



Faculty of Information Technology, Clayton Campus Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 1, Semester 1 2017

Date and Location: Thursday 23 March, 2017 at 1pm in room 115, 25 Exhibition Walk (building 63).

PRESENT

Chair: Sue Bedingfield

Assistant to Chair: Daniela Rodrigues

Staff

Carsten Rudolph
Marc Cheong
Robert Merkel
Tom Chandler
Carlo Kopp
Arun Konagurthu
Stephen Huxford
Mary Lim
Daniel Horsley
Ammar Sohail

Students

Wilsin Lucianto
Cameron Fenech
Draga Doncila Pop
Jenny Thach
Jason Pan
Brock Leydon
Le Huy Do
Alice Parry
Sean Budd

Apologies

Staff

David Taniar
David Green
Julian Garcia
Aamir Cheema
Jojo Wong
Yen Cheung
Graham Farr

Students

Kaira Gupta
Augustin Nguyen
Christopher McDonald
Ramith Vinu
Nemanja Andjelic
Antoni Erdeg
Auliya Hidayat

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.

3. UNIT FEEDBACK

FIRST YEAR UNITS

FIT1006 Business information analysis John Betts (CE), Mary Lim

Students think that Mary is a great lecturer and that she is approachable and checks in to see if students are understanding the content. The Moodle page is also well structured and students are finding the pre-reading useful. Students like Mary's approach to the MARS questions and like that you get marks for participation. Students find MARS useful and a good way of learning, as they get to know the answers to the questions after. Some students have been concerned that the data generating app for students to analyse has been generating data abnormalities. Mary has said she will address this issue at the lecture on Friday and explain that the data being generated is correct and it is not creating abnormalities. Another concern students raised is that the lectures have been extremely noisy. Mary will be looking into reducing noise levels during the lectures.

EMAILED FEEDBACK: Students would like the handouts to be given out during the tutorial sessions instead of during the lectures. As this unit is fast paced, it has been suggested that having pre-tutorial activities and quizzes to test initial understanding before going to the lecture would be useful. Students have also asked if Mary could please re-state the question/answers given by the students in the lecture because sometimes the voices can't be heard on the lecture recording. Lastly, there has been some technical problems with MARS during the lectures. Mary is aware of this problem and it has now been resolved.

FIT1008 Introduction to computer science Julian Garcia (CE), Maria Garcia de la Banda

No Feedback

FIT1033 Foundations of 3D Tom Chandler (CE), Derrick Martin

Students think that Tom is a great lecturer and would actually like more lecturer time to better cover all the concepts in the unit. Students also enjoy the three hour studios, however they would like some time to work on their assignment in class.

The only thing some students are not particularly happy about are the timetable allocations with the very early and very late classes.

FIT1040 Digital futures: adventures in programming Marc Cheong (CE)

No Feedback

FIT1045 Introduction to algorithms and programming fundamentals in python Aamir Cheema (CE)

Students think that Phillip is a good lecturer and they like his enthusiasm. Phillip also uses MARS a lot and students are enjoying this and find it very engaging. Some students are finding there is a disconnection between the topics mentioned in lectures, tutorials and labs. In the early weeks of the semester, students had mixed feelings about some of the unit content, with some students finding it difficult and others finding it easy. The Student Reps also reported that some students are afraid to ask for help and need to be told to do their own reading and research outside of class time in order to understand the content. Some of the Student Reps have suggested that maybe Tutors should check in with students during tuts and labs to see how students are going with understanding the content. The Student Reps also suggested other ways in which the Lecturer and Tutors could check in with how students are going, such as possibly introducing a quiz, having more python based pre-reading to assist student, using Moodle, forums or Codecademy and to increase the PASS classes for students who need the extra assistance.

FIT1047 Introduction to computer systems, networks and security Carsten Rudolph (CE), Guido Tack

Students like that the unit covers a lot, however at the same time it can also be daunting for some students. Students have been irritated by some of the technical issues within the unit, such as equipment not working during the lecture. Some students have found difficulty in understanding some of the tutors due to language barriers, which has made it challenging for students to understand the concepts being explained. However many students have found positives in attending the PASS sessions to get further assistance. It was mentioned that more PASS classes have been opened, however some students may not know about these extra classes, and Student Reps may need to advise students who are having difficulties with the unit to attend. The quizzes are going good and students are finding it is a great way of checking the student's knowledge from what they have learnt throughout the week. Student Reps have also suggested in having practice quizzes as a revision tool. There are tutors who are already doing this in their classes and students are finding them useful. The labs are also going well, however students have reported they would like more time to ask questions, rather than just going through each topic.

FIT1049 IT Professional practice Kristen Ellis (CE), Chris Messom

Student Reps have reported that as the lectures run for two hours, this at times can seem too long and feels as though the lectures drags on, especially when there are no guest speakers.

FIT1050 Web Fundamentals Janet Fraser (CE)

The lectures are held in lecture theatre E3, which has been extremely hot during warmer days with no air conditioning or ventilation. Students like Janet as their lecturer and find her very engaging to listen to. Students are finding that the lectures are theory heavy, whereas the studios offer a more practical element to the unit. Students at times feel that there are some gaps in the content between the lectures and studios. Most students like the studios because they can get a lot of work done, however others, possibly more experienced students, find it too long and less engaging.

FIT1051 Programming foundations Stephen Huxford (CE)

Students think Stephen is a good lecturer and enjoy the live coding and seeing it done in practice. Due to the 8am early workshop classes, Stephen is aware that some students have not been attending the workshops, and are having their friends, who have been attending, send them the quiz answers outside of class to complete, making it appear as though they had in fact attended the class. Stephen will be looking into this issue, as although we understand that some students do live quite far from campus, this unit does have an attendance requirement and students need to be present to participate in the workshops. For the students actually attending the workshops and taking part in the quizzes in class are finding the quizzes positively challenging and enjoy the class discussions. Student Reps have suggested possibly having extension tasks available on Moodle for the more experienced students, which do not need to necessarily be marked, but are just to further encourage and challenge student learning in the unit.

EMAILED FEEDBACK: This feedback relates particularly to Nawfal's lectures. When the lecturer writes the code, some students have found it difficult to understand as the lecturer is not running the java program showing the outcome, but instead asks students what the result or error is. Students feel that further explain or demonstration would be useful, however they understand there are time constraints, as there is a lot to cover in the 1 hour lecture. However, students enjoy the fact they can play around with the code during labs instead. It has been suggested that students with less experience in coding should start early to familiarise themselves with coding, such as using Codecademy. It has also been suggested that maybe sessions in coding for beginners could be offered during summer or during the semester break in order for students to gain a better understanding of what coding is about. For some of the lectures, the microphone hasn't been turned on and therefore the recorded lecture is not

available to be listened to. However, students are overall finding the lectures good. Lastly, if possible, students have requested that the reading materials be uploaded in pdf format or ppt slides, as students are not able to download reading materials with the use of the Alexandria program, which at times can be inconvenient.

FIT1052 Digital futures: IT shaping society Steve Wright (CE)

Students are enjoying this unit and find the topics interesting. Some students are finding the pre-readings take a lot of time to get through. Overall, students think that Steve is a good lecturer and although students at times feel the lectures can seem a bit long, it allows for the unit content to be covered at a slower and steady pace.

MAT1830 Discrete mathematics for computer science Daniel Horsley (CE)

Students are enjoying this unit. Some students would like to request more opportunities for class participation, such as possibly having quizzes with a student poll and seeing after how students went with their answers. Students have also reported that some tutors mark the class assignments differently, with some tutors marking more strictly and others not so much. They have suggested that the marking of assignments requires more moderation. The tutorials are going well and students think the tutors are helpful, knowledgeable of the unit content and very informative. However, students want there to be more practice questions.

Overall, students find the unit is very organised and structured. Students also think the unit provides opportunities for intuitive understanding, whilst being engaging and fun.

SECOND YEAR UNITS

FIT2001 Systems development Yen Cheung (CE), Mahbubur Rahim

No Feedback

FIT2002 IT project management Mary Lim (CE)

No Feedback

FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures Arun Konagurthu (CE)

No Feedback

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

No Feedback

FIT2069 Computer architecture Carlo Kopp (CE), Asad Khan

No Feedback

FIT2074 Technology, information and organisations Martin Atchison (CE)

No Feedback

FIT2081 Mobile application development Stephen Huxford (CE)

Overall students had positive feedback for this unit. Students are enjoying the workshop questions and find that it encourages students to attend the lectures. As the unit moves quickly, students with less experience in Java find the unit difficult, especially during the first few weeks of the semester. Overall the python (FIT1045) background students particularly find java challenging.

EMAILED FEEDBACK: Students feel that some of the tutors are not participating in Moodle discussions, instead there is much more student to student communication. As tutors can be busy marking lab work, some students feel they are not getting much help from the tutors during lab sessions. Also some students are having problems with understanding the lecture quizzes and rely on the quiz feedback to identify their own mistakes and knowledge gaps, as the quiz solutions are not published and students receive the marks, but no written feedback.

FIT2083 Research methods in computer science David Green (CE)

The second year students taking this unit are feeling that the unit is not aimed for tailored for them. Some students are unsure of what they need to be doing into terms of needing to find a research goal. A student rep is to further discuss this with David.

FIT2085 Introduction to computer science for engineers Maria Garcia de la Banda (CE), Pierre Lebodic

No Feedback

FIT2091 Creative computing studio 1 Mark Power (CE), William Lay (TA)

No Feedback

FIT2093 Introduction to cyber security Nandita Bhattacharjee (CE), Carsten Rudolph

Overall this unit is going well. Students who are interested in cyber security are really enjoying this unit.

EMAILED FEEDBACK: The lecture recording on 17 March only recorded 40 minutes of the lecture and not the full 2 hours. Therefore, the full lecture is not available to be listened to on Learning Capture Tools. This also occurred in week 1, with the lecture not recorded at all.

FIT2094 Databases David Taniar (CE), Aamir Cheema

Overall the unit is going well. The concern at the moment is that some students are finding their tutorials to very noisy.

FIT2096 Games programming 1 Matthew Butler (CE), Chris Messom

As students are finding that the lectures can be quite theory heavy, they are finding it difficult to be engaged for the entire duration of the lecture. The use of MARS helps to break up the lecture and keep students engaged.

FIT2099 Object oriented design and implementation David Squire (CE), Robert Merkel, Robyn McNamara

Students are finding the lecture theatre (E1) extremely hot during warmer days. As there is a lot of content covered during the lecture, students have suggested having slides with a summary of the content from the lecture and textbook would be helpful. Robert mentioned that in future (possibly next semester) he will be looking into introducing a walkthrough component, which will provide students with a summary of the unit content. However, as this is a new unit, this is still a work in progress. Students feel some of the wording in the unit content can be interpretative and can be at times challenging. Overall, students are finding the labs are going okay.

THIRD YEAR UNITS

FIT3036 Computer science project Marc Cheong (CE), Jojo Wong

No Feedback

FIT3042 System tools and programming languages Robyn McNamara (CE)

No Feedback

FIT3063 Human-computer interaction Marc Cheong (CE)

Students are really enjoying this unit and find the lecturers very engaging. Students also like Marc's enthusiasm and think his teaching style is very good. Students like that Marc updates the lectures slides and unit content regularly to keep up with the latest information on unit concepts.

FIT3077 Software engineering: architecture and design David Squire (CE), Aldeida Aleti

No Feedback

FIT3134 IT-based entrepreneurship Chris Gonsalvez (CE), Chris Behrenbruch

No Feedback

FIT3140 Advanced programming Robert Merkel (CE), Nawfal Ali (TA)

Students Reps reported that this unit provides students with lots of freedom to work on the unit tasks. However, less experienced students find this freedom daunting, as they are unsure what they need to be doing and require more direction and assistance.

FIT3143 Parallel computing Asad Khan (CE), Alan Dorin, Chris Watkins

Students are enjoying this unit and are finding the lecturer upbeat. Students are also enjoying the MARS questions and find it engaging. However, students have mentioned that they would prefer to do the questions throughout the lecture rather than all of them at the end.

FIT3169 Immersive environments Tom Chandler (CE), Mike Yeates (TA)

Students are enjoying the lectures and think the live examples are good. Students also like the tutorials and enjoy both Tom's and Mike's teaching styles. The Student Reps reported that there were some technical issues in the first few weeks of the semester, with the computers in their tutorials not having the right software required for the unit, such as necessary games development software.

FOURTH/FIFTH YEAR UNITS

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

No Feedback

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

No Feedback

FIT4005 Research methods in information technology Michael Morgan, David Green (CE)

No Feedback

FIT4010 Advanced topics in algorithms and discrete structures Graham Farr (CE), Lachlan Andrew

No Feedback

FIT5143 IT research methods Michael Morgan, David Green (CE)

No Feedback

4. OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS

The Student Reps have received extremely positive feedback regarding the Peer Mentor Program. Students really enjoy the program and the opportunities it provides towards building friendships and take part in a range of fun activities.