Manolya Kavakli introduced herself and stated the purpose of the meeting, and then opened the meeting at 5:30pm. The aim of the meeting was to discuss various MIT and Data Science units and the master degrees in general and to learn if the students have any overall feedback.

ITEC841

- Two student reps expressed their views on hurdle assessment. They think the student should be able to pass the unit if they achieve an overall pass, instead of having the hurdle requirement of the assignment.
- The student was unaware that they can get special consideration if they have a health condition. They got sick and therefore were unable to complete the assignment on time and failed the assignment.
- Steve explained to the students the importance of having a hurdle assessment:
  - Students should understand the unit in order to pass the unit. If the assignment is the hurdle requirement, passing the assignment proves the understanding towards the unit.
  - Students should not graduate from a unit if the satisfied work has not been met.
- Steve explained to students about special consideration if they suffer from a health condition in completing the assessment.
- Another problem a student raised is that they think all assignments should be released at the beginning of the semester, instead of having only a few weeks to do an assignment.
• Justification from Steve and Rajan:
  o Assignments should be released once the material is taught.
  o Also, time management is an important skill for students to learn, they have to be able to complete a task within the time period provided to them.

ITEC649
• Student said that information was covered pretty quickly in the unit and they liked the way how the material was taught and covered.
• Students overall are happy with the unit.
• ITEC649 does not have a hurdle assessment.
• Some students struggle more with the programming side of the unit.

ITEC654
• The unit involves teaching students different programs, such as React-native and Android Studio. Students found this to be useful and great to learn.
• The students were happy that the unit covered the basics and took the students step by step through learning the material.
• Overall the students are happy with the unit.
• Students said they found ITEC654 to be their favourite unit because it is the most practical unit out of all their units.
• The unit has a very good hands on project component.
• The staff members provide great support and feedback.
• Overall, the students are happy with the unit.

ITEC832
• The unit has a good balance between its theory and practical stuff.
• SR remarked that the same lecturer is teaching ITEC832 and ITEC841, therefore students are not hearing different perspectives from different people.
• Students find the guest lectures good and informative.
• Students enjoy the unit because it has a practical component. They prefer units with practical components.
• They found ITEC660 to be theory based, as a result ITEC832 and ITEC841 are better because they are more practical based.

ITEC850
• The unit is interesting to learn, especially the critical analysis component.

ITEC855
• Student found certain tasks within the unit hard to complete due to lack of prior knowledge.

ITEC812 and ITEC810
• Student found the unit to be good and has great feedback and help support.
• The unit has a clear structure.
• Students enjoyed being able to research a topic they enjoy and find interesting.
• Overall students are happy with the unit and do not have any problems with it.

ITEC647 and ITEC803
• No attendees for either units.
General Discussion

- A student started their master degree in semester one, as a result they found it difficult it to set up their timetable as most of the basic units are only offered in Session one. They also end up falling behind their peers because they have to take the classes the following year.
- Manolya and Steve said the department is aware of the issue and addressed that by offering ITEC600 level units in both semesters from 2019.
- Data Science is a new major for the department. There are some contradictions in the program.
  - The 600 and 800 requirements are clashing with each other and making students do units they shouldn’t do
  - Or some units they can’t do because they have not their pre-requisites
- Majority of the students who attended the liaison meeting were international students and gave feedback from an international student perspective.
- Solution: a possible solution is to allow students to undertake more electives or have the option to do so. For example, some management specialisation students would like to do more programming based units, but the current degree structure does not allow that.
- Management and cyber security students would like the option to do units from the other specialisation to expand their knowledge.
- Majority of the students would like to do get an internship once they satisfy the requirements for it. Manolya mentioned that students have to get a distinction in ITEC812 to qualify for internship.
- Students found that they can’t take certain subjects because they have not satisfied their pre-requisites.
  - For some units students can get a waiver if they have previous work experience that allows them to undertake the unit without having to complete the pre-requisites.
- EMC related question: Stats software is only available in EMC which is a problem to some students.
  - iLab has the required software, however there are problems as there will be no resources in Central IT to support iLab.

Final Notes

Manolya concluded the meeting by informing the students that if they have any questions they can contact their teachers or the computing department. It was emphasised that if the students have any questions or need any help, they should ask!

Meeting Ended at 6pm by Manolya Kavakli.