MONASH University

Faculty of Information Technology, Clayton Campus
Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 3, Semester 2 2015
Date and Location: Wednesday 19th August, 2015 at 1pm in Building 63 Room 115, 25 Exhibition Walk.
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PRESENT
Chair: Sue Bedingfield
Assistant to Chair: Daniela Rodrigues

STAFF	STUDENTS
Alan Dorin	Anureet Kaur (BBIS 3rd Year)
Nandita Bhattacharjee	Akansha Kapoor (BBIS 3rd Year)
Julian Garcia	Michelle Chu (BCS 1ST Year)
Peter Tischer	Jeddi Tirtowidjojo (BBIS 1ST Year)
Carlo Kopp	Rebekah Chan (BBIS 1ST Year)
Robert Merkel	Sajeeb Lohani (BSE 2nd Year)
Stephen Huxford	Vinu Alwis (BSE 2ND Year)
Marc Cheong	Leo Bouillet (BCS 3rd Year)
Reza Haffari	Matthew Gueit (BSE 1st Year)
Chris Ling	Timothy Banova (BCS 2ND Year)
Graham Farr	
Kerri Morgan	
Margot Schuhmacher	
Caitlin Slattery	
David Taniar	

APOLOGIES (For the main meeting)

STAFF	STUDENTS
David Albrecht	Jesse Duffield (BCS 2nd Year)
John Betts	Julian Colantuono (BBIS 2nd Year)
Jennifer Flegg	Patrick Shaw (BSE 1st Year)
Mary Lim	Hayden Razzell (BSE 3rd Year)
Ingrid Zukerman	Kevin Vo (BICA 1st Year)
Robyn McNamara	
Yuan-Fang Li	

1. WELCOME

Sue commenced by welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanking them for attending.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No business arising from the previous minutes.

Previous Minutes: **Passed by:** Nandita Bhattacharjee   **Seconded by:** Alan Dorin

3. UNIT FEEDBACK

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FIRST YEAR UNITS

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FIT1004 Data management Maria Indrawan-Santiago (CE) and Manoj Kathpalia, Lecturer
Students are finding the lecture content more like Q & A sessions. Students feel that they are expected to have done all the readings prior to the lectures and then are required to answer questions about it throughout the entire lecture.

Overall, students feel that the lectures are wasteful, as very little content is delivered and the lectures are just used to quiz students on their knowledge. As for the questions asked of students, many students believe they are far too basic. For example, the question 'what is a primary key?' students are finding it is just a way of checking whether they have done the required readings.

A student representative had commented that if the questions require students to apply what they were supposed to have learnt from the readings, it would be a greater incentive for students to do the readings. As for the general structure of reading the textbook and then going to the lecture: there is little incentive for students to read from the textbook when it is very broad and covers a lot of content that isn't relevant to the unit. If the assigned readings were for unit-specific notes as opposed to the textbook, students would be more inclined to do the readings because they would know everything they were learning is important and relevant.

Students are also finding the lectures hard to follow along, as the slides are put up late. Students would like slides to be put up before the lectures.

FIT1008 Introduction to computer science David Albrecht, (CE)
Students are happy with the structure of the labs and tutorials. They are enjoying the lecture content and the examples that are being provided. However, students would like if the content for the labs and tutorials could be uploaded earlier. For example, the code for 'Hall of fame'.

FIT1010 Introduction to software engineering Chris Ling (CE), Yuan-Fang Li
Students are liking the structure and contents in the labs and tutorials. However, students are unsure about the notes they need to include in their e-folios every week. Chris Ling clarified this, by highlighting that students should be including their written notes, reading comments and reflections on what they have learnt etc.

FIT1013 IT for business Yen Cheung (CE)
In terms of the lectures, students are finding that the lecture slides explain how to use excel, however students are not physically shown or demonstrated what to do, which would be beneficial. Students find the lectures hard to understand, as they are not applying their knowledge during the lecture and therefore find they don't see the point of attending lectures. Suggestions were made by student representatives for the possible use of clickers during the lectures enabling more interaction and demonstration. However overall students are finding the tutorials helpful.

FIT1029 Algorithmic problem solving Julian Garcia (CE), Kerri Morgan
No Feedback

FIT1031 Computers and networks Sid Ray (CE)
Students are enjoying the tutorials and feel that they are understanding the unit content and the way in which it is being explained. However, students are finding this varies from tutor to tutor, with some tutors not providing enough explanations within their tutorials and instead wait for students to interact and ask questions. Students are finding that some tutors do not explain why they are doing things and how it should be applied for students to understand. Students have highlighted that Safi Uddin's tutorials are particularly enjoyed by students, as he provides

a brief summary of the lectures with examples within his tutorials, whilst other tutors do not do this. Students would like this to be seen and incorporated by other tutors.

Students are finding the lectures hard to understand. Students feel that the lectures are slow in parts about content that is not necessary and that the important parts of the lecture are shown too quickly and rushed, not enabling students to understand and grasp the concepts of the lecture.

FIT1040 Programming fundamentals Stephen Huxford (CE), Cheryl Howard
No Feedback

FIT1043 Introduction to data science Wray Buntine (CE)
No Feedback

SECOND YEAR UNITS

FIT2002 Project Management Margot Schuhmacher (CE)
Students are content with this unit. Students have only noted that during the last lecture they would have liked more information about the topic to be provided.

FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures Reza Haffari (CE), Arun Konagurthu
Students have been enjoying this unit. However, some students have been finding the lectures difficult to understand, but have found the tutorials do help with this. Students feel the lecturer misses some opportunities to ensure that students fully understand a concept before moving on. A student representative has suggested that it just requires something like getting a show of hands if the lecturer thinks students are unsure, because just asking the question isn't going to elicit a response from students due to shyness. It has been suggested that just getting a show of hands is that quickest way to go, without wasting time asking how students are going via a clicker question.

A student representative also noted on an example in which students may not have fully understood, which was in proving the fact that red-black trees were big Oh of log(n) in height, the first lemma could have been explained more fully. For example, why is the black height of the root's child greater than or equal to the black height of the root minus one, as opposed to just being equal to it? If it is greater then when you add the root back in you'll get a black height greater than the height of the root you initially had? It appears to be contradictory.

Overall, students are finding the tutorials helpful, but feel that the tutorials, in odd weeks, which are held in lab spaces are awkward with less student engagement. However, it has been mentioned that the reasons for this is possibly due to the minimised class spaces available due to the refurbishment of some of our FIT buildings.

FIT2014 Theory of computation Graham Farr (CE)
Students are enjoying the lectures and think Graham Farr is a great lecturer. Students enjoy and think the palindrome exercises are good. Within some of the tutorials, students are finding that due to the large amount of content to cover and to be written on the classroom whiteboards, tutors are seen rushing around between all four whiteboards trying to write as much of the content needed to be covered as possible, such as in room G11B.

FIT2043 Technical documentation for software engineers David Squire (CE), Robyn McNamara
Students are enjoying the unit and think Robyn is a great lecturer. The only request students have is they would like to have the tutorial material put up faster.

FIT2070 Operating Systems Bala Srinivasan (CE), Peter Tischer

Students are enjoying the lectures and tutorials. In particular, students are enjoying the quizzes in the tutorials, but would like there to be more exam based questions.

FIT2078 Introduction to security Nandita Bhattacharjee (CE), Ron Steinfeld

No Feedback

MAT2003 Continuous mathematics for computer science Jennifer Flegg (CE)

Students having been finding this unit hard to understand. Students have also found it difficult to raise their hand during the lectures in order to seek clarification, as it is a lecture and not a tutorial where students feel they can discuss any questions they may have.

THIRD YEAR UNITS

FIT3003 Business intelligence and data warehousing David Taniar (CE)

Students are finding the lectures to be more useful than the tutorials. Students are enjoying the lectures and think that the lecture slides and case study analyses are very good. However, students would like to see more discussions take place within the tutorials and would find this more useful.

FIT3013 Formal specification for software engineers Yuan-Fang Li (CE)

Students are enjoying the lectures and tutorials and are overall content with this unit.

FIT3036 Computer science project Alan Dorin (CE), Ingrid Zukerman

No Feedback

FIT3048 Industry experience studio project 1 Peter O'Donnell (CE)**,** Marc Cheong, David Grant

No Feedback

FIT3080 Intelligent systems Ingrid Zukerman (CE), Reza Haffari

Students are finding the tutorials difficult to participate in. Students have been feeling uncomfortable to come up in front of the class when answering questions, in case they make a mistake. Students feel they are given no incentives when it comes to participating within tutorials. Student representatives have suggested that possibly providing marks when students participate in tutorials maybe a good incentive to get students to be more engaged. Reza Haffari commented that Ingrid would like students to be engaged and hesitates to have an incentive, highlighting that 'learning' should be the incentive.

FIT3083 e-Business software technologies Stephen Huxford (CE)

Students think the lectures are fantastic. Students are also enjoying the tests and quizzes, as there is good discussions after about them. Overall, students are finding the unit is a lot of work, but are finding that the HTML cheat sheets are helpful and they like the readings. There has also been some concern from students in regards to the marking of their assessments. Stephen commented on this highlighting that marks are moderated.

FIT3088 Computer graphics Peter Tischer (CE)

No Feedback

FIT3107 Advanced programming for database applications David Taniar (CE), Aamir Cheema
No Feedback

FIT3136 IT governance and strategy for business Mahbubur Rahim (CE)
Students feel that the lectures are fantastic and very engaging. Students think that the hints for exams and tutorials aids to prepare students really well for exams. Students enjoy the tutorials, as the discussions are great and students get to discuss questions in small groups and then as a whole class.

FIT3138 Real time enterprise systems Mary Lim (CE)
No Feedback

FIT3139 Computational science Arun Konagurthu (CE)
Students are really enjoying this unit and find that Arun explains things clearly. The only concern students are having is in regards to the weight of marks in their assessments, in which they feel needs to be looked at. For example, the Labs, how are they marked? Is it just attendance?

FIT3142 Distributed computing Carlo Kopp (CE), Asad Khan
No Feedback

FIT3152 Data science John Betts (CE)
Students found weeks 1 and 2 particularly confusing. Students have suggested having the solutions put up on Moodle about the labs would be helpful. Students also feel that having a manual of formulas or cheat sheets would be useful and helpful in providing more structure for students to learn, but otherwise the unit is going well. Also, students would like to have the lecture slides put up before the lecture, rather than after, in order for students to read and prepare before the lectures.

FOURTH/FIFTH YEAR UNITS

FIT4002 Software engineering industry experience studio project David Squire (CE), Lachlan Andrew, Yuan-Fang Li, Robyn McNamara, Robert Merkel, Carlo Kopp
No Feedback

FIT4010 Advanced topics in algorithms and discrete structures Kerri Morgan (CE), Guido Tack
No Feedback

FIT4012 Advanced topics in computational science Julian Garcia (CE), Arun Konagurthu
No Feedback

ENGINEERING UNITS

ENG1003 Engineering mobile apps Jamie Evans (CE), Stephen Huxford, Marc Cheong
No Feedback

4. **OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS**

Meeting closed at: 1.57pm

Next meeting date: TBA, semester 2, 2015.