



## Clayton School of Information Technology Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 4, 2014

Date and Location: Tuesday September 23, 2014 at 2pm in Building 63 Room 115

Follow up meeting: Wednesday September 24, 2014 at 11.30 in Building 63 Room 115

---

### PRESENT

**Chair:** Sue Bedingfield

**Assistant to Chair:** Amelia Morrison

### STAFF

Phillip Abramson  
David Albrecht  
John Betts  
Nandita Bhattacharjee  
Alan Dorin  
David Dowe  
Graham Farr  
Stephen Huxford  
Asad Khan  
Yuan-Fang Li  
Sid Ray  
Caitlin Slattery  
David Squire  
Peter Tischer  
Paul van Haaster  
Ingrid Zukerman

### APOLOGIES (For the main meeting)

#### STAFF

Marc Cheong  
Sue Foster  
Reza Haffari  
Robyn McNamara  
Kim Marriott  
David Taniar

### STUDENTS

Keren Burshtein (BSE-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Serene Chia (BBIS-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Neha Chopra (BBIS-2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
Piyush Dhir (BSE-2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
Brett Dunn (BSE-1<sup>st</sup> year)  
Sonali Kapoor (BBIS-1<sup>st</sup> year)  
James Liu (BBIS-1<sup>st</sup> year)  
Sajeeb Asim Lohani (BSE-1<sup>st</sup> year)  
Antonyne Pushparajan (BSE-4<sup>th</sup> year)  
Manan Rana (BSE-1<sup>st</sup> year)

### Follow up meeting

Michael Billington (BCS-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Aaron Gruneklee (BCS-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Harshini Pannirselvam (BSE-4<sup>th</sup> year)

### STUDENTS

Michael Billington (BCS-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Sharlene Davey (BBIS-2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
Aaron Gruneklee (BCS-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Dana Lee (BBIS-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Andreas Limberopoulos (BSE-4<sup>th</sup> year)  
Milena Mitic (BSE-3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
Harshini Pannirselvam (BSE-4<sup>th</sup> year)  
Josh Parnham (BCS-1<sup>st</sup> year)  
Stefanie Yap (BSE-2<sup>nd</sup> year)

## 1. WELCOME

Sue commenced by welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanking them for attending. She is keen to also hear feedback from students who couldn't attend today and will be contacting them to organise a follow up meeting.

## **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

No business arising.

## **2. UNIT FEEDBACK**

FIT3083 was discussed first as Stephen Huxford needed to leave the meeting early.

### **FIT3083 e-Business software technologies** Stephen Huxford (CE/Lecturer)

Students find that the quizzes within lectures take up a lot of time. Labs are really hard and students find there is not enough interaction with the tutors. Stephen said he uses quizzes in lectures to keep students awake and alert for the whole lecture.

Lectures are a rehearsal for labs and students need to read through their lecture notes in preparation for labs. Some students feel the unit is too hard. Stephen takes the first lab of the week, and he hasn't noticed students having difficulties, so this is news to him. Stephen hears a lot of chatter in his lab about the subject matter and is really impressed that students are keen to talk about the unit material.

Further feedback was that most students are happy with the unit and it helps that quizzes aren't given out straight away in the lecture. There isn't much to change.

Finally, Stephen asked if students would like more or less quizzes? Students feel they are good preparation for the exam, so more time for quizzes would be useful. Students didn't feel that clickers would work well in these lectures.

Feedback at the follow up meeting was positive. Students think Stephen is a really good lecturer.

<b>FIRST YEAR UNITS</b>
-------------------------

### **FIT1004 Data management** Maria Indrawan-Santiago (CE), David Dowe (Lecturer)

Positive feedback. Students like the subject, the labs and tutes are good. Pre-lecture quiz set-up is good, and students would like them used again. The pre-lecture quizzes make students read before the lecture to know what it will be about.

### **FIT1008 Introduction to Computer Science** David Albrecht (CE/Lecturer)

Everyone likes the subject. Tutors are very good and labs are fun. David covers material in one week and labs cover that material the following week.

### **FIT1010 Introduction to software engineering** Ann Nicholson (CE), Yuan-Fang Li (Lecturer)

Lectures have become more interesting and more interactive. Tutes are very relaxing, Resmi's in particular, and he encourages students to come for help. Robyn's tute is awesome and fun.

### **FIT1013 IT for business** Yen Cheung (CE/Lecturer)

Lecture slides are very easy to follow. VBA could be explained in more detail, and some students would like more examples in lectures. Some of the learning is rushed.

### **FIT1029 Algorithmic problem solving** (David Albrecht (CE) Peter Tischer (Lecturer)

Feedback from one student who didn't have an IT background was that the mid-semester test was very tough, and students weren't given a proper explanation as to what would be included on the test. For example, algorithms were emphasised on the test but not in tutes, therefore tutes didn't prepare students well for the test. Peter noted that students with an IT background would find the subject okay, but those without an IT background may find it a challenge. He has two consultation hours, which he encourages students to attend.

### **FIT1031 Computers and networks** (Sid Ray (CE/Lecturer)

Content of tutes follow the lectures well and tutes prepare students well for the tests. Students know what is going to be in the tutes so there are no surprises. Vidya, a tutor, is very good. The tutes add on to the lectures, which is good.

### **FIT1040 Programming Fundamentals** Stephen Huxford (CE), Marc Cheong (Lecturer)

No feedback.

## SECOND YEAR UNITS

### **FIT2002 Project management** Rod Martin (CE/Lecturer)

Lectures and tutes work well together. Notes in lectures are great. There has been a clean-up of notes on Moodle (as noted in previous meeting), but further tidying up still needs to be done. Francesca, a tutor, is really good. She gives students extra information which she puts together on her own. Maybe her information could be used in all labs and given to students, as it is very helpful. The lecturer is fantastic and easy to follow, especially when he does exercises in class. Notes given in class may be better incorporated into a book of notes.

### **FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures** (Reza Haffari (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

### **FIT2014 Theory of computation** Graham Farr (CE/Lecturer)

Prolog is very hard, but Keren noted that students just have to deal with it.

Feedback at the follow up meeting was that a student felt that material from tutes last year is being used for assignments this year. This student is repeating from last year. This has been mentioned to tutors. Sue said she will follow up with Graham.

**ACTION: Sue Bedingfield to follow up with Graham Farr.**

### **FIT2043 Technical documentation for software engineers** David Squire (CE), Robyn McNamara (Lecturer)

Students are enjoying this unit, and find the content very useful in real life. Students would like LaTeX to be brought back into the unit.

### **FIT2070 Operating systems** Bala Srinivasan (CE), John Hurst (Lecturer)

Following issues raised at the last meeting, Keren spoke with John Hurst. It was suggested that the pre-requisites for this unit be re-considered. John has put a lot of work into tutes and labs, but it is a very hard unit. Students don't like the change to the lab questions, and find the week 9 exercises too brief. Please go back to the old format. Students would like to go back to learning 'C', instead of Python. Because it is more commonly used, 'C' would be more useful to learn; along with Linux. Sue asked that Keren please pass this on to Srini.

**ACTION: Keren to pass on feedback to Srini.**

Students at the follow up meeting noted that they had received only positive feedback about the unit.

### **FIT2078 Introduction to security** (Nandita Bhattacharjee (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

### **FIT2079 Data visualisation** (Kim Marriott (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

### **MAT2003 Continuous mathematics for computer science** (Michael Page (CE), Daniel McInnes (Lecturer)

No feedback.

## THIRD YEAR UNITS

### **FIT3003 Business intelligence and data warehousing** (David Taniar (CE/Lecturer)

Students are happy with the unit and are enjoying it. David is a great lecturer and there is good structure to the lectures. There is fantastic support from tutors, who ask students if they need help.

### **FIT3013 Formal specification for software engineering** (Yuan-Fang Li (CE/Lecturer), Lito Cruz (Lecturer)

Students are happy with the second half of the semester, but have doubts over the first part of the unit. Some students

like to have the two lecturers, for two reference points. Assignment two has not been released yet (week 9). Perhaps quizzes or clickers could be introduced into classes?

Yuan-Fang feels with only around 30 students enrolled in the unit (and about 12 who attend lectures), clickers are not required. He is trying to make lectures more interactive.

Feedback at the follow up meeting was from a student who liked the change in teaching styles between the two lecturers.

**FIT3036 Computer science project** (Sid Ray (CE/Lecturer), Ingrid Zukerman (Lecturer), Marc Cheong (Lecturer)  
No feedback.

Feedback was received at the follow up meeting. Students commented on the assessment given for the project specifications. The assessment was submitted in semester 1 and now students are being told that what they submitted was not 'researchy' enough. They feel that how the assignment has been assessed is not according to what was on the assignment sheet. Marc's group, (re. Twitter), have noted that they haven't met the assignment requirements. Sue said she will follow up with Sid Ray.

Regarding the second assignment, specs have been uploaded already and feedback is positive.

**ACTION: Sue Bedingfield to follow up with Sid Ray.**

**FIT3048 Industry experience project 2** (Peter O'Donnell (CE), Marc Cheong (Lecturer), Stephen Huxford (Lecturer)  
Students need to use CakePHP and asked why it wasn't taught earlier?

**FIT3051 Decision support systems for finance** Vincent Lee (CE/Lecturer)  
No feedback.

**FIT3080 Intelligent systems** Ingrid Zukerman (CE/Lecturer), Reza Haffari (Lecturer)  
No feedback.

Feedback was received at the follow up meeting. Students are concerned regarding the change of lecturers and styles and what they expect. Ingrid was the first lecturer and now Reza is lecturing. Students are not clear about what is required for lectures and tutes (although tute information is coming out earlier, which is positive). It would be good if the lecturer could put a slide up at the end of each lecture telling students what they need to read to prepare for the next lecture.

Students would like tutes to be longer (they are now only an hour long) because they usually don't have time to cover all tute material in class. For example, the five minute quiz usually takes 30 minutes. Sue will talk to Ingrid about this.

**ACTION: Sue Bedingfield to talk to Ingrid Zukerman.**

**FIT3088 Computer graphics** Peter Tischer (CE/Lecturer)

The unit is fun; although students would like more interactive lectures. This could include writing examples on the board, quizzes, or putting up code and fixing it live in class. Lecture slides are very straightforward. There is an emphasis on the maths side, but students would like more graphics. Peter noted that students did more graphics and less maths in the assignment.

Feedback from the follow up meeting was that there are only around seven students who regularly turn up to lectures. Assignment one was only vaguely related to lectures. Assignments have only been coming out as drafts and the final version of assignment one came out three days before the due date. Therefore some students were caught out. The same thing seems to be happening with assignment two.

Lectures are not very interesting and students find them low value. Labs are only every two weeks and it would be good if they were every week. Sue will discuss this feedback with Peter Tischer.

**ACTION: Sue Bedingfield to follow up with Peter Tischer.**

**FIT3107 Advanced programming for database applications** David Taniar (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

**FIT3136 IT governance and strategy for business** Mahbubur Rahim (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback. At the follow up meeting, students noted that they feel this is a valuable unit.

**FIT3138 Real time enterprise systems** Sue Foster (CE/Lecturer)

Students are pretty happy with the unit. They enjoyed the first part better than the second part. There is a lot of support in the unit. The lecturer is good and covers content well. Students would like FIT3138 to be offered in both semesters because it is a good subject and they would like the option to take it in either semester. In the subsequent meeting, students passed on positive feedback. The unit offers business related and practical learning.

**FIT3139 Computational science** Arun Konagurthu (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

Very good feedback was passed on at the follow up meeting. A few students have nominated Arun for a teaching award as he is very good.

Students need to attend a seminar every second Friday. For one of the seminars students claimed less than 24 hours notice was given, and it was hard for some students to attend as they had to change their work schedule, etc. The 5% attendance grade is opaque; what contributes to the 5%?

**FIT3142 Distributed computing** Carlo Kopp (CE), Asad Khan (Lecturer)

The lecturer is better now; more interactive. The Friday afternoon timeslot for the lecture may put students off attending, as well as a clash with FIT4002 and client meetings. Caitlin Slattery noted that there is no clash with the FIT4002 lecture, but that students may feel they have too much scheduled on a Friday afternoon to attend the FIT3142 lecture.

Feedback from the follow up meeting was that students are not happy with the lecture time; 2-4pm on Friday. There has been a drop in the number of students attending lectures. Asad has put on activities during lectures and this may be driving away students. Students could also be behind and this may be another reason they are not turning up. It was noted that the MURPA seminars are not recorded. Students prefer group work over individual work in labs.

**FIT3152 Data science** John Betts (CE/Lecturer), Sue Bedingfield (Lecturer)

There were mixed responses to this unit. Some wish they hadn't taken it, others feel it is not too bad. Lectures have improved and slides are now more detailed. Tutes have also improved and tutors are happy to go over pre-requisite information. Students feel the assignment was ambiguous. Sue mentioned that the assignment was meant to be open-ended, and that students in their second semester of third year should be able to cope.

#### FOURTH/FIFTH YEAR UNITS

**FIT4002 Software engineering studio project** David Squire(CE/Lecturer), Carlo Kopp (Lecturer), Kevin Korb (Lecturer), Robyn McNamara (Lecturer), Lachlan Andrew (Lecturer)

Students are okay with this unit. The seminar on swebok and discussing problems that students had in previous years would have been better earlier in semester, so that current students could have prepared differently. David Squire agreed that earlier would be better.

At the follow up meeting, students asked if the seminars could be recorded? Students really enjoy, and find interesting, the guest lecturers.

**FIT4010 Advanced topics in algorithms and discrete structures** Kerri Morgan (CE/Lecturer), Guido Tack (Lecturer)

No feedback.

**FIT4005/FIT5125/FIT5143/FIT2083 IT research methods** David Green (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

**FIT4012 Advanced topics in computational science** Aldeida Aleti (CE/Lecturer), Julian Garcia (Lecturer)  
No feedback.

**4. OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS**

Meeting closed at: 2.50pm

Next meeting date: TBA, semester 1, 2015.