Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting

The 1/2015 Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 1:00 pm 24th March 2015 in 201/35 16 Alliance Lane.

Minutes

Staff:  
A/Professor Lindsay Kleeman (Chair, Department Director of Teaching)  
Professor Jamie Evans (Head of Department)  
Ros Rimington (ECSE Programs Manager)

Students Representatives:  
Aaron Choong level 2 BCSE  
Dilini Himasha Tilakaratna level 2 BE/BComm  
Andrew Sheed level 3 BE/ Bachelor of Law  
James Salamy level 3 BMechatronicsEng/BSc (apology)

Minutes

The following were topics were discussed:

The number of demonstrators in lab sessions was raised. The waiting time for a demonstrator was considered too high in some level 2 units. A triage solution was suggested for large groups. In this model, some designated demonstrators would only provide quick answers and refer to other demonstrators for queries requiring longer answers. This may improve the average response times for students. Another model discussed is where fixed time labs are replaced by an open access lab model. Times and help desk style demonstrators could answer questions during timetabled hours in the week, with a deadline for submission and marking with feedback at the end of the week. Other alternatives discussed involved taking a ticket for demonstrator service or an app to register requests and access to demonstrators on a fair basis.

The teaching of C programming in ECE2071 was discussed. The issue raised was that students wanted more complete coverage and guidance of the C language syntax before they felt confident to tackle the lab problems effectively. Since programming languages are best learnt by practice and examples, the teaching program could encourage more out of class private experimentation and guided problem solving. There are many tutorial and C programming support tools online that would help.

Some lab sessions were scheduled before lectures that cover the material in the 2nd year labs, such as ECE2061. Whilst this may be deliberate in some cases, students felt they were not informed of that this would happen. The lab notes could explicitly state that lecture material will follow in these cases.

The use of the online audience response system MELTS was suggested as a means to improve engagement in lectures where there was little interaction with students.
The use of online lecture videos in place of live lectures was discussed. Student representatives thought that live lectures were still working well and favoured the current model. Some students report that they attend the live lecture and refer to the recording afterwards for completing notes that could not be copied during the lecture. Replacing the ECSE live lectures was not favoured by the student reps present.

A flipped learning model in a commerce unit was discussed where online material was expected to be viewed before a compulsory tutorial each week with compulsory testing of that material. The model was introduced this year and was reported as working well.

The meeting closed at 2 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: Week 8 Semester 1 2015