Department of Computing – Macquarie University
Liaison Meeting Minutes
Date: 7 September 2016
Room: E6A 357

Student Representatives (SR)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representative</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean Baberowski</td>
<td>BIT Major in Web Design and Development</td>
<td>ISYS200, ISYS224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raymond Prasetya</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS100, ISYS114</td>
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<td>Phil Madin</td>
<td>BIT Web Design and Development</td>
<td>ISYS224, COMP229</td>
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<td>Keerti Malladi</td>
<td>BeB</td>
<td>ISYS114</td>
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<td>Tim Bishop</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS301, ISYS358</td>
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<td>Andy Thompson</td>
<td>BSC</td>
<td>COMP355, COMP329</td>
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<td>Daniel Tran</td>
<td>BIT</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farbod Nabavieh</td>
<td>BIT</td>
<td>COMP255, COMP229, ISYS224</td>
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Staff

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<tr>
<td>Tony Sloane</td>
<td>Chair, Director of Teaching</td>
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<td>Melina Chan</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Hijab Alavi</td>
<td>Minute Taking</td>
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<td>Deborah Richards</td>
<td>ISYS114, PACE units, Program Leader ISBA</td>
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<td>Jian Yang</td>
<td>ISYS301, Program Leader BeB</td>
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<td>Malcolm Ryan</td>
<td>COMP111/MA5111, COMP352</td>
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The meeting was opened at 12:08pm by Tony Sloane who introduced himself and the purpose of the meeting

PACE: COMP355, ISYS355 & ISYS358

SR started the meeting by pointing out that as a second year student he was not sure what to expect from PACE units.

Tony mentioned that Computing would changing their PACE program that there would be a single PACE unit for everyone, and a separate capstone unit for different majors in the future - currently capstone and PACE were the same units. This was to solve the issue with double majors having to do the same unit twice.

Deborah mentioned examples of what to expect from PACE units related to the Web major, sponsor organisations such as Robotics and the Children Hospital. It would be a sponsor experience trying to redesign and put extension on an already implemented system.

A SR currently doing PACE was wondering how the separation of PACE and Capstone would affect the assessment in the future as he wanted to be assessed as a developer within the project not just
as the entire project on its own. He was worried that programming work that he was doing wasn’t being assessed as all the assessments are documents based.

Deborah explained that the point of the current PACE and capstone unit was to get experience in both the software and documentation and to distinguish people for the contribution within the project. The current emphasis was on the team rather than individual contribution. What the clients wanted was the product, whereas the actual documentation was a representation that was being developed. In the future PACE would be about developing a system for the sponsor, whereas capstone units would be developing the skills, in the hope to address this issue. Tony added the assessment might change if more technically oriented students came into the PACE units.

A SR added that people doing two PACE projects within the semester were having difficulty managing between the two teams. Deborah mentioned that this issue was only discovered in week 2, otherwise it would not have been approved.

**COMP249**
SR mentioned that COMP249 required no background knowledge in terms of programming so that could be a bit challenging for some students. SR pointed out that the Arts units (MAS) went through the content bit by bit weekly.

**Post Meeting Addendum:**
Under COMP249, it would be worth noting that the student was mistaken: COMP249 currently required some programming background in the form of COMP115 and would be changed next year to require COMP125.

**COMP329**
SR from the unit was enjoying the unit. All positive reviews

**ISYS301/ACCCG355**
SR from the unit was enjoying the unit. All positive reviews

**COMP347**
A SR mentioned that they were still having the same the problem as they were in COMP247 that the practicals were rushed and that some of the laptops worked, whilst others didn’t. Tony mentioned that there was a plan to upgrade the labs and the laptops. Melina confirmed that the Faculty is aware of the situation and might have the implementation ready for next semester.

Another SR mentioned that sometimes lecturer and tutors did some of the algorithms differently, which made it difficult to understand the concept.

**COMP229**
Tony mentioned that there had been a change this year in the delivery of the classes. There used to be three lectures before whereas now there was a one hour lecture a week, and more emphasis was displayed on the flipped classroom approach

**100 Level Units**
SR mentioned that all of the units always matched the lectures and tutorials perfectly.

**ISYS104**
Jian mentioned that there were weekly assessments to keep them busy so that they had to do the work.
Each week there was something assessed. Some students just wanted to work on the mark related questions not the preparation questions

SR said that ISYS114 was super great. However, it was pointed out that the weekly quizzes had a check option that allowed people to just guess as it allowed them to know if the answer was correct. A suggestion was made to turn off the check option, so that students wouldn’t just blindly answer the questions but rather learn. Deborah mentioned that she will check up on this and the purpose of the quiz is to make people read the textbook

Tony asked how the transition from COMP115 to COMP125 was. A SR replied that he expected it to be similar to processing but as it wasn’t it made it a bit difficult and challenging to wrap their heads around.

The SR mentioned in an email that some of the tables in the practicals in 127 were not positioned conveniently as not all the students could see the screen in the computer labs. Malcolm made a suggestion to add another screen if there was enough budget. The SR also mentioned that there were no recordings of the practicals. Malcolm explained that Unity was explained in the practicals and not in the lectures which was based on games analysis, and thus the actual demonstration was not being recorded so they couldn’t go back to review the work. Suggestion was made to dedicate time in the lecture on the Unity material, or to increase the lecturer time to an extra half an hour as well. Tony suggested if it was possible to record the demonstration and post it on ilearn separately.

Another issue with unity was that it was constantly upgraded and thus the student kept upgrading on the laptop, but the labs didn’t upgrade as often. It was difficult to work from a higher version to a lower version and thus the issue was downsizing, but this had been solved.

Tony mentioned that there was a lack of student engagement in lectures where the students wouldn’t usually show up to the lectures. Previously for COMP115 there was a low attendance (20 students) when an alternative class was scheduled.

There were discussions on how to engage students so that they were prepared for the upcoming practicals and tutorials as most of the students did not seem prepared as they skipped lecturers. SRs suggested that the lecturers needed to be more interactive on a weekly basis rather than one-off to engage students to come to the lectures. There were discussions to have quizzes before granting access to Echo360, to give teachers the ability to track who was watching the lectures online if they
were not attending, or to have an expiry on the lectures which was then re-available before exams. Deborah mentioned that a lot of people fell behind as student thought they would catch up the iLecture content later, but eventually it piled up too much.

A SR mentioned issues with Echo360 where resolution was poor, and the written display was slow. Deborah mentioned that ISYS114 also had an issue recently where a lecture didn’t record from an external laptop.

**Labs**

SRs complained that there was not enough room for them to work on assignments in the labs as they always had classes on. Tony mentions that enrolment had increased, and that there had been a lot of pressure on the labs currently, which was why they had enabled access to 5 labs to everyone. A SR asked if they could also have access to the rooms with 2 monitors (E6A119 and 127). Tony mentioned that those rooms were restricted for students for those completing PACE units and gaming units.

Tony also mentions that the university was moving towards bring-your-own device approach but there were network and powerpoint issues to consider. SRs mentioned that this might be difficult due to license and in those cases Macquarie should give access to licensed programs. There were also issues with MAC and the products, such as difficulty using power designer on their own device in ISYS114 as thus the SAs didn’t have the opportunity to work on it as much as liked.

*The meeting was closed at 1:12pm by Tony Sloane.*

**Duration: 1hour 4minutes**