Minutes

Staff and Student Liaison Meetings

Date and Time: Tuesday, 21 April 2020, 1pm – 2pm
Meeting location: Zoom

Student Representatives:

Computing Staff Representatives:
Steve Cassidy, Melina Chan, Sylvian Chow, Gaurav Gupta, Michael Johnson, Alireza Jolfaei, Malcolm Ryan, Deborah Richards, Daniel Sutantyo, Xuyun Zhang.

Faculty Representative:
Alison Willard

Minutes:
Hijab Alavi

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm by Malcolm Ryan (MR) who introduced and introduced the purpose of the meeting and briefly went through the meeting agenda.

Status on the Computing’s Lab relocation to 4RPD

MR mentioned all the computing labs from 9 Wally’s Walk will move to 4 Research Park Drive (4RPD). They are to be located on Ground Floor and First Floor. The project is still going ahead, however, it is on hold due to the current COVID19 situation.

Transition to the 2020 program

MR asked the students to provide thoughts on the course restructure and asked if they had any questions. XZ said that there has been a little drop in students, but there are no specific problems now. He was unsure if this was due to the transition of online teaching. A couple of students said it was too early to tell, and there are some new specific problems. There were some new students in the meeting who were not familiar with the old program and were not affected. A student mentioned at the start of the semester there were issues with COMP1300 enrolment due to the migration to the 2020 curriculum. MR said that the unit was not meant to be compulsory for pre-2019 students. It was not communicated properly causing issues at the start of the year, the issue is now resolved.
Survey and Results

GG launched a poll to receive feedback from students. The results from the survey is shown below:

Overall satisfaction with department

Overall satisfaction with teaching quality

Satisfaction with Teaching Resources

Class Schedule

Lab Availability before shutdown
The median responses are above in orange. MJ suggested that the median is not a true representation for the department as there are some students who are not happy with some aspects, this should be addressed.

**Changes due to COVID-19**

MR – due to the COVID-19 situation the assumption is that for at least the start of semester 2, classes will most likely continue to run online.

MR said due to this, centralised exams will not be running in Semester 1; every department will find an alternative arrangement. The Department has planned to run online exams with its own timetable. The Department is in the process of sorting out logistics. The online exams will be timed with an extra hour in case there are any technical issues or there will be take home exam which will be submitted via turnitin before the deadline.

MR - students would have received an email from the VC stating if anyone fails a unit this semester, it will show as “withdrawn” on their transcript. This will not affect their WAM.

Comment from a student: if they fail the unit, will they still be required to pay the fees?

MJ said the students do not academically fail (as it will not show on the transcript), but the students will still be required to pay the full fees.

DR confirmed this from a message she received from student connect. MR said this is not something the department handles as it is directed by the central team, and thus the department cannot change this policy.

**Online teaching:**

MR asked the students about some current issues that are associated with the new format of teaching online. A student said that some classes are going well, and others are not. Many students said that the classes in which the tutor talks through the solutions are particularly taught well compared to those that just provide questions.

**COMP2300**

Several students expressed that their tutors had not been doing their job well, they did not provide explanation to the tasks in class. Another student said that this is a common issue for this unit from the discord chat. MR asked if the student is comfortable asking questions and the student replied that the tutor is not prepared and does not know the answer themselves and spend 35 minutes looking at the answer online, then moving on without providing an answer. Many students agreed with this and said that both the tutors and lecturers do not help as the teachers are skipping through the calculation process which leaves the students confused. MR asked what the prerequisite is for the unit and students replied with DMTH.

Another student said the negative feedback is mainly for the COMP2300 unit and that other units are doing much better. The student also prefers the tutor going through the content step by step rather than leaving them to their own devices.
COMP2310

A student said that lecturer is doing well and helping the students. Another student raised awareness that they had an exam for COMP2310 moved to another time and that the students had other classes on at the time and thus missed the class tutorial that they were enrolled in (COMP2300). MR asked if the tutorial is recorded and many students said that most tutorials are not.

COMP2210

A student said that both the lectures and tutorials are going very well for the unit. Quizzes. A student rep commented they had a quiz recently where all the answers to the questions can be found word-to-word easily online. MR said that this is a tricky complication that the department is trying to figure out a way around it and that it is concerning if all the answers can be found online. A student said that COMP2250 recently did a quiz and it was good as the answers could not really be googled and found online. The time limit on the quiz was good as well as people could not go through their notes properly.

COMP1300

A student rep said that their tutor starts presentations too late and thus the students run out of time to present their work.

COMP2250

Some students like COMP2250 tutors, while others do not. Students believe it varies from tutor to tutor and their teaching methods. A student said that the unit is expecting a background in maths that they are not prepared for. AW suggested that the numeracy centre also provides students with additional help if they require it.

COMP3110

A student said that they require more classes to ask questions as class time is usually up. Currently, the student has been going to multiple classes to be able to ask questions

COMP3170

A student stated 2 hours is not enough to ask questions for the unit and if possible, to assign a separate consultation hour to be able to discuss the questions and clarify any problems. A student mentioned one of the lecturers had technical issues for their class and they could not share screens without dropping off. As an alternative the lecturer pointed their camera towards their phone to share the content. MR suggested if pre-recorded lectures or videos could help with that issues and student said yes.

MR said he will active in the “liaison meeting discord channel” to answer any questions for those students who could not make it to the meeting

MR closed the meeting at 2:05pm.