Steve Cassidy introduced himself and stated the purpose of the meeting, and then opened the meeting at 1:05pm. The meeting was more aimed for general degrees rather than units, and if there’s any particular feedback about units then to contact the unit convenors

The reason of choosing the degree
For digital business, the reason is that students can acquire the knowledge both in business and digital, which is double excellent for them to have diverse abilities.

For cyber-security, some students are not sure about the reason why they choose this degree but some of them choose it because of career prospects. For example, one student has met some people working in cyber security at CBA, and she is fascinating with their work. Some students simply finds cyber security is interesting and wants to learn more.

For Data Science (DS), it relates to many IT (Information Technology) related subjects. One student thinks DS is like a communication of both of his two subjects in IT so he enjoys it. Furthermore, it also has a good future prospective, serving as a reason for he to choose this degree as well. These are the two main reasons for this international student to choose this program rather than the others because he regards Australia is one of the places where he found the DS to be, showing that he is specifically looking for the DS program.
For Information Technology (IT) degree, one of the students picked it as the first degree because he has been had very strong IT skills in the last a few years and wants to expand those in next years. Meanwhile, he also regards cyber security is the one key area since there exists some possibility of attacking, and there is a growth in the area, stimulating people.

Some students select IT program due to their historical experience. One of the students did and had done it in his previous school, and he think it is positive opportunity to have IT as a course. In the meanwhile, he has the interest in DS specifically because of his experience in big data when visiting enterprises (e.g. Samsung). He understands the importance of the big data and thinks big data is the future and has many opportunities.

Another student’s initial major was software technology and he has the confidence to study IT program. Unfortunately, his school did not offer software development, but he does information processes technology, which is more business based, and really appreciates IT. He has studied IT in high school year 9 and 10, and after he studied information system ISYS104, he moves to business.

One student was of Bachelor of Arts since he was not sure what he should do. His major is in computing, and he enjoys the business information and databases so he switches to the courses.

Program Learning Outcome (PLO)
As for this point, few people read it but some students notice that there is a little footnote at the bottom of the page on handbook. The idea of the PLO is the information about what students should be able to do at the end of the program. Students might fail to see this PLO but it reflects the outcome what students can get out from the degree, which can motivate the program.

Highlighting What Students Have Done or Wants to Do in the Future

Cyber security challenge is interesting to some students. One of the student likes that due to teamwork and its fun. He attended this year and his team was in top thirty, and Macquarie University did well in the challenge. And Cyber9-12 is coming up, which is also interesting to him. He likes these challenges. Department is keen to expand, give train, hopefully to create a student society and some networking opportunities as well.

Some students really like the set-down-way of COM115, and its structure differs from the others and makes the studying simpler and better.

Some students regard PACE programming is very interesting, but not all are familiar with this program. This program has the students placed into a company, usually a group of four, and tasks with something relevant to the students’ degree, e.g., data scientist will solve analytics problem and students in cyber security will tackle some security problem. But some students might be in a mix group, for example, data science and cyber security. It is very great to get the feedback from both the students and the organizations.

Something Lack or to Improve

One of the students was starting off Web-design originally, but has not done any mathematics unit. He found some mathematics units are not helpful to his learning goal and suggest department to consider which math units would be helpful to build a web and try to make the unit more related to IT.
Some students are confused on enrollment side, for example, how many 100 level, 200 level and 300 level units they have not had before. Enrollment rules are little complicated and confusing.

Some students are expecting to have more places available for studying. Since, for example, library usually close at 6pm weekend, some students asking for extending hours or other options for the available place for studying. However, some security issues occur and should be taken into consideration with facility and availability.

Labs provide good environment for study, especially for group working. Students do not need to worry about if some of them did not bring their computer or laptop to do the work, and group member can work next to each other in a quiet place. However, MUSE is always packed, filled up and full. Students need to have a specific space for teamwork. Even though MUSE is a good place, usually it is so crowded that hard to find a place.

EMC center, near the Macquarie hospital, is another option and some students would like to know more about this place. The faculty is aware of this issue, and they are talking to the university central about the teaching place.

‘Macquarie Confessions’ is a Facebook page about Macquarie Uni with mixed things and feedback from many people.

Some students use iLab but not much yet, and there are some license issues. Therefore, it is encouraged to use more open source based tools and software, and ISYS224 thus moves to MySQL, as a case in point, because of its open source.

There are some new buildings providing more space but might need 5 years to complete. Faculty still is a little squeezed.

**Helpdesk**

We set helpdesks to arrange some tutors to be essentially sitting there on call to help you as a consultation time. It is not a general consultation time but specific for units. Some students feel it is not that convenient of time, 1 or 2 hour a week and not a same day. Students can go to many other tutors available for other consultation time.

Students suggest opening a channel for communication, e.g. channel 347, 343, and it does not have to be for coursework or university work only. Sharing resources or other types of communication can also be included. Meanwhile, some students are willing to serve to moderate it, and this can be seen as an emergent solution.

As for the existing facility, some students regard that ‘iLearn Forum’ is quite useful to them especially when they are struggling in their assignment, while sometimes there are hundreds of messages posted on the forum so that make it hard to go through each. Some students suggest that it is better to narrow down the content into distinct categories with more structured space, for example, a specific one place for assignment and another for another thing. However, it is difficult to organize. Also, it is hard to force people to decide which place to post.

As for ‘Forum Digest’, some students suggest that it is better to make it as a rolling feed, pin-pose or life streaming like form, which is more beneficial to updating information and finding the relevant messages. However, there are some technical limitations of iLearn, and it needs resources to manage to get around the limitations. As for some units, many people post many things on the forum everyday but it makes not easy to track the message of interest. Students expect to have the information more organized, for example, giving the answer valuable without duplicated repetitions. Also, they want it easy to track and real-time.
As for tutors, students regard some of them are helpful and the others are not that helpful. Students can send feedback to the faculty and faculty will arrange some targeted training to improve the tutoring. As for lectures, students think it depends as well. Some lecturers just give speeches a few hours and disappear until next week. COM329 is a good one example that students think it is a helpful interaction with the lecturer. The faculty emphasizes that lecturers and tutors are to help students get pass the subjects.

**Representation and Getting Involved**

Some students are willing to be student representatives. A candidate is Alexander, a student that is willing to be.

As for MACS, a computing society, the aim of this idea is encouraging to get students more involved in the group. MACS has Facebook page, as Macquarie Uni association to connect with the student. Students think that MACS provide many good things to enhance the communication.

As for incubator, some students like to take part in to do something they want to do or learn, and meeting people is one of their interest. It is also possible to help students to start up.

**Online Course**

As an online course, it is an option. Some students think it is good but not that acceptable when it comes to pay. They want more interactive form in learning. Some students are more likely to stay at Macquarie Uni course rather than TAFE. Since, in the unit, students can not only interact with lecturers and tutors, but also meet many people in the class. Some students think online course could be a good option for learning if the quality is good enough and can be a part of the class, maybe a few weeks, but do not think that can be replace the courses in real class.

**Intensive Course**

Session three is a double speed version of the intensive learning. Some students think some units are inapplicable to put into this type of learning since there is so much content that impossible for students to digest it in a brief time. But for some skill or practice based learning it might be a good option to improve the efficiency of learning if it is with the same number of hours. Some students do not agree that since some skills and knowledge need enough long time, one semester, to obtain in the unit. Units do not only focus several skills but also some things about the subject.

Even though this type of the program, e.g. ‘Need Intensive’ offered by University of Sydney, has the entire students obtain the training or learning in two weeks, some students argue that it is not applicable for all students in the university due to the difference and uniqueness between.

*Meeting Ended at 2pm by Steve Cassidy*

*Duration: 55 minutes*