Present:

Staff Representatives:
Dr Rajan Shankaran (Acting Director of PG Program, Chair), Ching Lin (ITEC803), Manolya Kavakli (ITEC810/ITEC812), Matt Roberts (ITEC831), Ian Krycer (ITEC832/ITEC841), Zehua Liu (ITEC833), Richard Miller (ScienceIT).

Student Representatives:
Fan Jin (ITEC833) and David Walker (ITEC812)

Apologies: Frank Moisiadis (ITEC800) and Milton Baar (ITEC850/ITEC855).

Meeting started at 5pm

ITEC833 - Web Services (Zehua Liu)

Student's feedback
Students generally feel good about this unit as Lectures are clear and straightforward for easy understanding. All materials are uploaded in i-Learn before each Lecture. For lab sessions so far, there was something wrong and student could not install a software to C drive. Zehua also commented that there were some python libraries that were not present after the Windows 8 upgrade and they have to re-install the softwares. Student rep had no other issues to raise and generally, everyone was very happy about the unit.

Action: Zehua would send a list of softwares (i.e. python libraries) to Richard Miller and he would help installing all the required softwares for the unit.

This Unit has 9 MRes Students which comprise almost half of the class. Students have different backgrounds and therefore making teaching a bit more challenging. For the first assignment, the topics which students have come up with are so far so good. For MRes students, considering having 25% research components and therefore, they would not have as many hand on practical assignments as other students in the Unit. Guest Lecturers – have been lined up but have not started yet.

One issue: Special Arrangements for Sat Classes. Currently, one full Sat and then rest for a week and then another full Sat. Currently, having lectures and tutorials in E4B314 and using lab E6A127 for practical classes. Instead of moving back and forth to and from E4B314, students have 3 hrs straight in E4B314 for Lecture and tutorial first (i.e. with a break in between) and then having another 3 hours straight with hands on practical classes in E6A127. With the 3 hours straight with hands on practical classes in the afternoon, students complained that it was a bit too intense.

Action: Zehua will try to move back and forth from E4B314 for the temporary solution (i.e Lecture-Practical-Tutorial-Practical). For future reference and longer term solution, it will be good to have a Lecture room very close to E6A127 which makes moving back and forth from one room to another a lot easier.
Another issue: Zehua commented that the unit is mostly about XML based Web services technologies. The current trend in the market is to go towards simpler alternative like REST. We might need to consider updating the content of the unit next year.

Action: Zehua will probably try to improve the unit for next year.

ITEC812 – Special Project Unit and ITEC810 – Information Technology Project (Manolya Kavakli)

Student's feedback
David is a student in ITEC812 (Supervisor is Milton Baar and Unit Convenor is Manolya Kavakli). David was happy with all things which had been going so far. No use of the lab in ITEC812.

David would also like to give feedback towards ITEC810. ITEC810 has good attendance. David was happy with it. Students use i-Learn to share information as well as submission of assignments.

ITEC803 - Computer Networks (Ching Lin)

ITEC803 has a big class of 31 MIT students + 3 MRes students. Ching took on board the feedback he had collected from last year and had since provided enough details in the lab instruction manual to ensure that a smooth run in the Cisco lab. Currently they are doing 5 modules (in three labs), so far so good. Running an approx. 2.5 hours lecture each week and has been spending 10 mins each week for clarification – leaving approx. 1.5 hours for Cisco labs. Week 5 had big topics to cover (remaining part of BGP and Multicast) and did not have enough time to do lab in week 5. Students are happy with things going so far. There will be two assignments and two quizzes. MRes students will get a research oriented assignment #2. Ching has been getting positive feedback from each Lecture and hopefully Quiz #1 results will reflect whether or not our students are indeed coping well with the Unit.

One issue: Cisco lab – the blue, heavy, thick serial WAN cable needs to be installed each time and due to its size and weight it may have contributed some failures of the serial ports via excessive wear and tear.

Action: Richard and Rajan would go down to the Cisco lab with Ching after the meeting and would work out a temporary solution as well as a long term solution to fix the problem.

ITEC831 – Web Applications (Matt Roberts)

Matt commented that some students had zero web experience which made running of the Unit a little tough in the sense of providing the right balance of materials for students which would deem suitable for their levels (e.g. MRes students with ample experiences and need HD materials whereas students with no experience need simple and basic materials). Matt has since been making some changes and has felt like running two courses at the moment.

One issue: Matt has been allocated E5A180 for his lectures and EMC G210 for his practical classes. Since a lady student asked if the courtesy bus ran there, Matt inferred that she didn't want to walk back by herself after the prac (as she always stays late), Matt has since been using E6A lab to run his practical class. So far so good and all students are happy.
about this arrangement. There are 5 MRes students in the Unit and they have all shown satisfaction in the Unit so far.

Action: Sylvian will look into the matter to see if a proper timeslot can be allocated in one of our labs for the practical class each week.

ITEC832 – Enterprise Application Integration and ITEC841 Project and Risk Management (Ian Krycer)

Students have been using Forum in i-Learn very interactively and they do not have any complaints about the two Units. Ian praised about Paul Crees, a very good student who works for the Department of Defence and Ian used his Assignment 1 for ITEC832 as a model submission for the rest of the class.

Regarding ITEC841 - only 1 MRes student. Guest Lecture was organised and it went well. Due to Easter Monday, it will be missing one week Lecture.

Regarding ITEC832 - students are half way through their second assignments.

One issue: Ian said students would need to use the Rational Method Composer (a tool set) in E6A127 lab but it appeared to be not there this year.

Action: John Schilt from IBM who has been working out the activation key will get in touch with Richard Miller, most probably, in the next two weeks and things will then get sorted out.

Another issue: Ian raised that he would need a good PC which connects to our network in E6A345,

Action: Richard and Sylvian will look into the matter and get it fixed ASAP.

AOB

Students who need to take any of the two special units which are also the core units for software engineering, are recommended to talk to Rajan directly.

One issue: For MIT Students – we are expected to teach them more advanced materials, however, due to some students who have no background knowledge and therefore, we have to teach them some of the basic materials.

Action: Lecturer to provide introductory materials to students who are lacking of knowledge and also to motivate students to do a bit more for their learning as lacking of knowledge could be something to do with the attitude of the students.

Another issue: For MRes Students – we need to provide approximate 25% different material contents for MRes students and Lecturers feel like running a separate unit and it costs them an extra day of work. Currently, we have 12 MRes Students.

Action: No immediate action for the time being but we discuss this further in some other PG meetings.

Meeting closed at 6pm.