Department of Computing-Macquarie University  
Liaison Meeting minutes  
Date: 11th April, 2017  
Room: E6A 108

Student Representatives (SR)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Representatives</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Takuto Kubo</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Raymond Presetya</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Tim Deng</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS104, COMP115</td>
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<td>Robert Thomlinson</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS104, COMP115</td>
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Staff

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<th>Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Richards (DR)</td>
<td>Professor, Chairperson</td>
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<td>Jian Yang (JY)</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charanya Ramakrishnan</td>
<td>Minute taker</td>
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<td>Fiona Yang</td>
<td>Department Administrator</td>
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The meeting was opened at 1:02 pm by Deborah Richards who introduced herself and the purpose of the meeting
Discussion during meeting:

- **LAB opening hours:**

DR asked SRs about the proposed lab opening times - 8am -11pm (during weekdays) and 9am -5pm (during weekend). DR also mentioned that the reason for the new proposal was that the labs had suspicious people over the weekend and with only two security officers thorough the campus, there is no one to manage.

SRs mentioned that they had been in university the prior weekend (until 10 pm) and all labs were half full. They also mentioned they were unsure of how busy the labs were during morning. They mentioned that they preferred afternoon-late evening opening hours.

JY asked students how much they relied on computer labs and SRs mentioned that since certain software like PowerDesigner, would not work on Mac OSX, and they added that iLab was slow to use from home.

DR mentioned that students could have a paper drawing first and it would take only few hours to draw. In addition, she added that PowerDesigner licenses were expensive and Computing only had licenses for previous version. Student might download one 4-week free trial of the latest version from the internet for Windows machines.

- **Bridge between Accounting/Computing units & Transition between years:**

DR asked if there were any large difference between Accounting and Computing Departments and if SRs could see if the program fit together.

One of the SRs mentioned that ACCG220 worked well with ISYS114. They mentioned learning in detail about databases in ISYS114 helped them understand the unit much better. Another SR mentioned that although he studied databases at SIBT in his first year, he did not acquire enough skills to understand level 2. He also mentioned that he found transition difficult from ISYS114 to ISYS254 (especially UML diagrams) and there seemed no connection between certain units like COMP115 and COMP247.

DR made a comment that there were chapters on databases in ISYS254 and this unit focused on entire system interface & gathering requirements. In this way, units would be different without too much overlap. JY added that when students learnt to draw diagrams, concepts were simple. However, when they used the concepts in scenarios, it would become more difficult. Only practice would help them and they must be patient and keep on practicing.

Another SR mentioned that 254 was a much more difficult for students moving from first to second year.

DR mentioned that every year students would face that same situation: First years were set up to help new students to ease into studying at university and there were no expectations of prior knowledge. However, when they progressed onto second year, they were expected
to have some skills and should be able to work things out themselves. DR also added that there was no one right answer for modelling assignments. In the third year, project sponsor would provide the nature of problem and students would have to learn to deal with changing requirements.

One SR mentioned about the ease of ISYS114 due to the concepts covered in ISYS104.

DR asked what transitions SRs expected from ISYS114 to ISYS254.

One SR mentioned they would like over 4 weeks to learn about the diagrams and it was harder to grasp the concepts.

Another SR mentioned they felt the workshops were well structured to learn about the diagrams.

DR clarified that the main diagrams were to look at over a four-week period (use case in Week 1, class, sequence and state in week 3 and all were revised in week 4, workshops 1-4 look at diagrams). She also proposed that for ISYS254 the Department might have three-hour lecture in future to give more time for practice and more examples in the lectures.

- Mentorship Scheme, Student Culture & Adapting to Australian higher education:

DR asked SRs, if they had a mentor. One of the SRs mentioned he was a mentor out of two mentors in Computing and his main roles was to help new students on campus tours, enrolment, e-student & iLearn

One SR mentioned they had Pal classes in Accounting (students running workshops for students) and asked if Computing had similar arrangements. JY mentioned Computing had HELP101 and HELP201 sessions for students to seek help if needed.

DR asked SR how they felt of the student culture and if they felt as a part of MQ. One of SRs replied that he was members of TLSA (Thai Laos Student Association) to make more friends/connections.

DR asked if lectures/workshops were friendly to everyone, including less represented groups such as women. No one identified any issues. SR mentioned that they enjoyed workshops in ISYS254, ISYS104 and COMP115. One SR (international student) made a comment that it was difficult to process assignment specifications and it would take double the effort to finish the assignment due to language barrier.

DR asked SRs if they had time for any social activities? SRs mentioned they would come in for a barbeque and would love to attend events about job/career.

DR wrapped up the meeting by asking if they had any other comments/concerns that needed to be addressed.
One of the SR mentioned that they would like to stop to receive emails from iLearn (News forum for COMP115) JY mentioned that they had an option to unsubscribe, provided it had been set that way.

The meeting was closed at 2:03pm by Deborah Richards

Duration: 1 hour 1 minute