah explained that some students would feel disadvantaged presenting so early on while others get to present in week 13.

Deborah informed students that they will receive their marks before the units examination but as the assessment mark will be an average of the peer assessment and tutors marks they cannot be given on the spot.

Classes

Students commented that the classes were good but the practicals had too much content. Deborah did not think students would be doing anything in the practicals this late in the semester, she added that in the lecture Jasmine said that they are covering topics in the practicals to assist the students with their understanding and that the practical tasks won’t all be assessable in the examination.

COMP125 - Fundamentals of Computer Science

Steve Cassidy, Scott McCallum

Students felt that the lectures are going okay. A student asked how long the assignment would take to mark, Steve Cassidy clarifying that they should get it back to students within two weeks.

A student had some discrepancies with some questions in the quizzes, Steve will go through these answers in class and will seek to clarify any misunderstandings. Steve also added that there may be some shortfalls with iLearn’s auto marking. The student found the quizzes quite nerve wracking, Steve Cassidy added that this is why they mix up the assessment types with quizzes and practical tasks.
COMP111 - Introduction to Video Games

Michael Hitchens

The lectures have been going well. The previous lecture was online as Rowan was sick, Len suggested that Rowan may have been looking after the well-being of the students by not showing up.

Gamification

In the tutorials students answer a set of questions to earn individual points. Students can purchase titles (e.g. Sir, Lord) and gestures which their tutor must say or perform while addressing them. The class answers these questions all at the same time forming shapes with their arms to represent their answer.

Students raised a number of issues regarding the units ‘gamification’. The student commented that only a few purchases have been made in their class and as we are nearing the end of semester they thought there should have been more and asked if students are really engaged by this mechanism.

Len asked the student if they personally are engaging with the content, the student informed the room that they do not have enough points to purchase anything yet but they have been attending lectures and doing the readings. The student believed that the quiz questions were too specific. Deborah likened the task to one of her earlier units, commenting that ideas in a staff members head do not always translate well into the classroom environment and getting feedback on these things is important.

Another student suggested providing participation marks to students to keep them engaged.

Len commented that the point system should depend on the aim of the task and expresses that these comments will be passed on to Michael Hitchens for comment.

ScienceIT and Facilities Issues

Richard Miller, Natalia Salzberg

The new machines in the 100 level labs function a lot faster than the previous models. A student asked about having iLearn as a default tab on their browser. Richard and Len suggested that the student personalise their own browser by adding these tabs as defaults.

A student found that some locations on campus have wifi dead spots, especially outside the new library.

Richard asked about having iPrint in the E6A labs; students would prefer to have access to both the current and iLab systems.

Richard asked about allocated hard drive space in the labs, students felt that some could use more space.

Meeting closed at 1:37pm.