Department of Computing - Macquarie University
Minutes for the PG Liaison Meeting
5:00pm - 4th September 2014 - EMC Tea Room

Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rizan Rizvi</td>
<td>ITEC871</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damian Jurd</td>
<td>COMP700, COMP777</td>
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<td>Peter Reeves</td>
<td>ITEC802, COMP700, COMP777</td>
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<td>Nick Reynolds</td>
<td>ITEC802, COMP700, COMP777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imran Khan</td>
<td>ITEC801, ITEC802, ITEC810, ITEC830</td>
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<td>Anusorn Swasdee</td>
<td>ITEC810, ITEC851, ITEC852, ITEC854</td>
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Staff Members

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<tr>
<th>Staff Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Busch</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melina Chan</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Natalia Salzberg</td>
<td>IT Manager</td>
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<td>Nick Reynolds</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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<td>Mark Dras</td>
<td>COMP777</td>
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<td>Mark Johnson</td>
<td>COMP700, COMP777</td>
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<td>Luke Mathieson</td>
<td>ITEC802</td>
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<td>Pongsak Suvanpong</td>
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<td>Ian Krycer</td>
<td>ITEC871, INFO843</td>
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<td>Rolf Schwitter</td>
<td>ITEC830</td>
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<td>Vijay Varadharajan</td>
<td>ITEC852</td>
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<td>Rajan Shankaran</td>
<td>ITEC851</td>
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<td>Dzung Le</td>
<td>ITEC870</td>
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Apologies: Ian Joyner, Milton Baar and Cathy Campbell
Meeting opened at 5:06pm by Peter Busch.
COMP700 - Research Frontiers in Computing 1

Mark Johnson

- Students were unsure as to the form of the biweekly assessments, whether they should be more presentation based or discussion based. Mark J suggests that he has always wanted students to have some sort of material (usually slides) to aid in their presentation with some discussion.

- Mark J commented that the last two presentation weeks have not been conventional as they have been cut short, with extra time we will be able to have more discussion about the content. He also comments that it’s easier to give a 30 minute presentation than it is to give a 5 minute one.

- Another student thinks that the scope for the presentations is not clear, asking how closely related the presentation topic must be to the academic's topic. Mark J comments that academics will provide material, conferences or references for the sort of things they would like students to present on. Mark J wants students to connect with the material.

- Students will be able to chose from any of the topics for their two major assessments rather than having a limited selection which was originally specified, provided the topic was not covered in the students previous major assessment.

COMP777 - Computing Methods for Research

Mark Dras, Mark Johnson

- Students are enjoying the non compulsory Python exercises being set each week.

- Mark D adds that some students do not have a strong programming background and are benefiting from the tasks as well.

ITEC802 - Object Oriented Technology

Pongsak Suvanpong, Luke Mathieson

- Everything is going well, the labs have been working fine.

- Students comment that the internet in EMC seems slower than the rest of the campus.

ITEC810 - Information Technology Project

Abhaya Nayak

- Students think it’s going okay but there is a large workload with one week being used for presentation preparation and the next being the presentation. Students feel this is time consuming.

- Ian K who is supervising two students comments that the presentations and continuous milestones are good as it ensures students are making progress and not leaving it until the last minute. Abaya and Peter B agree that this is a positive thing.
ITEC871 - Information Systems Design and Management
Ian Krycer

- Students believe the unit has the right balance for assessments.
- They spent three weeks on the ERP topic and while it is a core topic Rizan suggests that maybe another newer topic could take up one of the weeks to keep it interesting.
- Facility is good, while the room in E5A120 was very full at the start of the semester there has been a drop off of students.
- Rizan understands that sometimes there is a distinct difference in the students capabilities, Ian K has a good way of dealing with this difference and starts off the classes slowly then quickly ramps up the content in difficulty.
- Ian K often relies on diligent students to provide their experience in the lectures which is looked favourably upon by the students.

ITEC851 - System and Network Technologies
Rajan Shankaran, Nabil Mirza

- The subject is interesting and there's only a small number of students.
- Everyone is happy with the subject and enjoy the teaching style.

ITEC852 - Network and Systems Security
Vijay Varadharajan

- Everybody is happy and the labs are good.
- Some PhD students attend the classes and add their experience.

ITEC830 - XML Technologies
Diego Molla-Aliod, Rolf Schwitter

- Student did not have high expectations for XML after taking ITEC833 Web Services last semester but it has been more interesting than expected.

ITEC854 - Security Management
Milton Baar

- The classes are going well, the implementation side of things is interesting for the students.
ITEC870 - Advanced Database Applications Development
Dzung Le

- A student would like lecture notes to be given out before the lectures, Dzung releases them 2 days before.
- The lecture notes last semester may not be applicable as Dzung may modify them to better suit the class.

ITEC801 - Introduction to Distributed Systems
Ian Joyner

- The classes are going well.
- There are weekly tutorial questions and the first assignment has been released.
- The slides are fine, nice and clear.

Meeting closed at 5:43pm.