Present:

Staff Representatives:
Dr Rajan Shankaran (Acting Director of PG Program, Chair), Manolya Kavakli (ITEC810/ITEC812), Matt Roberts (ITEC831), Ian Krycer (ITEC832/ITEC841), Zehua Liu (ITEC833), Milton Baar (ITEC850/ITEC855). Richard Miller (ScienceIT). Donna Hua (minutes), Melina Chan.

Student Representatives:
Edgar Blanco (ITEC832/810) and David Walker (ITEC812/810)

Apologies / Absent: Ching Lin (ITEC803), Frank Moisiadis (ITEC800)

Meeting started at 5pm

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). He noted that ITEC812 builds on the research of an earlier Project and does not require attendance at all ITEC810 lectures. Due to the time that has elapsed between the earlier Project and changes in Course structure, David is attending most lectures as he finds he could otherwise miss vital information. He also believes that early written feedback on the Project Proposal is important and, together with a review lecture in the week immediately preceding the mid-semester break, would help students to make an necessary mid-course correction during the break, rather than three-weeks later when the amount of correction required may be significantly greater, and with less time to achieve such change.

Manolya commented: All ITEC810 students are going fine and enjoying it, they are all working hard on that. There are 3 lectures in the first half and another 3 lectures in the second half. Some students are doing more work than the others. Some students have struggled with their English for their report writing. Manolya mentioned that some students are not getting good supervision since the concerned academic staff could not spend time with them.

ITEC833- Web Services (Zehua Liu)

Special arrangement for the Saturday class scheduling are fine, students are happy about the changes (Lecture room is now in E6A109). Half of students in class are Mres students, Zehua has designed a different assignment for them. Zehua wants to give them more research skill for report submission.

One issue Zehua commented in the meeting and by email: there are 2 students who didn’t submit their assignment one. Zehua sent them a few emails but none of them responded to his emails. The student who did not submit assignment 1 (10%) and have not formed groups for assignment 2 (30%). He has not responded to any of zehua’s emails regarding both assignments. He did not show up in the last class. Latest class list shows that he is still enrolled in ITEC833.
There is another student, who did not submit assignment 1. But at least he has formed a group with other students to do assignment 2. So Zehua assumes that he would submit at least assignment 2. He could not reach him to discuss reasons why he did not submit assignment 1. He did not come to the last class either.

Matter resolution: After the meeting, Zehua and Rajan discussed this problem. It was agreed upon that he currently takes no further action. The students' lack of participation will automatically result in a failed grade.

ITEC803 - Computer Networks (Ching Lin)

Ching could not attend the meeting due to unwell. He sent his report via email.

1) Class: 34 students (including 3 MRes), good attendance and no issues.

2) Quiz 1 (5% weight, covering topics in the first half of the semester): marking is completed and I have provided feedback down to question levels for each of the 34 students. Majority of the students are doing well. Average class mark is 21 out of 30. There are 5 students failed to cross the pass mark; I have provided detailed feedback on their weak areas and have had individual discussions with each of them.

3) Assign 1 (20% weight): submitted and being marked at the present.

4) Assign 2 (20% weight for MIT and 30% weight for MRes): set for both MIT and MRes, due on week 12.

5) Cisco pracs: we are completing the final (BGP) labs of the routing protocol experimentation series (IGPs and BGP). I have provided alternative lab configurations for students to make use of Fast Ethernet ports in case they experience serial port problem on their platform (see Item 6 below). This week (wk9) we have successfully built a three router topology running BGP protocol by interconnecting multiple router platforms (using the built-in patch sockets on the bench).

6) Cisco lab house keeping: Thanks to Richard and Rajan for the lab investigation/discussion after the first PG meeting. I have since provided detailed inventory list to them reporting potential faulty serial ports and routers in the lab. I have also removed a number of faulty serial cables form the lab and forwarded them to Richard for further processing. Short term solution is to use FE port as reported in Item 5 above.

ITEC831 – Web Applications (Matt Roberts)

Matt commented that no major issues in class. Steve Cassidy will fill in for him when he is away. A couple of students need to sort out their study pattern since some units are no longer offered.

ITEC850 – Network Management (Milton Baar) &
ITEC855 – Security and Forensic Discovery (Milton Baar)

Milton commented: Everything is going ok. Half of the students don’t have technical background. Mib-browses, wire shark, and other management software are used in class. Lab265 is a great lab, it fits well for a small group.
Students in ITEC855 class have done the key management and cryptography. Milton gives them a lot more of stimulation. He brings his own wireless network for students to experiment - attack and break into it.

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

Student’s feedback
Edgar commented on ITEC832: He is doing the management stream. He requires more proactive tasks and more standard base assessments. He feels that this unit is like an UG unit to him as he is a bit disappointed since he was expecting more practical and managerial tasks in this unit. He reckons that master units should have more research content in them. He thinks 3 hours (worth 50%) final exam is too long. It would be good if we can replace it with a weekly assessment task based approach. He likes short presentation: 8-10 minutes. People have to research in real life. They need to know how company works.

Ian commented: We have students come from BIT to MIT and overseas students, it will be challenging for them to do a real world research investigation. It all depends on students we get each year. Exam is the only measure we have on what the individual student’s learning capability is. Ian finds that by using a weekly continuing assessment task in the unit it is still hard enough to get student to do their assessment. He feels that students will be less engaging in class. If no exams are in place the failure rate may be high.

ITEC841- Students are going fine. Ian mentioned-Exam questions has a major component, it is basic and most answers are straight forward. If no exams, assignment works are not reliable. If one misinterpreted the questions, the others in the group would do the same.

Meeting closed at 5.50pm.