MONASH University

Faculty of Information Technology, Clayton Campus
Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 1, Semester 1 2016
Date and Location: Thursday 24th March, 2016 at 2pm in room 115, 25 Exhibition Walk (building 63).
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PRESENT
Chair: Sue Bedingfield
Assistant to Chair: Daniela Rodrigues

STAFF	STUDENTS
David Albrecht	Rebekah Chan (BBIS 2nd Year)
Arun Konagurthu	Jeddi Tirtowidjojo (BBIS 2nd Year)
Marc Cheong	Kritina Gupta (BBIS 2nd Year)
Kerri Morgan	Benjamin Ng (BBIS 3rd Year)
David Dowe	Chenyang Wang (BBIS 3rd Year)
Carsten Rudolph	Nikolaj Frey (BCS 1st Year)
John Betts	Timothy Aung (BCS 1st Year)
Daniel Horsley	Michelle Chu (BCS 2nd Year)
Robert Merkel	Amanda Tan (BCS Adv (Hon) 1st Year)
Alan Dorin	Apoorv Kansal (BCS Adv (Hon) 1st Year)
	Kevin Vo (BICAH 2nd Year)
	Matthew Gueit (BSE 2nd Year)
	Nikolas Skoufis (BSE 3rd Year)
	Antoni Erdeg (BInfoTech 1st Year)
	David San (BInfoTech 1st Year)
	Jueun Han (BInfoTech 1st Year)

APOLOGIES (For the main meeting)

STAFF	STUDENTS
Julian Garcia	Harshini Ganesh (BInfoTech 1st Year)
Robyn McNamara	Nhat Long Le (BCS 2nd Year)
Mark Carman	Andrew Tang (BBIS 3rd Year)
Stephen Huxford	Julie Van (BInfoTech 1st Year)
Mary Lim	Jesse Duffield (BCS 3rd Year)

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. <u>UNIT FEEDBACK</u>

FIRST YEAR UNITS

FIT1004 Data management - David Taniar (CE), Aamir Cheema
Students are enjoying the content of this unit and are finding it interesting. However, the 8am classes have a mixture of students that are interested, but also others that are not so much, possibly due to the early start of that class. A student representative has made the suggestion of possibly having 2, 1 hour lectures instead of 1, 2 hours lecture in order to break it up and keep the attention of students for the entire class.

Overall, most students are enjoying the lectures. They are finding it engaging and like the quizzes and discussions. However, students have reported that there are some topics that are not covered in the lectures and this causes confusion when students are attempting the quizzies on Moodle, lab work or moving forward to a new week's contents.

FIT1006 Business information analysis - John Betts (CE)
Students are enjoying this unit and feel that the lecturer really gets involved. Overall, students find the lectures are very engaging and interactive.

FIT1008/FIT2085 Introduction to computer science - Julian Garcia (CE), Jojo Wong
Students feel that the lecturer explains the content well. However, students think the 3 hour labs are too long and find that students always seem to be leaving early. Students are mainly going to the labs to be marked off for attendance. In terms of class work, most students do work before their class and therefore find they don't do much work during their labs. Most students stay in the lab for about an hour and a half, but then decide to leave if they have completed their work or do not have any further questions.

FIT1030 Introduction to business information systems - Mary Lim (CE)
Students are enjoying the lectures and content of this unit. Overall, students feel this unit is going well.

FIT1033 Foundations of 3D - Tom Chandler (CE)
Student representatives have commented that the lectures and tutorials are well presented and explained. The lecturer covers the basics of the unit content and goes through everything you need to know. This is especially helpful for the students who have not done it before. Overall, students are very content with this unit.

FIT1040 Digital Futures: Adventures in programming - Marc Cheong (CE)
Students are feeling that since this unit primarily focuses on scribble, it gets rid of things you need to know to progress into doing FIT2081 (java level). Overall, the unit is well presented and interactive, with opportunities of asking and answering questions. In particular, students feel that Brendon Taylor tutors well and is very helpful.

FIT1045 Introduction to algorithms and programming - David Albrecht (CE), Kerri Morgan
Students are liking the tutorials and enjoy the group discussions. They feel the lecturer walks around, interacts and helps out students a lot. They also think that the lectures are taught at a good pace and students can follow the content. The only main concern students are having with this unit, is that they are finding what they need to do for the assignments vague and would like further clarification.

Student representatives have also made a suggestion of having the quizzes moved online in the future, for example possibly through the use of MARS software. This change would get rid of the need for students having to purchase and use clickers for the quizzes during lectures.

FIT1047 Introduction to computer systems, networks and security - Carsten Rudolph (CE), Guido Tack
There are students who are loving the content of this unit, but there are others who are finding it difficult. Students are feeling that the content is rushed and topics are getting overlooked, for example students felt the clock signals topic was rushed. Students are also finding it difficult to follow and understand the lecture slides. Therefore, some students feel they are not getting a lot out of the lectures, but seem to learn more during the labs.

Students think that there should be longer lab duration, as they are feeling that the tutors are struggling to finish on time and are not able to cover all the content required. Students also find it challenging to understand the lab work on their own attempts after reading and attending the lectures. Most students are very concerned about passing this unit due to these difficulties. Overall, students are finding if they miss part of the content being discussed, they feel that they start to fall behind very quickly.

Suggestions have been made by student reps to perhaps provide page references in the text books and any unit topic materials that students can refer to. Students will then be able to read and learn basic concepts for the unit or to simply catch-up on topics they may have missed in class. Students have also suggested that it may be good to explain really obvious parts of the lecture in a simple way for students to understand clearly. Students are finding the unit difficult, especially if they are not doing self-study and research to find the answers to questions or concepts they are having trouble understanding.

In regards to these student's concerns, Carsten commented that there is only 1 textbook that is mainly utilised and much of the material in the textbook is not covered in this unit, which makes page referencing difficult. Carsten has noted this feedback and will be looking into these concerns.

FIT1050 Web fundamentals - Janet Fraser (CE)
Students are generally content with this unit. Questions given in the unit are technically challenging but engaging. Students feel it's a hit and miss with some of the tutors. Some students really enjoying their tutorials, while other students are not, depending on the tutors they have.

FIT1051 Programming foundations - Stephen Huxford (CE)
Students are liking this unit and feel that it encouragingly forces them to read the required materials, which assists them with their marked worked for the unit. However, for students who have little to no experience in programming found the teaching to be fast paced and are having difficulty learning Java. Students also feel that there is too much information to digest in a week to prepare for their labs. Overall, students think the tutors are good, helpful and willing to assist students with their questions.

FIT1052 Digital futures: IT shaping society - Steve Wright (CE)
Students think the lecturer goes through the unit content well, by going through the basic concepts of the unit. There is also a lot of interaction within the class, including videos at the end of the class and opportunities to ask questions. Students can relate to the information and this also helps them to remember it. Students also think the tutorials are great. They enjoy answering the questions in the tutorials and find it is interactive.

MAT1830 Discrete mathematics for computer science - Daniel Horsley (CE)
Students find this unit challenging, but are enjoying the content and the use of examples and abstract concepts. The lectures are explained well, which students are content about, as there were conceptions and concerns that this unit would be very hard to understand. Students are also liking the assignment and are not finding it too difficult. The only main concern students are having is in regard to the practice questions. Students feel there is not enough time being spent going through them. Daniel commented that if students have any questions or need further assistance, especially with the practice questions, to please come and chat to him. Overall, the tutorials are great and helpful.

SECOND YEAR UNITS

FIT2001 Systems development - Chris Gonsalvez (CE), Cheryl Howard, Mehran Vahid
Students are finding the tutorials are good. However, students have been finding the lectures hard to follow and feel that there is a lot of jumping from topic to topic. Students also feel that there is a lot of rushing through the material towards the end of lectures, which makes it difficult for students to absorb the information given. Students are also not clear on the first assignment and what they need to do in it.

FIT2003 IT professional practice - Kirsten Ellis (CE)
Students are enjoying the lectures and find it interesting. They feel it is an easier unit to do and find some if its contents applicable to life situations. Overall students are enjoying the unit and many are loving the meditation components.

FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures - Arun Konagurthu (CE)
Students are overall very content with this unit and feel the unit is taught in a very clear manner. Students also feel that there is enough time within the labs and tutorials to cover the material clearly.

FIT2006 Business process modelling and workflow - Yen Cheung (CE), Anthony Wong
Students are finding that the unit content can be dry at times. Student reps have advised that they have spoken to Anthony regarding this issue. Overall, the tutorials are good, however when going through some of the questions, students feel that the tutor does not reach a conclusion, or final answer on the question at hand.

FIT2017 Computer models for business decision making - John Betts (CE), David Dowe
Students are enjoying this unit. Some students are finding the tutorials to be more useful than the lectures as there is more interaction with students and more examples are given. John commented that he prefers to look at one example in-depth in order for students to really grasp what is being discussed, rather than looking at too many questions at a basic level.

FIT2024 Software engineering practice - David Squire (CE), Robyn McNamara
Students are feeling that the labs are being marked unfairly, and that loss of marks is based on very small specifications in the questions. Students are also feeling that they spend most of their time marking their lab work during their tutorials. Students have also raised the issue of this unit not having any consultations. Students would like there to be consultations organised for students to attend and seek assistance from their tutors. Similarly, students are finding that some particular tutors are not willing to help, especially during labs.

FIT2069 Computer architecture - Carlo Kopp (CE)
Students are finding the lectures and labs to be very interesting and enjoyable. Overall, students feel there is a reasonable understanding of content and are happy with this unit.

FIT2081 Mobile application development - Stephen Huxford (CE)
Students have suggested whether the quizzies (which are normally done in the lecture) could be possibly done during the tutorials instead, or outside of lectures, such as online? Students would also like to see more consultations available, as there are only 2, and they feel there is a need for more.

Students are very content with the lecture notes and find the lecturer does as a good job in emphasising the importance of getting the readings done. However, some students at times neglect reading the notes and therefore attempt winging it when they go to do their quiz. Also students are finding some of the tutors hard to understand and feel that they don't explain things that clearly. Students would like tutors to explain things in more detail. For example, some students find themselves copying the code during labs, rather than knowing why.

Students are also regularly finding that the tutorial rooms are always locked for their 8am classes. Overall, students and tutors are also having issues logging into the computers. They are finding it takes a long time to log on and for tutors to even have access the material they need for their classes. Our administrative staff have been aware of these computer issues and it has been under investigation by our IT staff.

FIT2083 Research methods in computer science - David Green (CE)
Students are content with this unit. Students are finding the content layout is explained well in the tutorials. The assignments are also good, as they are marked and released early, returned within the 2 weeks.

FIT2085 Introduction to computer science - Julian Garcia (CE), Jojo Wong
Please refer to notes under FIT1008.

THIRD YEAR UNITS

FIT3036 Computer science project - Marc Cheong (CE), Jojo Wong
No feedback

FIT3042 System tools and programming languages - Robyn McNamara (CE)
Students are finding this unit to be okay so far. There is though some concern that students feel some of the material would have been useful if learnt in 1st and 2nd year, prior to commencing this unit.

FIT3051 Decision support systems for finance - Mary Lim (CE)
No feedback

FIT3063 Human-computer interaction - Marc Cheong (CE)
Students are loving this unit and find it interesting. However, students find some examples are out of depth and too hard to understand. Also some students really enjoy the videos, however there are others that don't so much.

FIT3077 Software engineering: architecture and design - David Squire (CE), Robyn McNamara
Students are finding this unit is going well so far. However, they feel that there is a lot of unit material repetition and overlapping with other FIT units. Also, there is a need for more explaining of certain topics, for example the design patterns, in which some students are finding difficult to understand.

FIT3140 Advanced programming - Robert Merkel (CE)
Students are generally satisfied with this unit so far.

FIT3143 Parallel computing - Asad Khan (CE)
No feedback

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 - David Green (CE)
No feedback

FIT4009 Advanced topics in intelligent systems - Ingrid Zukerman (CE)
No feedback

FIT5143 IT research methods - David Green (CE)
No feedback

4. <u>**OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS**</u>

Meeting closed at: 3:11pm