Department of Computing - Macquarie University
Minutes for the 100-Level Liaison Meeting
1:00pm - 15th September 2014 - Room E6A357

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Appleton</td>
<td>COMP125, ISYS100, ISYS114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Li</td>
<td>ISYS114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Tran</td>
<td>COMP125, ISYS100, ISYS114, COMP111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boris Guo</td>
<td>ISYS100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ming Qu (John) Li</td>
<td>ISYS100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula Yu</td>
<td>ISYS100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Len Hamey</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christophe Doche</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Cassidy</td>
<td>Director of Teaching, COMP125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melina Chan</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Miller</td>
<td>ScienceIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalia Salzberg</td>
<td>ScienceIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Reynolds</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Louise</td>
<td>ISYS100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yifan Gao</td>
<td>ISYS114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Lee</td>
<td>ISYS114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Richards</td>
<td>ISYS114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott McCallum</td>
<td>COMP125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Hitchens</td>
<td>COMP111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting opened at 1:04pm by Len Hamey.
ScienceIT and Facilities Issues

Richard Miller, Natalia Salzberg

General

• **Oracle SQL:** Students reported having issues with practical exercises and assignment tables overlapping as they were only given access to one database on the server. Richard and Natalia suggested:
  - Prefixing the table names
  - Exporting the tables and reimporting based on the current task
  - Using Animatrix and Matrix as they are two separate connections
• **ScienceIT** said they will look into redesigning the table scheme to allow students to have multiple databases.
• **PowerDesigner:** Yifan raised that students were required to use case tools in ISYS114. There are many different versions and it only runs on Windows. Natalia affirms that there is already a ticket to get PowerDesigner added to the iLab service so it is being investigated.
• **PowerDesigner Keys:** Deborah stated that there was an issue with software keys not being 'returned' after usage, Darius has since fixed this issue by returning keys at 6pm everyday.
• **Lab Temperature:** Staff are aware that there are temperature issues in some of the labs and recommend students get their tutors to contact the office admins in every instance.
• **Lab Access:** Students commented that 100 level students don’t get access to many labs, this issue will be fixed next year.

COMP125 - Fundamentals of Computer Science

Steve Cassidy, Scott McCallum

• Students were **enjoying** the unit so far.
• A student believed that the tutorials seem “a little bit **ad hoc**”, Steve commented that in the first tutorial of the week the tutor may still be familiarising themselves with the exercises.
• The student thought there may be **too much content** to cover in the worksheets for one class and suggested breaking up the tasks into tutorial and practical sections. Students often start programming while the tutor is speaking, missing valuable information.
  - Steve understood that they will need to look into the balance of these sheets
  - Staff have had a lot of back and forth on these exercises which may have had an impact.
  - Christophe suggested that students should be made aware that the tasks are not expected to be completed in class and anything which is unfinished should be treated as homework.
• A student enjoyed the **pair programming task** they had earlier on in the semester. Steve commented that they might bring it back but he will discuss it with the tutors. Deborah added that students need to be aware of pair programming and how to handle it with assignments.
ISYS100 - IT & Society
Matthew Mansour, Frances Louise

General

- Students thought that the tutorial and practical teachers try their best to help every student.
- A student believed that there’s no reinforcements of materials as there is no homework, Frances and Yifan comment that there is a textbook available if the students want to reinforce any concepts covered in the lectures.
- Students believed the first quiz was too difficult as it involved too much memorising, giving the example of a question which asked you to remember a specific quote from a video. Frances explained that the question was asking for the concepts related to the quote, not the quote word for word. Frances said they would reword the question.

COMP111 - Introduction to Video Games
Michael Hitchens

- Student believed that the link to the assignment on iLearn could be placed in another location as some students cannot find it. Michael said he will consider placing links elsewhere on the page as it is hard to please everyone with that many students.
- Kodu runs slowly on the computers in the E6A127 multimedia lab which has newer, high powered machines. Richard believed this might be due to the network and will follow it up with the student.
- Students thought that the unit was interesting, analysing games and academic work is enjoyable.
ISYS114 - Software Engineering
Deborah Richards, Yifan Gao, Jasmine Lee

General

• Great unit but there’s some admin issues.

Forums

Students had an assignment due 9am Monday morning, many students did not attempt the assignment before the weekend beforehand and soon realised they had missed crucial information to complete the assignment, students took to the forums to voice their opinion.

• Students believed that there had been instances of cyber bullying taking place on the iLearn forums.
  • Students don’t understand that the forums are different from their Facebook feeds.
  • Len believed that this was a serious issue, an inappropriate usage of the tool and it is subject to disciplinary actions.
  • Steve suggested forwarding these instances of bullying to staff for further investigation.
  • Deborah to make an announcement to ensure those who feel they have been victims of this bullying know there is support available for them.
  • Len commented that students need to be made aware what is appropriate on these boards and what is not.
  • Tutors were contacted repeatedly on Sunday night by students asking for assistance when no students came to the HELP101 session in the previous weeks.

Assignments & Content

• Students were pleased that there is marking criteria for the next assignment.
• Some students were confused by the use of a Visio textbook when they are encouraged to use PowerDesigner in class Deborah explaining that this is because it is a good textbook.
• Student suggested that the labs could use more PowerDesigner as even though they cover it again in week 5 some students had already completed the assignment.
• Deborah wanted students to contact her if they are struggling or they don’t have something they need.

Meeting closed at 2:04pm.