



Clayton School of Information Technology Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 3, 2014

Date and Location: Tuesday August 19, 2014 at 2pm in Building 63 Room 115

PRESENT

Chair: Sue Bedingfield

Assistant to Chair: Amelia Morrison

STAFF

Phillip Abramson
David Albrecht
John Betts
Alan Dorin
David Dowe
Reza Haffari
Resmi Hasankolli
Stephen Huxford
Asad Khan
Yuan-Fang Li
Sid Ray
Caitlin Slattery
David Squire
David Taniar
Peter Tischer
Paul van Haaster

APOLOGIES

STAFF

Marc Cheong
Graham Farr
Carlo Kopp
Robyn McNamara
Kim Marriott
Ingrid Zukerman
Mahbubur Rahim

STUDENTS

Keren Burshtein (BSE-3rd year)
Serene Chia (BBIS-3rd year)
Sonali Kapoor (BBIS-1st year)
Sajeeb Lohani (BSE-1st year)
Josh Parnham (BCS-1st year)
Antonyne Pushparajan (BSE-4th year)

STUDENTS

Sharlene Davey (BBIS-2nd year)
Aaron Gruneklee (BCS-3rd year)
Dana Lee (BBIS-3rd year)
James Liu (BBIS-1st year)
Manan Rana (BSE-1st 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.

2. UNIT FEEDBACK

FIT1008 was discussed first as David Albrecht needed to leave the meeting early.

FIT1008 Introduction to computer science David Albrecht (CE/Lecturer)

Students like the unit, especially Python. James Liu, via email, added that the lecturer is engaging and the material is explained very well and is interesting.

FIRST YEAR UNITS

FIT1004 Data management Maria Indrawan-Santiago (CE), David Dowe (Lecturer)

Everyone loves this unit, especially the use of clickers. The feedback has been positive and the lecturer is good and funny. Some students don't have a good attitude in class but David answers them well. Some students feel that the same material was covered over and again in weeks three and four.

It was noted that clicker questions are embedded in lecture slides in FIT1008 and this is a good way to present them. Students queried whether this could be the standard approach to asking clicker questions in lectures? David commented that he is new to using clickers and he will need to research how to embed clicker questions. He will speak to colleagues to ask how they do it.

James Liu provided feedback by email regarding this unit. He noted that concepts are explained clearly and that lectures are easy to follow. Although the lecture slides are difficult to see from the back of the lecture theatre and would be better if they were full-screen.

FIT1010 Introduction to software engineering Ann Nicholson (CE), Yuan-Fang Li (Lecturer)

Students like this unit. Tutes and labs are fun, and students have a bit of free time in the labs. Lectures early in semester were not very interactive, but most recent lectures have been more interactive, which students like. Yuan-Fang said that he wants to make lectures as interactive as possible, but the problem is that he doesn't get many students answering and interacting.

FIT1013 IT for business Yen Cheung (CE/Lecturer)

Most students are finding the lectures boring. There are two hour lectures going over Excel formulas. The information is presented, but students can't work with it in practice. Labs are good, especially Peter.

James Liu added that lecture slides are easy to follow and key points are made very obvious, however material is very dry and not engaging.

FIT1029 Algorithmic problem solving (David Albrecht (CE) Peter Tischer (Lecturer)

No feedback.

FIT1031 Computers and networks (Sid Ray (CE/Lecturer)

Students commented that Sid is behind in lectures. There is a lot of content to cover in each lecture, over 100 slides, and they are going through week three lectures in week four. Therefore, lectures are not moving as quickly as students would like. Sid responded by saying he has started the week four material (this is week four) and will continue in the lecture tomorrow, but may not finish the week four material by the end of this week. It is expected that students do a lot of reading at home, for example, regarding history, and if this happened he wouldn't need to spend as much time on it in lectures. Overall, he is about 25 minutes behind in lectures.

One student noted that it is easier to match lectures with weeks, rather than have lectures run over a couple of weeks, but Sid said he has put his notes in terms of topics rather than weeks. The organisation of slides needs to be done in order to be less confusing to students. Sid also commented that he puts all lecture notes on Moodle. Overall, Sid advised that he will try and speed up the pace of his lectures, but a consequence may be that students who are behind may fall further behind.

James Liu noted that lots of resources are available on Moodle, such as study guides. This helps tremendously in understanding key concepts.

FIT1040 Programming Fundamentals Peter O'Donnell (CE), Stephen Huxford (Lecturer)

No feedback.

SECOND YEAR UNITS

FIT2002 Project management Rod Martin (CE/Lecturer)

Topics are easy to understand, the lecture theatre is a good size for the number of students (and the theatre is full) and tute instructions are easy to follow. Lectures are good and very interactive. Detailed instructions may not be necessary, as it is a 2nd year subject. Moodle is a bit messy and overloaded with notes from different lecturers, as the unit is being taught at Clayton, South Africa and Malaysia and each lecturer has their own way of doing things. Students can work out which material is from which lecturer, but it may be easier to add e.g. CL or SA to information to make students aware of which campus the material relates to. It may also be useful to combine all notes into a reading pack and ask students to buy it or put it up on Moodle where all course information is located.

FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures (Reza Haffari (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

FIT2014 Theory of computation Graham Farr (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback in the meeting, however Aaron Gruneklee, via email, said that Rebecca Robinson is a really good lecturer and that students have said her explanations of material make it easier to follow and understand. Chris Monteith is also very good at explaining theories and approaches to solutions for the problems presented.

FIT2043 Technical documentation for software engineers David Squire (CE), Robyn McNamara (Lecturer)

No feedback.

FIT2070 Operating systems Bala Srinivasan (CE), John Hurst (Lecturer)

This unit is similar to Project management. The lecturer seems to use a personal version of Moodle and it can cause confusion, as the marking allocations are different on Moodle to the unit guide. Are the labs marked? The personal version of Moodle is also difficult to read as it is in a text format and not printable. Students would like tutorial solutions. Some students don't know Python, so more assistance learning this would have been good.

Aaron Gruneklee added that the assignment 1 specification was vague and students are unsure how to go about writing the code.

ACTION: Sue will follow up with Srini and John Hurst.

FIT2078 Introduction to security (Nandita Bhattacharjee (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

FIT2079 Data visualisation (Kim Marriott (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

MAT2003 Continuous mathematics for computer science (Michael Page (CE), Daniel McInnes (Lecturer)

No feedback.

THIRD YEAR UNITS

FIT3003 Business intelligence and data warehousing (David Taniar (CE/Lecturer)

Everyone likes the lecturer and he explains things well. Tutors explain things well. Assignments and tute questions can be lengthy and students don't always finish by the end of the tute. A suggestion was that students could be asked to start questions before class. David said he will take this feedback on board.

Dana Lee, via email, said "so far so good".

FIT3013 Formal specification for software engineering (Yuan-Fang Li (CE/Lecturer), Lito Cruz (Lecturer)

Students were expecting the unit to be hard. Lectures are lengthy and boring, and students would like them to be more

interactive. Students are expected to complete tute questions before tutes and they would like them to be discussed in lectures. Students like that there are weekly labs as well as tutes. Yuan-Fang agreed that the material is difficult.

FIT3036 Computer science project (Sid Ray (CE/Lecturer), Ingrid Zukerman (Lecturer), Marc Cheong (Lecturer)
No feedback in the meeting, but Aaron Gruneklee commented that Marc Cheong is a good supervisor. The information report due in week six says to read the specification for the report, although there is no specification document on Moodle.

FIT3048 Industry experience project 2 (Peter O'Donnell (CE), Marc Cheong (Lecturer), Stephen Huxford (Lecturer)
No feedback

FIT3051 Decision support systems for finance Vincent Lee (CE/Lecturer)
No feedback.

FIT3080 Intelligent systems Ingrid Zukerman (CE/Lecturer), Reza Haffari (Lecturer)
No feedback in the meeting, and Aaron Gruneklee said he has received no positive or negative feedback from students, but they seem to be enjoying the subject.

FIT3083 e-Business software technologies Stephen Huxford (CE/Lecturer)
There is an excellent learning curve in this subject; they covered three languages in three weeks. It is very challenging, demanding, but structured in a way that students know what is going to happen. Students need to work hard. Students are hoping they will build something with the languages they have learned. They like the interactive lectures and quizzes in lectures – although they can be distracting. Having less quiz breaks in the lecture helps because students may still be working on questions when Stephen starts lecturing again. Week three was the best so far because there were only two quizzes, and therefore less breaks in the lecture. Stephen noted that he needs to more clearly delineate between lecture time and question time.

Students would like around two weeks spent on the Java script portion of the unit. Students feel that lecture notes are very full and not needed in the lecture. They understand that Stephen needs to have lots of information in his lectures and students need to take home work to practice on. Perhaps he could make a pdf of his notes that students could take home?

Dana Lee also noted that students are finding it very demanding; 15 hours of lab work counts for 2% and students are feeling overwhelmed that they are required to absorb so many programming languages when this is only week three. Students are “clueless how they are tested with questions they have not learnt yet”.

FIT3088 Computer graphics Peter Tischer (CE/Lecturer)
Slides are good and topics are interesting. Labs are fun. Moodle is very organised, but students are frightened of the maths – perhaps Peter could provide more maths examples? Peter noted that students can use the Moodle forum to bring up this point.

Students are confused by the assignment. Peter commented that there is enough information for students to get started on the assignment and there will be more information coming on how to complete other parts of the assignment.

Aaron Gruneklee mentioned that a full version of the assignment uploaded onto Moodle would be great – there is only a draft version available online and it is due in two weeks.

FIT3107 Advanced programming for database applications David Taniar (CE/Lecturer)
No feedback.

FIT3136 IT governance and strategy for business Mahbubur Rahim (CE/Lecturer)
No feedback.

FIT3138 Real time enterprise systems Sue Foster (CE/Lecturer)
Everyone is happy with this unit, lectures are very interactive and there is lots going on. Lectures are full and labs are good. Sue is very good. No complaints.

Dana Lee commented that “students LOVE the lecturer. She is so enthusiastic, very engaging, and she sets enough example for implementation of ERP program.”

FIT3139 Computational science Arun Konagurthu (CE/Lecturer)

The unit was very hard at first, but it is now becoming more reasonable. Students would like more examples.

FIT3142 Distributed computing Carlo Kopp (CE), Asad Khan (Lecturer)

Labs are good, and lecture slides are filled with text. Students would like more interaction as they feel the lecturer is reading off the slides. Asad noted a problem with attendance from week one of semester, with only eight to nine students attending. He is trying not to read from slides and is adding further information, especially from week three, so lectures will be more interactive.

Students would like more practical examples of exam style questions in labs. Students would also like confirmation of what will be on the assignment, as they’re not sure at this stage.

FIT3152 Data science John Betts (CE/Lecturer), Sue Bedingfield (Lecturer)

The unit is very interesting and there is a logical sequence of topics, which is easy to follow. Slides are a bit vague and maybe not helpful in understanding concepts. For example, using ‘R’ and the functions in ‘R’. Concepts are explained well in lectures, but not in tutes. More information is required. Students would like an expansion of the concepts talked about in lectures. The subject is very hard and students need a lot of time to go over the concepts.

There is an assumption that everyone remembers information from pre-requisite subjects. Sue said that it is not assumed, but students can always go back and find information they need.

John mentioned that he is not sure how much more to add to lecture notes without making them too full.

FOURTH/FIFTH YEAR UNITS

FIT4002 Software engineering studio project David Squire(CE/Lecturer), Carlo Kopp (Lecturer), Kevin Korb (Lecturer), Robyn McNamara (Lecturer), Lachlan Andrew (Lecturer)

More detailed deadlines would be good. The unit guide is correct, but Moodle needs updating. There are issues regarding client expectations, and managing their expectations. David mentioned that this is his first time taking this unit, and he realised that some clients want more than students can provide. They have been advised of this. But this can also be a useful experience in negotiating expectations.

The guest lecturers in semester 1 were great and David said guest lecturers will be presenting again this semester.

FIT4010 Advanced topics in algorithms and discrete structures Kerri Morgan (CE/Lecturer), Guido Tack (Lecturer)

No feedback.

FIT4005/FIT5125/FIT5143/FIT2083 IT research methods David Green (CE/Lecturer)

No feedback.

FIT4012 Advanced topics in computational science Aldeida Aleti (CE/Lecturer), Julian Garcia (Lecturer)

Students are enjoying the unit.

4. OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS

Paul van Haaster advised that the toilets in building 25 are being locked at 8pm each night. However students can now use the toilets across from room G12A in building 26.

Meeting closed at: 2.55pm

Next meeting date: 23 September 2014 at 2pm in room 115, building 63.