Meeting commenced at 1:05pm with an address by Manolya.
ITEC800 - Systems Engineering Process
Unit Convenor: Carl Svensson

The unit is run fortnightly on Saturdays in conjunction with ITEC833 Web Services. Carl commented that the unit relies heavily on students doing work in between these classes while also relying on iLearn for a two pronged communication approach. Two deliverables have already been submitted and there is another major one due before the break.

Students were happy with how the unit is running except for it being run on the Saturday, with Carl confirming that a significant number of students would prefer it to be on a weeknight.

ITEC803 - Computer Networks
Unit Convenor: Rajan Shankaran
Lecturer: Peiyuan Qin

Student commented that the unit is reasonable however there were issues with access to the labs for the first few weeks.

ITEC831 - Web Applications
Unit Convenor: Zehua Liu

General

The class runs every Thursday evening from 6pm to 10pm. Zehua mentions that there is one student who has asked for the classes to finish earlier so they can get home at a reasonable time, so Zehua has structured the classes in a way where they can leave earlier as the last two hours are just practicals. Two tasks have already been completed with the first assignment being released soon.

Student Backgrounds

Zehua goes on to mention that many students have a weak programming background which means he ends up spending more time covering basics more than he would like. He feels that this is unfair for the students who have a stronger background in programming. Prerequisites are brought up by Manolya, which Zehua comments that every student looks good on paper, but it is more of a matter of practical skills.

Facilities

- EMC G230: Has an awkwardly placed white board, which students cannot see easily. Carl comments that an alternative is to use the visualiser which has the added benefit of being recorded on ECHO 360.
- EMC G220: The projected computer is a lectern, which is not like the Windows computers used in the class. Zehua is unable to demonstrate clearly what students should be doing due to the different environments. Manolya confirms that this room is badly designed. Diego suggests taking a Windows laptop from E6A and using that to demonstrate.
ITEC832 - Enterprise Application Integration  
Unit Convenor: Ian Krycer

General

Everything is going well however some students do not find the lectures overly engaging to which Ian is open to suggestions on. The format is now changing with student presentations breaking up the evening, which might be more appealing.

Some students had issues with the IBM BPM Workbench software used in the first assignment.

Software Alternatives

Ian discussed alternatives for the software used in the unit:

- BPM Workbench (2002): Is being used to great success, students have all submitted their first assignment with it. It is however quite dated.
- Web Sphere Modeler: Students are rarely able to simulate the metrics the assignments require as it compiles to a language called BEPL.
- Blueworks Live (2014): Software as a service tool which will be evaluated for use next year. As a SaaS, it is constantly updated by IBM. It is too late to switch this year.
- There is a one month free trial which IBM will extend for 3 - 6 months given the good ties Ian and Richard have with the IBM liaison officer, John Schilt. This is only compatible with BPMN 2.0, which is quite different to BEPL, therefore we will be required to change some unit content and the assignment requirements.

Students were not open to changing software midway through the semester. Manolya expressed her thanks to Ian and Richard for arranging these software licenses for next year.

Facilities

- EMC G230: The room was not large enough for the number of enrolled students as it only seats 25. This has since been resolved with the class being relocated to E6A109.
- Software issues are mentioned later on in this document.

ITEC841 - Information Systems Project and Risk Management  
Unit Convenor: Ian Krycer

The same issues with EMC G230 and software as ITEC832. The unit is running smoothly, students found the first assignment quite easy but will realise the second assignment is much more challenging.

A past student commented that the unit was good when they did it last semester.
ITEC833 - Web Services
Unit Convenor: Marwan El Tannir

Students have done two tasks so far and have been given their first assignment. Everything is going okay.

MRES Issues

An MRES student raises that he has been given a different assignment outline compared to his colleague as such is a requirement of the MRES course. Student comments that he has not been given a formal assignment specification which Marwan says he will provide.

This conversation is covered in a subsequent section titled MRES Issues.

Diego states that the deadline may be extended due to the larger workload and that the previous issues can be taken into account when marking.

Zehua who took ITEC833 last year, says that he usually changes the assignments which are due later in the semester so that he has time to tweak them towards the MRES students interests and liaise with them.

ITEC844 - Strategic Project Management
Unit Convenor: Cathy Campbell

Cathy comments that the unit is going well as far as she is aware. They are doing more experimental things with simulation and portfolio management which is working well. A student comments that he hears the unit is going well too.

ITEC850 - Network Management
Unit Convenor: Milton Baar

The unit is going well, no complaints.

ITEC855 - Security and Forensic Discovery
Unit Convenor: Udaya Tupakula

Udaya informs that the unit is run on Monday evenings, he has redesigned all the material for the unit. There are two tasks a group project and a research component. This meant that changes for MRES students were straightforward. The unit guide has been changed and outdated content removed, students have not had any issues with the changing content in the unit. Manolya has heard good things about the unit, Udaya keeps the topics relevant and current with todays news.

A student comments that the classes finish later than they are scheduled to which Udaya will address.
Students are coming from different streams so they had issues finding supervisors for all the different projects. It would be good to have some supervisors available to assist with any unexpected demand for particular streams. Manolya and Cathy discuss that perhaps the supervisors could be determined before the unit begins by looking at students qualifications.

A student comments that students cannot expect everything to be done for them and they must put some effort in themselves. Students also need to be notified before their first class that they have tasks to be done beforehand.

COMP795 - Advanced Algorithms
Unit Convenor: Luke Mathieson

Student comments that he enjoys the classes however there is a large emphasis on theory as they haven’t covered any practical applications of algorithms. Luke discusses that this is his background and the unit is relatively new so he might have underestimated how much content they could get through. Student suggests implementing an algorithm at the end of each quarter.

Luke comments that the algorithms are relatively complex and may be difficult to implement, however we could use previously implemented algorithms in MATLAB, which the student agrees would be suitable.

Student also suggests that the breaks are too long.
MRES Issues

Following MRES comments made during ITEC833.

Students comment that MRES is structured so that you do your fundamental research units (MRES700, COMP777 and COMP700) in the second semester however you are required to do large research tasks in the first semester.

A student comments that none of the ITEC research components or alternative MRES assignments were designed before enrolment. For ITEC803 they were only informed of the assignments contents after the census date, which is a 20,000 word report in addition to the standard set of assignments for the unit.

A student states that much of the MRES degree is being "made up as we go". Nothing was very clear from the beginning and the department is not being kind to those who are part time. There is a lot of things which weren't conveyed upfront, there is a lack of communication. Cathy offers her perspective as a lecturer that they were not informed that they had to create different assignments for MRES students which if they had known earlier could have affected how they structured their units.

Diego and Manolya comment that the problem needs to be addressed. Diego furthers this later stating that it’s a new degree and there are many things to iron out, he would like feedback to make it better.

Issues for ScienceIT

- BPM Workbench: When using the software there is an error “Formula One is not installed”. This needs to be reinstalled.
- MS Project 2013: Needs to be activated so most of the functionality is disabled. There is no way for us to activate it.