Minutes of the 800 level liaison meeting
28th August 2013 @ 5pm

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representatives</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Coucke</td>
<td>ITEC810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Berrell</td>
<td>ITEC871/ITEC842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Calisaye</td>
<td>ITEC871/ITEC842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramji Koirala</td>
<td>ITEC801</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Staff Representatives</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Peter Busch (PB)</td>
<td>PG Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melina Chan (MC)</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Bernard Mans (BM)</td>
<td>HOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Joyner (IJ)</td>
<td>ITEC801</td>
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<td>Assoc. Prof. Manolya Kavalki (MK)</td>
<td>ITEC810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ian Krycer (IK)</td>
<td>INFO843 &amp; ITEC871</td>
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<td>Milton Baar (MB)</td>
<td>ITEC851 &amp; ITEC854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Vijay Varadharajan (VV)</td>
<td>ITEC852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Dzung Le (DL)</td>
<td>ITEC870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malin Haque</td>
<td>Minute taker</td>
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Apologies:
Dr. Rolf Schwitter; Dr. Gaurav Gupta; Cathy Campbell and Richard Miller

Chair: Dr. Peter Busch

Unit Issues:

ITEC 810 – Assoc. Prof. Manolya Kavalki

One student pointed out the difficulty in selecting appropriate projects. PB explained the process is that ideally students choose their own topic/project themselves.

One student asked if it were possible to have some sort of event to meet potential supervisors in advance to discuss projects. MK suggested the possibility of arranging for a project
presentation/workshop so that the following semester students can better judge project and supervision possibilities.

It was noted by a student that there has been consistent feedback on the ITEC810 forum. There was some issue with timely feedback with regard to assignments, however there was an understanding that Manolya had quite a lot of material to cover and provide feedback on in a timely fashion.

**ITEC 801 – Ian Joyner**

IJ said the course activities seem to be going quite well. Around 20 students are enrolled and therefore it is easy to follow what they are up to. IJ said the book used is Coulouris et al, which is not easy to read, whereas Tanenbaum covers concepts better and is easier to read.

It was noted that students would like to have the lecture notes prior to the class and that more time should be spent on complex concepts and less time on simpler concepts.

**ITEC 871 – Dr. Ian Krycer**

IK said overall the course/project is going very well. The first assignment was a bit challenging but students did well on average. The second assignment is a group project, students have started to form groups. IK also gave priority to arranging relevant seminar involving speakers from amongst past students as well as industry presenters. He mentioned the number of students (about 22) is good, not too small and not too big to conduct the class. Students said the unit progress so far is great.

One student pointed out that current edition of the text book is not available in the library. IK asked to launch request through the library portal. The student said only the older version is available in the library not the current one.

Another student enquired about gaining access to commercial databases such as available from Gartner Group. PB said such access could potentially be achieved through subscription at the library level. IK mentioned that assignment two can be solved by the Lecture materials and given references). Finally PB asked to consult the library if such resources are still required.

**INFO 843 – Dr. Ian Krycer**

IK said overall the students did well in assignment one, though there were a few students who struggled, which is quite normal. Students said all is going well and the change of routine was effective.

**ITEC 851 – Milton Baar**

MB said the number of students shrunk down to 4. Students attempted the first diagnostic quiz. Some students might not have the required background. The EMC building is good for teaching and has very good technology installed.

**ITEC854 – Milton Baar**
For ITEC854, the current attendance is about 19 students shrinking down from 40 students in previous years. Students have done their first quiz with good results. But there are more tasks/assignments (with group activities) ahead and students could feel the pressure and even panic if they could not complete the tasks on time.

MB noted some students fell asleep during class!

**ITEC 852 – Prof. Vijay Varadharajan**

VV said so far the course activities looked OK. The student’s attendance was around 17-18. The first assignment is already released and there is a possibility of a practical demonstration from OPTUS. He said he allows a 10 minute break during class and this is very helpful for students for refreshing themselves. He asked to provide a wall clock in the classroom. The other facilities in the classroom are very nice.

**ITEC 870 – Dr. Dzung Le**

DL said the assignment result was very good and all students have submitted their work. So far, the class emphasis has been on using oracle and SQL, next object oriented techniques will be taken into account.

Some students would like more feedback on tasks with greater clarity of what was expected.

There is also some feedback with regard to the lecturer’s speech and the difficulty some students have in understanding what the lecturer is saying – also that some documents could be better proof-read with version numbers made on updated documents so students understand a newer version has been uploaded.

It is acknowledged the lecturer makes herself available to answer student’s questions.

**ITEC802- Dr. Gaurav Gupta**

Students appear to be satisfied with the way the unit is run, the availability of sample code from class and labs, the structure and content of the lectures and the general delivery of the lectures.

Also the lectures provide additional knowledge to the content itself and the lecturer is easy to follow.

Problems have been mostly technical, like the connection between the projector and laptop.

**General Issues**

**Class room related facilities:**

Some complaints with regard to the facilities in the EMC rooms have been pointed out by both the Lecturers and Students.

One student commented that sometimes the lectern (audio/visual system) turns itself off.
There is a need of a vending machine near the classroom as the current one is too far (the students think so). PB advised to request for a vending machine. MB pointed out a similar issue from students to make coffee. IK suggested a longer break instead (30 mins or so). But MB said a long break is not a solution as there was a chance of discontinuity in delivering lecture material. The above problem is critical for those who attend class directly after work. There is no permission to bring any food or drink except bottled water in to the EMC teaching rooms (in line with standard university policy). BM and MC suggested providing coffee/tea from the department.

Feedback from one student noted that the postgraduate self-study room in EMC is a severe downgrade from last semester (E6A 127 lab). There are only 10 PCs available, of which two were non-functional. Software required for the postgraduate units was not installed such as sql developer, eclipse, java. The chairs and tables were not ergonomic, that is to say adequate for any long term use. There are also few power plugs available, meaning students would find themselves without power on their laptops within a short space of time. Finally that the room was small and slightly outdated.

There is also an issue with E6A 108. Students found it sometimes very warm and sometimes cold. BM said the building itself does not function very well and suggests to trying to find another room instead. One student also asked about online storage facilities.

Clash of classes:

For some students the class schedule is very tight. One student experienced a clash of classes with ITEC842 and ITEC810. PB noted that: (a) students enrolled 100% full time AND (b) commencing their studies in semester 1 AND (c) who were in the management stream - would face a clash with ITEC842 and ITEC810 in their second semester. However the clash was not a severe one as ITEC810 did not run every Friday evening and both Cathy (842) and Manolya (810) were aware of this - and would be lenient on the student(s) accordingly.

The meeting closed at 6:00pm