The 2/2009 Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 28th of April 2009 in room 203/Building 72 at 1.00 pm.

Minutes

Present: A/Professor Lindsay Kleeman (Chair)
Prof Arthur Lowery
A/Professor Grahame Holmes
Dr. Andrew Price
Ms Ros Rimington

Students Present:
Elizabeth Anderson (Level 3 BE),
Andrew Bonavia (Level 3 / 4 BTE),
Ahmad Sammour (Level 3 BE),
Ashleigh Sun (Level 3 BE),
Wendy Ni (Level 5 BSc/BE),
Sarah Fitzpatrick (Level 3 BCom/Mechatronics),
Praneel Kumar (Level 3 BCom/Mechatronics),
Rory Paltridge (Level 4 BCSE)

Minutes

Level 4:
Comments were made concerning the labs in the unit ECE4012 Applied Signal Processing. Some students thought that the TI labs were not particularly suited to the unit due to the “plug and play” nature of the labs. Code was cut and pasted and run with no real understanding required by the student nor capacity to debug when things did not work. The tutorials were however useful for the learning of the DSP material. When pressed for other feedback from the 4th year representatives, the response was that the 4th years were “too busy to complain!”.

DGH reported that the elective unit ECE4055 would now run in semester 1 2010 and not this year and in its place the power systems elective ECE4053 will now run in semester 2 2009. A student meeting was held to discuss these changes and in fact many students had requested that ECE4053 be offered this year and the Department has responded to this request. However due to the limited teaching staff and resources of the department, there is a limit to the number of power electives that can be offered in any one year and hence the decision not to run ECE4055 this year.

ECE4077 labs were reported as now being interesting with new lab material. The first few labs were commented as “straight out of the MATLAB manuals” and not very useful.

Level 3:
The unit ECE3093 Optimisation, Estimation and Numerical Methods was felt to need a textbook with supplementary material to help students understand the material. One representative suggested that the Maths help desk be utilised and that this was not widely known about among engineering students.

Complaints were made concerning the difficulty of the ECE3092 reliability assignment. Students agreed that the difficulty was related to concepts involved and that once these were understood then the question could be solved relatively quickly.

**Level 2**

ECE2061 received several email complaints about the timeliness of material and DGH responded to this. He noted that the unit was being rebuilt due to the other changes in level two such as ECE2031 and moving of the second electronics unit to third year. Also the use of Elvis in the labs was not working as well as desired and the relevant labs also needed reworking. Due to the heavy demands, some material was unavoidably delayed but allowances were being made in the lab assessment for affected groups.

The meeting discussed at length the recurring topic of recorded lectures and attendance at lectures. There was considerable discussion and many varied opinions aired. Some felt that attendance was related to how well the lecturer connected with the students and the early morning lecture slots were not popular.

**Next scheduled meeting: Week 4 semester 2 2009**