Malcolm Ryan who introduces himself and the purpose of the meeting opened the meeting at 1:14pm. The meeting was more aimed for general degrees rather than units, and if there’s any particular feedback about units then contact teaching director Tony Sloane.

Software Technology Major
MR started by asking the students what level units they were doing. A range of students were studying 100, 200 and 300 level units.

Student mentioned that last year for COMP115 the subject was jarring and the level of difficulty compared to the other subjects were much greater, especially as he has no background computing knowledge. The student mentioned that he was spending half the time studying and understanding programming whilst the other half was spent on the other 3 units he is undertaking to indicate the level of difficulty.
Another student mentioned that COMP115 layout was well structured, especially the module exams, but COMP125 was difficult. Student herself mentioned that she found it easy herself personally but more support was needed for students, especially with no background knowledge.

Students mentioned how the computer science units in general seemed to jump around between programming and algorithms, and that an introduction to second year material was needed rather than jumping into it.

Student’s mentioned that students were not getting enough skills outside of class projects. Franck mentioned an ACM competition (it’s not a unit) which he organised last year to train computing units with real life problem solving scenarios. He mentioned that a lot of people were not interested in it, but none of the students were aware of the competition, and said they would be willing to participate in it. A student mentioned that students were not aware of anything that wasn’t connected to the lecture so having a society or forum created for the IT/Computing department would be a good incentive to make students aware of other projects and initiatives.

Some students from COMP247 mentioned that the unit seems like two separate units and asked why everyone studying MIT needs to do it. MR responded that it is an essential part of computers as if you don’t have networking you don’t have the internet. Student mentioned that the unit is too technical and difficult to reconcile with other units especially as they go straight into the unit rather than learning the basics of networking. TS commented that they are of the issues with the units and labs and are planning to improve it.

A student mentioned for COMP348 that it’s hard to keep track of everything, don’t understand what the tutor was convening, poor organisation, lectures, tutes, and assignments are completely separately (material is all over the place). Students have dropped the units because of this.

MR reminded everyone that the meeting is for general majors and not specific units which can be raised to TS after the meeting.

**Software Engineering**

MR mentioned that the major is Kind of responsibility of engineering, but majority of the units being thought are IT units

Students asked why there was focus on Windows systems such as Linux systems. System support issue – was allowed to run own OS before. Another student mentioned there needs to be more emphasises on group work especially as in the workforce the major is collaborative. MR raised the point that university policy is being more difficult to do more group work.

**Bachelor of Games Design and Development**

Student suggested if it is possible to rename the degree most of the units are software units rather than gaming units and changing the name can make students more employable. MR mentioned that is named mainly as a marketing strategy, but there is an alternative method if the student is worried about employability. Another student suggested to add a game unit for second year as there are no game unit in second year – only software units.

A student found difficulty in tying maths and computing together through the DMTH units

**Cyber Security Major**

Students voiced some issue with TS after the meeting about certain units in the major.
COMP348: lack of coherence between unit aims and the three focuses: NLP, python programming, and linguistic aspects. They were quite concerned that the programming aspects seemed to mostly consist of typing in code the tutor gave them. Also, the tutor seemed quite inexperienced. In the end, both of the students dropped the unit.

COMP343: good but only covering some things that a cyber security person might need. Generally they feel that the major was lacking in depth and breadth so more units are needed.

COMP225: one of them wanted to get feedback on their work in labs (some of which I believe is optional and not assessed but he wanted to get feedback anyway) but the tutor told them that he wasn’t paid to provide feedback outside class. This is probably true but it’s something that may be addressed as the budget position improves.

Labs and General Discussion
Communication Methods
MR asked students for suggestions on what is the best method to communicate with all the students in the department. Students recommended:

- Reminding students every lecture
- Announcements in the labs, lectures, emails, Facebook, general forum,
- There was suggestion to create a Facebook group – A society (MACS) is currently being formed currently for this purpose. Students are hoping to run this society and broadcast events such as ACM and hackathon etc. (advertising through lectures/tutors), and aim to have a more networking community.
- Suggestion was made for the computing department to create something like the numeracy centre for programming. A student explained that the purpose of this centre would be to have workshops, seminars, allow students to work in real-life computing programs (not necessary relating to coursework). The centre could be a social location for computing students where there is constant communication between staff and students. It would also be a good centralised study, communication and communicating room.

Labs
Many students suggesting to have one mainstream study area for those studying the units rather than being kicked around from class to class. TS and MC mentioned they are aware of the issues, but there’s not enough room as they used to be a couple of years ago. MC mentioned they have opened the labs to most level students now, rather than restricting lab access to specific level of study. Students suggested they have one mainstream study area where the room can be for computing students to hang out and do something in a more collaborative environment. Student mentioned that the rooms can be without computers (Bring your own devices), but some students mentioned that the problem with that would be using software’s that are expensive to get on laptop.

MC Raised the issue of reducing the lab hours during weekends and mid-semester break as there is pressure from security to change it. Currently the lab hours are 8am – 11pm, but during the weekends and mid-semester breaks they will change between 9am – 5pm. Most students did not have an issue with that

Meeting Ended at 2 by Malcolm Ryan.

Duration: 45minutes, 15 seconds.