



Faculty of Information Technology, Clayton Campus Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 2, Semester 1 2015

Date and Location: Tuesday 12th May, 2015 at 3pm in Building 63 Room 115, 25 Exhibition Walk.

PRESENT

Chair: Sue Bedingfield

Assistant to Chair: Daniela Rodrigues

STAFF

David Albrecht
Julian Garcia
Chris Gonsalvez
Daniel Horsley
John Head
Carlo Kopp
Arun Konagurthu
Robert Merkel
Mary Lim
Stephen Huxford
Paul van Haaster
Marc Cheong

STUDENTS

Tilly Wong (BBIS 1ST Year)
Nazim Rizvic (BBIS 1ST Year)
Jeddi Tirtowidjojo (BBIS 1ST Year)
Rebekah Chan (BBIS 1ST Year)
Julian Colantuono (BBIS 2nd Year)
Jared Blackman (BCS 1st Year)
Matthew Gueit (BSE 1st Year)
Patrick Shaw (BSE 1st Year)
Ramith Alwis (BSE 2nd Year)
Hayden Razzell (BSE 3rd Year)
Kevin Vo (BICA 1st Year)
Alexander Zenin (BICA 1st Year)

APOLOGIES (For the main meeting)

STAFF

Peter Tischer

STUDENTS

Michelle Chu (BCS 1st Year)
Jesse Duffield (BCS 2nd Year)
Sun Ju Choi (BSE 4TH Year)

1. WELCOME

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

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

FIT2001 Systems development (Chris Gonsalvez, CE)

S3 Lecture projector (right side) is darker than the left.

Action: Faculty to raise projector issue with technical service.

Voula contacted e-solutions, who have changed the projector's right side lamp.

The issue has now been corrected.

FIT2024 Software engineering practice (David Squire, CE and Robyn McNamara)

S1 Lecture theatre right projector is not turning on.

Action: Faculty to raise projector issue with technical services.

Voula contacted e-solutions to check the right projector and the projector is working.

3. UNIT FEEDBACK

FIRST YEAR UNITS

FIT1006 Business information analysis (John Betts, CE)

Students are enjoying this unit. Students would like more examples and exam type questions to be done in class. Especially with the heavy math questions students would like to be shown the working out and not just the answers. For example, in preparation for the mid-semester test there were not a lot of examples provided. Students feel that the test is too long for 'normal' people. Students would also like to have the lecture slides put up first before class and for there to be more content in the pre-readings, now that the unit is becoming more complex. Students like the use of the clickers and think that they help to create interaction and bring discussion between peers. Overall the unit and lecturer are amazing.

FIT1008 Introduction to computer science (David Albrecht, CE)

No feedback.

FIT1029 Algorithmic problem solving (Julian Garcia, CE)

Students are enjoying this unit. Students are enjoying the lectures and are finding them to be effective, easy to follow, very engaging and useful as many examples are provided. Students think the tutorials are also conducted well and the use of the clickers is good. Students also felt that the mid-semester test was done at a good level for students to understand. However, some students are finding the tutorial questions hard to understand and that they are different from the lectures, especially in group time. For example in week 4, students found 'Brute force' task particularly hard to understand. Julian Garcia commented that it is important for students to have discussions in the tutorials about the questions. Overall, students love the tutorials and lectures and feel that there is lots of examples and good discussion amongst peers, however in some weeks of late discussion has slightly dropped.

FIT1030 Introduction to business information systems (John Betts, CE and Mary Lim)

- Students are feeling that the lectures are too fast, however students understand that there is a lot of content to include.
- Students do not seem to be doing the work, but this is not with the lecturer. Lectures are well handed, but students are told to quiet as they keep talking.
- The lectures are good, but overall content heavy.
- Student find the extra material posted on Moodle is very helpful.
- Students are enjoying the tutorials and the quizzes, but feel that some terms in the quizzes are confusing.

The room Mary Lim uses has an echo however her online recording is clear with no echo.

Mary Lim noted that students at the front of the lecture room appear to be more engaged in the lecture content, then the students seated at the back. To ensure full engagement of the class, Mary conducts her lecture while walking around the lecture theatre, including the back of the lecture room. This is to ensure that all the students can hear her clearly and are attentively listening to the lecture material. Students have been really enjoying this approach.

FIT1040 Programming fundamentals (Stephen Huxford, CE and Marc Cheong)

Students are enjoying this unit.

- However, students are not finding the tutorials to be helpful.
- It has been helpful though to have the live demonstration going at Caulfield. Also students are enjoying the lab questions.
- Some students are finding some of the unit content complicated, but overall good.
- Students are also finding that the Clayton slides better to understand.

MAT1830 Discrete mathematics for computer science (Daniel Horsley, CE and John Head)

Students are enjoying this unit. Students like the format of the new lectures and like going through examples with the lecturer. However, students are finding the lecture notes hard to understand and feel that they are not needed. Students also feel that the support classes would be more effective if working in groups to start with (similar to

FIT1029), but then split for the remainder. Daniel Horsley commented on the plans of starting to have students working in groups in the tutorials. However, one of the student representatives mentioned that one of the main problems that can arise from group work is indecision, as students may waste time sitting and thinking rather than doing the work. Therefore, tutors must moderate and help students when required. Also, there is the problem of grades and submitting assignments.

Overall, students are finding the competitive whiteboard approach to tutorials (it may just be Michelle's tutorial) is great and makes for good collaboration and cooperative learning.

SECOND YEAR UNITS

FIT2001 Systems development (Chris Gonsalvez, CE)

Students are enjoying and loving this unit. However, some students feel that groups may not work, though they understand it can't be changed. Students also feel that there is not enough time to get everything done for assignments. Chris Gonsalvez addressed this concern by stating that there are 5 small assignments and it is believed that students can complete all these assignments in time. Some students are also concerned about the (CAT ME) peer assessment system. Chris Gonsalvez is not hundred percent happy with the system and is looking into it being reviewed or its future use.

FIT2003 IT professional practice (Kirsten Ellis, CE)

- Students are feeling that the assignments are not relevant to lecture content and feel they do not help with exam preparation or general unit learning. Especially the second group-based assignment, students would like it to be changed. However, students enjoyed assignment one.
- Students are feeling that the material is not relevant to the academic or the industry experience parts of their learning and feel that material is more for training for honours or research. For example, ranking 10 things on a desert island activity or fastest way to go through a hoop activity.
- Students are finding the e-folio activities in lectures useful, but feel that the e-folios should be for the tutorials rather than for lectures.
- Students would like to know if there are ways to moderate the variance in the marks students have been receiving. As no student received a C grade in their tutorial, however in other tutorials students received D's and HD's.
- For the five weeks of separate classes for Mindfulness, students feel that the program was not relevant or beneficial. It appears that some students have been writing journals that have not been entirely truthful. Many students went into the program with a negative mind set and therefore were not getting much out of the program. On a positive note, the program does help students to de-stress.
- The email feedback received by students, provided a more positive outlook on assignment 2, with students enjoying the team approach. However, one concern is that with the book source, students have expressed some confusion about whether their 500 words should refer to the entire book or a single chapter of it, considering that students do not have time to read the whole book, but also considering that sometimes a chapter is written by different authors.

FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures (Arun Konagurthu, CE)

Arun commented that students seem to be struggling much more with the learning material and finding assignments harder. The material from this unit has also been helpful for Industry Based Learning (IBL).

FIT2006 Business process modelling and workflow (Yen Cheung, CE)

Students like the unit and find it similar to FIT1030. However, students would like the software programs they are using to be explained in more detail, such as the program Extensium.

FIT2017 Computer models for business decision making (Mark Carman, CE)

There has been some mixed feedback from students. Some students feel that the lecture slides did not help for assignments. For example, the first assignment learning programming through the use of Excel was very challenging. Although tutors have got better, students feel they are not helpful and just refer to the lecture material. Also students feel that when they ask questions to their tutors, some of the tutors are unsure on how to answer the question. Students would like tutors to explain concepts more before examples.

FIT2024 Software engineering practice (David Squire, CE and Robyn McNamara)

Student representatives have been seeing that a lot of students have been dropping out from this unit. Students are feeling that the lectures and tutorials do not coincide. There is also not enough learning material about JAVA and not enough units have JAVA as a pre-requisite.

FIT2069 Computer architecture (Carlo Kopp, CE)

Students enjoy the tutorials and find the tutors good, but have noticed that the tutors are overly stressed and under pressure. Carlo Kopp commented that students have been unprepared for labs and this could be contributing to the tutor's stress.

FIT2081 Mobile application development (Stephen Huxford, CE)

- Students love this unit and are enjoying the lectures with the first hour being focused on the material and the second hour on the quiz.
- Students also love the help videos.
- Students feel that they are provided with good explanations in the lectures and enjoy the run through of the lecture at the beginning.
- Students also feel that the marking is inconsistent in tutorials and labs and that moderation is needed.
- Students are finding some of the new terms overwhelming, for example 'bundle' and that the pre-reading is a bit much.

FIT2082 Research Project 2 (Julian Garcia, CE)

No feedback.

FIT2083/FIT4005/FIT5125/FIT5143 Research methods in computer science/IT research methods (David Green, CE)

No feedback.

THIRD YEAR UNITS

FIT3036 Computer science project (Sid Ray (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

FIT3042 System tools and programming languages (Peter Tischer, CE)

Overall students are really enjoying the unit and the programming languages. However, students feel that the assignments are a bit long and that they have trouble getting through them.

FIT3047 Industrial experience project 1 (Peter O'Donnell, CE, Marc Cheong and David Grant)

No feedback.

FIT3051 Decision support systems for finance (Mary Lim, CE)

No feedback.

FIT3063 Human –computer interaction (Marc Cheong, CE)

No feedback.

FIT3077 Software engineering architecture and design (David Squire, CE and Robyn McNamara)

No feedback.

FIT3140 Advanced programming (Robert Merkel, CE)

No feedback.

FIT3143 Parallel computing (Asad Khan, CE)

No feedback.

FOURTH/FIFTH YEAR UNITS

FIT4002 Software engineering industry experience studio project (David Squire CE, Lachlan Andrew, Yuan-Fang Li, Robyn McNamara, Robert Merkel, and Carlo Kopp)

No feedback.

FIT4004 System validation and verification, quality and standards (Robert Merkel, CE)

No feedback.

FIT4009 Advanced topics in intelligent systems (Ingrid Zukerman, CE)

No feedback.

4. OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS

ENGINEERING UNITS

ECE2041 Telecommunications (Jamie Evans CE, Mike Biggar)

Students have really enjoyed this unit and think it is the best unit they have taken. Students like the labs and have enjoyed the technical hands-on work, which they think will be useful in the future.

Meeting closed at: 4.03pm

Next meeting date: TBA, semester 2, 2015.