

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING ~ MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the 200-Level Liaison Committee Meeting
15th September 2008 1pm

Present:

Student Representatives	Units
Peter Schmidt	COMP226,ISYS224,227
Dhyana Scarano	ISYS224
Staff Representatives	Units
Bernard Mans	HoD
Dominic Verity	200 Level Convener, Chair
Louella Almeida	Dept. Mgr. (Academic)
Mehmet Orgun	ISYS224
Debbie Richards	ISYS227
Diego Molla Aliod	COMP248
Raina Kim	Minutes

Apologies: Abhaya Nayak, Len Hamey, Leszek Maciaszek, Rolf Schwitter

Meeting started at 1:10pm.

Last meeting minutes approved.

Discussion from last minutes:

- DV has followed up on Blackboard issues but has not gone very far. DV talked to LH about broken links but was not sure of the progress.
- MO was informed that some students had difficulty in submitting assignments. DV would talk to CTS instead of WebCT.
- Student had problems in downloading tutorials using Blackboard. The system would go back to the home page before the student could download anything. Some security issues. DV would ask CTS to investigate.

UNIT MATTERS

ISYS224: Mehmet Orgun

Lectures:

- Student enquired if the lecture notes could be posted a week earlier rather than Fridays. MO will look into it.

Tutorials and Practicals:

- Students are very happy with the practicals. The word document is very helpful with step by step instructions. A very good feedback from the students.

- Students are very happy with the practical supervisor Akther Shermin who uses a step-by-step approach with instructions and tutor Aarthi Nagarajan who is good, thorough, explains things well and always encourages the students to speak and participate.
- Currently the tutorials are posted on Wednesdays. Students want the tutorials to be posted earlier in the week. MO will look into this.

Assignments:

- The current assignment is a little bit tricky but has good instructions. The students are not sure what to do in some parts. Students want some examples to use as a guide. MO will look into it.
- LA found an assignment in the Dept office on Monday morning (15th Sep) and enquired what the procedure was in submitting assignments. MO said the students were required to submit an electronic version online and a hardcopy in the assignment box. The submission dates were taken from the electronic version.

COMP226: Len Hamey was in a tutorial and could not attend.

Lectures:

- LA said both lecturers were sick during the same week and asked if the students wanted a catch up class. Students were happy with the idea if it would be organised. LA will follow up.
- There is an issue in communicating with the lecturer. Students need help in implementing the assignments since the material does not cover everything required. There are no online resources.
- The textbook covers only the concept of Computer Architecture but does not contain code examples. The codes on the website are not enough and prefer to be recommended another textbook.

Tutorials and Practicals:

- The students require more help in tutorial and practicals for writing codes since it is not thoroughly covered in the lectures. The students want more information in the tutorial and practical sessions.

Assignments:

- There were no real problems with assignment 1.
- Assignment 2 which is due soon is not posted on the web yet. The assignment has been postponed to after the break. DV will follow up on the assignment issue.

Other Matters:

- DV asked if there were any problems in software usage. Student said no problems within the university but encountered problems using it from home. DV will follow up on this.

ISYS227: Debbie Richards

Lectures:

- There is good feedback from the class. Some students are missing the videos. DR said it is hard to know if it's useful at the time.
- Student said there were a lot to cover in the lectures.

- DR said i-lectures would not cover everything required for the unit since they were not visual. A lot of examples were given on the board and the students would not get the full information just through i-lectures.

Tutorials and Practicals:

- Student said the tutorials and practicals were reasonable. Enterprise Architect was introduced earlier in the course which was quite new but understands it now.
- In-class quiz worth 5% in week 7.

Assignments:

- Assignment 2 was released in week 5 and due in week 8. It is the first time the students need to work over the break. Some students complained but it was already specified in the course outline. Students should work around it.

Other Matters:

- Lab problems: problems with performance and when problem occurs one has to restart again. The system is unreliable.

COMP248: Diego Molla

No student representative attended.

Lectures:

- DM said things were running smoothly.
- The class venue had been changed from last week. A much quieter place. There was a problem changing to the new venue the first time that another class was already using it. The class that used the venue before did not go to the new venue. The problem had been rectified.
- Some students find Prolog hard to understand. Those who did COMP229 have a very good understanding of Prolog but others have a problem. DM will offer a catch up class for those who want to come. Thursday 5pm or 6pm this week. LA will look into this.
- DV said it would be good to have work shops for different languages. BM said the units would be divided into blocks for 3rd year units.
- Attendance to the lectures is quite good.

Assignments:

- Assignment 1 was due last week. Most have handed in the assignment.
- Assignment 2 was not posted last week. DM will do it this week.

Others:

- DV will write to the student representative for a feedback.

Other Matters:

- Student said sometimes it takes about 40 minutes to logon to wireless network.
- The student rep also used the discussion board to get a feedback from other students. Received 5 to 6 responses.
- DV find that students do not feel comfortable revealing their names when posting questions on discussion board. Anonymous posting on WebCT is possible but not on Moodle.
- There was some damage done in the labs late in the evening. Students attended were not aware of such issues but found rowdier at times in the evening. On some occasions keyboards were misplaced. DV suggested requesting for security to supervise for the safety of the students.

Next Meeting: 20 October 2008, 1 pm, E6A357

Meeting Closed at 2:05pm.