Department of Computing-Macquarie University
Liaison Meeting minutes
Date: 11\textsuperscript{th} April, 2017
Room: E6A 108

\textbf{Student Representatives (SR)}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representatives</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Takuto Kubo</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Raymond Presetya</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS254</td>
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<td>Tim Deng</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS104, COMP115</td>
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<td>Robert Thomlinson</td>
<td>BIT Major in Information Systems and Business Analysis</td>
<td>ISYS104, COMP115</td>
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\textbf{Staff}

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<th>Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Richards (DR)</td>
<td>Professor, Chairperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jian Yang (JY)</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charanya Ramakrishnan</td>
<td>Minute taker</td>
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<td>Fiona Yang</td>
<td>Department Administrator</td>
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The meeting was opened at 1:02 pm by Deborah Richards who introduced herself and the purpose of the meeting.

\textbf{Discussion during meeting:}

- \textbf{LAB opening hours:}

DR asked SRs about the proposed lab opening times - 8am -11pm (during weekdays) and 9am -5pm (during weekend). DR also mentioned that the reason for the new proposal is that the labs had suspicious people over the weekend and with only two security officers thorough the campus, there is no one to manage.
SRs mentioned that they had been in university the prior weekend (until 10 pm) and all labs were half full. They also mentioned they were unsure of how busy the labs were busy during morning. They mentioned that they preferred afternoon-late evening opening hours.

JY asked students how much they relied on computer labs and SRs mentioned that since certain software like PowerDesigner, do not work on Mac OSX. They also added that iLab is slow to use, from home.

DR mentioned that students can have a paper drawing first and it would take only few hours to draw. In addition, she added that PowerDesigner licenses are expensive and Computing only has licenses for previous version. Student may download one 4-week free trial of the latest version from the internet for Windows machines.

- Bridge between Accounting/Computing units & Transition between years:

DR asked if there are any large difference between Accounting and Computing departments and if SRs can see if they fit together?

One of the SRs mentioned that ACCG220 works well with ISYS114. They mentioned learning in detail about databases in 114 helps them understand the unit much better. Another SR mentioned that since he studied databases at SIBT in his first year, he did not acquire enough skills to understand level 2; Also mentioned that he is finding transition difficult from ISYS114 to ISYS254 (especially UML diagrams) and finds no connection between certain units like COMP115 and COMP247.

DR made a comment that there are chapters on databases in ISYS254; ISYS254 focuses on entire system interface & gathering requirements and units would be different without too much overlap. JY made a comment that when students learn to draw diagrams, concepts are simple. However, when they use them in scenario, it gets difficult. Only practice would help them and they must be patient & practice a lot

Another SR mentioned that 254 is a massive jump from first to second year. DR mentioned that every year students will face that massive jump; First years are new to university students are eased into studying at university and there are no expectations of prior knowledge. However, when they are in second year, they are expected to have some skills and also to work some things out for themselves. DR also added that there is no one right answer for modelling assignments and they will have your assumptions which will be a challenge. In their third year, project sponsor would provide the nature of problem and students will have to learn to deal with changing requirements.

One SR mentioned about the ease of ISYS114 due to the concepts covered in ISYS104.

DR asked what transitions SRs expected from ISYS114 to ISYS254. One SR mentioned they would like over 4 weeks to learn about the diagrams and it is harder to grasp the concepts. Another SR mentioned they feel the workshops were well structured to learn about the diagrams. DR clarified that the main diagrams were to look at over a four week period (use
case in Week 1, class, sequence and state in week 3 and all were revised in week 4, workshops 1-4 look at diagrams) and proposed that for ISYS254 we might have three-hour lecture in future to give more time for practice and more examples in the lectures.

- **Mentorship Scheme, Student Culture & Adapting to Australian higher education:**

DR asked SRs, if they had a mentor. Couple of SRs mentioned they were mentors themselves and they were the two mentors in computing and help new students in campus tours, enrolment, e-student & iLearn

One SR mentioned they have Pal classes in Accounting (students running workshops for students) and asked if they had similar ones in IT. Jian mentioned they have HELP101 and HELP201 sessions.

DR asked SR how they were a part of Student Culture and how they feel as a part of MQ? One of SRs replied that he was members of TLSA (Thai Laos Student Association) to make more friends/connections

DR asked if lectures/workshops were friendly to everyone, including less represented groups such as women. No one identified any issues. SR mentioned that they enjoy workshops for ISYS254, ISYS104 and COMP115. One SR (international student) made a comment that it was difficult to process assignment specifications and takes double the effort to finish the assignment.

DR asked SRs if they had time for any social activities? SRs mentioned they would come in for a barbeque and would love to attend events about job/career.

DR wrapped up the meeting by asking if they had any other comments/concerns that needed to be addressed? One of the SR mentioned that they would like to stop to receive emails from iLearn (News forum for COMP115) JY mentioned that they had an option to unsubscribe, provided it had been set that way.

**The meeting was closed at 2:03pm by Deborah Richards**

**Duration: 1hour 1minute**