The meeting was opened at 5:07pm by Deborah Richards who introduced herself and the purpose of the meeting. It went around the table and everyone had a chance to do a brief introduction of themselves.

Agenda 1 - Lab Spaces

DR asked the students how the lab spaces at Macquarie were. Students said that some PCs and chairs were broken and may need replacing but were overall happy with the labs. A student mentioned that having the labs open early, close late and open on weekends have been very convenient as they have got all the required softwares. Accessibility to the labs has been okay. A student said that the labs were a bit dusty around the keyboard and monitors. SC asked if there was any food and drink issues, but students said there were none, just dust accumulation. SC mentioned that the people responsible for the cleaning had forgotten to clean the labs at the start of this semester and that she would discuss with Faculty IT and get it arranged during the mid-semester break.
Students also mentioned that there were no free labs during business hours to use softwares to work on their assignments during the semester, and that the labs were pretty close to fully booked. GG said that over the years there has been an increase in units but the same number of labs. CD said COMP107 didn’t need labs and suggested that students to bring their own devices during tutorials in the future. CD asked if it would be possible to coordinate with the timetables to specify if it could be “bring your own device” session, and SC said she would check. CD asked about the capacity of ISYS100 in the labs at the moment and FL mentioned that they were all in EMC not in the usual computing labs. Another student asked if the softwares could be installed in the library so that there wouldn’t be too much pressure in the labs. GG mentioned that those computers were managed by Central IT and they wouldn’t want to overload the computers. Another student mentioned that most softwares were downloadable over their own laptop, however, some softwares could not be installed such as for units COMP247 and ISY114 (e.g. Powerdesigner is not available for Mac).

FL mentioned that iLab would be available and they would have got those softwares, but student said that some first-year students got confused about iLab, and it may be too advanced for them to use even though current instructions were made available and people still got confused. FL said for assistance with iLab, Central IT would be recommended for students to get help from them directly. DR & FL recommended uploading iLab instructions on iLearn.

**Agenda 2 Teaching Quality**

DR asked if it was worthwhile coming to class and some students said that these days students were not engaged and struggled with recordings so yes. However, the issue with lectures was that some lectures were word vomit and it would be nice to make them more engaging such as through kahoot. Another student mentioned that practice quizzes on iLearn had been a fantastic way to keep people engaged. Questions for ISYS104 had been good as revision, and for COMP107 had been okay as well. A student from COMP107 said that for the weekly presentation people weren’t putting effort and just dumping information. CD said that the unit was still experimental, and they were trying different ways to get students engaged. A student said that Matt Robert connected with students in a different and engaging way. Students preferred the lecturers to have a “questions and answers” session instead of going through the PowerPoint and liked how Charanya went through the notes with the class which had been helpful.

**Agenda 3 Support Available**

DR asked students if they had enough support. A student mentioned that PAL sessions had been really good and COMP115 had been included in it now, which has had good attendance and it was great having past students teaching the content. A student asked for COMP247 to be included in it as well as the unit was very content heavy and a little more help would be required especially in the practicals. Student said that people were more likely to go to PAL sessions rather than HELP101 as people were a little scared/timid against teachers. Some business courses have PEER sessions which are optional scheduled study sessions where students are helping students out. Students have noticed there hasn’t been this kind of help for the technical classes. GG said they were
experimenting with COMP125, as they have organised 6 COMP125 sessions with Jerome Barkhan who is a past student.

**Agenda 4 Overall Progression**

DR moved to the next item and asked about the course structure. Student mentioned that COMP247 had a lot of content and another student mentioned that COMP249 was quite hard as there was a giant leap. The student mentioned that there were weekly tasks which were simple but the unit itself required knowledge. Another student mentioned that module exams were helpful and great progressions from COMP115 to COMP125. The module exams avoid people from cramming and allow them to learn more in a less stressful manner.

A student asked why the Data Science units were not Python based in the first year, but instead, which were Java based. GG said there had been debate about this during the course structure but eventually decided for Java as the first year language to accommodate those students who might have never programmed as Java had its visual programming which would help. It also assists to teach students the transition for learning new languages especially if they are emerged into new languages after graduation and units such as COMP115 is an introduction before jumping into the harder units such as Python scripting. A student said she had never programmed before and enjoyed with processing as a starter unit. DR and CD suggested maybe they could do exams to figure out the level at which a student was from the start of the degree however that made the enrolment process quite complex.

*DR thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 6:13pm.*