



Faculty of Information Technology, Clayton Campus Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 2, Semester 1 2016

Date and Location: Tuesday 3rd May, 2016 at 2pm in room 115, 25 Exhibition Walk (building 63).

PRESENT

Chair: Sue Bedingfield

Assistant to Chair: Daniela Rodrigues

STAFF

David Albrecht
Guido Tack
William Lay
Omid Zanganeh
David Dowe
Jason Ceddia
Stephen Huxford
Daniel Horsley
Ian Wanless
Julian Garcia
Mary Lim
Asad Khan
Alan Dorin
Carlo Kopp

STUDENTS

Chenyang Wang (BBIS 3rd Year)
Michelle Chu (BCS 2nd Year)
Emily Dao (BCS Adv Hon 1st Year)
Matthew Gueit (BSE 2nd Year)
Sajeeb Lohani (BSE 3rd Year)
Antoni Erdeg (BInfoTech 1st Year)
Harshini Ganesh (BInfoTech 1st Year)

APOLOGIES (For the main meeting)

STAFF

Marc Cheong
Robyn McNamara
Steven Wright
Thomas Chandler
John Betts
Kerri Morgan
Robert Merkel

STUDENTS

Rebekah Chan (BBIS 2nd Year)
Tilley Wong (BBIS 2nd Year)
Andrew Tang (BBIS 3rd Year)
Jared Blackman (BCS 2nd Year)
Nhat Long Le (BCS 2nd Year)
Apoorv Kansal (BCS Adv (Hon) 1st Year)
Kevin Vo (BICA(H) 2nd Year)
Julie Van (BinfoTech 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 from the previous minutes.

3. UNIT FEEDBACK

FIRST YEAR UNITS

FIT1004 Data management - David Taniar (CE), Aamir Cheema

Students are enjoying the unit and they particularly like the weekly quizzes, as they ensure students complete the pre-reading. Students have suggested that pracs should be marked, to give students an incentive and to stay on top of their workload. David will be considering this.

FIT1006 Business information analysis - John Betts (CE)

Students are doing well in this unit. Students find that John provides very detailed notes, which students find very helpful. Students would also like to have some samples provided for assignments 2 and 3, as some students are unsure for how to do the assignment. Lastly, students felt the recent test they sat was overall good.

FIT1008/FIT2085 Introduction to computer science - Julian Garcia (CE), Jojo Wong

Students are enjoying the laboratories for the unit, as it provides opportunities for students to complete challenging questions. On the other hand, tutorials have not been perceived by students as useful, as students feel that some tutors just instruct students to complete the question without providing assistance. Julian will be looking into this issue further.

FIT1030 Introduction to business information systems - Mary Lim (CE)

The student's main concern with this unit was in regards the overall unit structure in terms of work and assignments. Students felt they was a large gap between assignment 2 interviews done during the semester break and the final assignment, which was due way after the interviews. Students were also finding that some of the work has been done already for assignment 2, before even completing work for assignment 1. Mary commented that she had informed students in the lecture about this issue and had apologised to students regarding the interviews having to be scheduled during the Semester break. Mary would have preferred to have the interviews after the assignment.

FIT1033 Foundations of 3D - Tom Chandler (CE)

Students are enjoying this unit and are not having any issues. Students are particularly liking the tutorials and find them interactive. For example, if students do not understand something, the lecturer provides useful demonstrations.

FIT1040 Digital Futures: Adventures in programming - Marc Cheong (CE)

The only concern students are having with this unit is that they are finding it hard to finish the required work on time. Arguably, the student reps have highlighted that Marc has informed students in his lecture, that unit tasks are uploaded the week before, for students to commence working on the tasks earlier. Therefore they should have enough time and tutor consultations for assistance in they need in order to complete the required tasks for the unit.

FIT1045 Introduction to algorithms and programming - David Albrecht (CE), Kerri Morgan

Students have expressed confusion of whether this unit focuses on python or algorithms and struggling to find a balance between the two.

Students enrolled in the BInfoTech with no prior experience or knowledge to python and programming are feeling that the fundamental core of programming is being overlooked and overall not enough time is being spent on python. These students finding this unit more challenging have expressed that they would like the lecture to explain code either block-by-block or line by line where possible. In the future, students have also suggested that having additional workshops would be useful in the early stages of starting the course. These workshops would enable students to go through basic tools and functions of python before implementing them to solve complex algorithms and puzzles.

On the other hand, computer science students have expressed that they feel the unit is trying to teach python through another language C. Some students feel that the lecture slides lack consistency and they are unsure of what

to aim for in their own work. Overall, students like the abstract problem solving and feel it is taught extremely well. Students also think the tutorials and workshops link very well with the lecture's content, which is a positive change from some of the original concerns students were feeling about this.

David Albrecht commented on this feedback, highlighting that as a new unit, the integration and structure of the unit may not be completely there yet. Python maybe going too quick for some students, who are finding it challenging, but it's good to hear that the lectures are now linking well with the workshops. David is happy to take on-board any suggestions from students. He also encourages students to attend the tutor consultations, if they require further assistance or to come speak to either Kerri or himself.

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

Students feel that as there is one textbook, there needs to be more annotations in the slides and links between the unit content and real life contexts or applications of IT. This will help students to complete tasks and assignments.

Students also feel there is a need for more tutor consultations, as students are finding that they have class clashes with the current tutor consultations that are available. Students have also suggested that maybe having PASS sessions for this unit in the future would be useful to students having difficulties.

Students have been struggling with the overall pace of the unit and find that it is very content heavy. For example, the time spent on the topics; clocks and binary simplification were not enough. Weaker students, in particular have requested an optional 60 minutes of class to help consolidate theory knowledge or to have labs extended to 3 hours, as theory takes up lab time and forces students not to finish on time. In particular, a student representative commented that students have also been struggling with MARIE, and felt as though the learning curve to assembly language was too steep. Suggestions have been made to possibly introduce the topic later in the semester, giving students time to learn basic programming first.

On a more positive note, students did enjoy the one-off video demonstration and would like to see this approach seen in future lectures. Students also enjoy Guido and Carsten's lectures.

FIT1050 Web fundamentals - Janet Fraser (CE)

Students are enjoying this unit and particularly appreciate the summary slides that have been created for them.

FIT1051 Programming foundations - Stephen Huxford (CE)

There has been some students who have expressed dissatisfaction over the compulsory requirements of having to attend the tutorial in order to be able to attend the labs, or students won't be marked. Although, it does encourage students to attend all classes, students feel it should not be compulsory. Stephen commented that the compulsory requirement aims to assist or push students, who are not doing so well, to work alongside others who are. A student rep, also made the suggestion of having PASS sessions set up, in the future, for students that need the extra assistance with this unit.

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

Students are content with this unit. The lectures are interactive, as students are able to ask and answer questions. Also, students are finding the unit material good and find it useful that they have opportunities during labs to communicate with other students in groups.

MAT1830 Discrete mathematics for computer science - Daniel Horsley (CE)

Students are enjoying this unit. Student reps have commented that the weekly assignments are good revision. Some students have suggested that including a Mid-Semester test for the unit would be helpful, to provide insight to the exam structure and generally see how students will perform under pressure. Daniel has commented that he thought by not having a Mid-Semester test would help to not place extra stress on students. Daniel also highlighted that the weekly assignments give students a good indication of the exam structure and if students can do the assignments without too much difficulty, then they should be okay with the exam.

Some students have also commented that they find the transition from Daniel to Ian difficult, due to their teaching styles. For example, Daniel tends to explain unit concept before getting students to apply them, whereas it has been commented by students that they feel Ian assumes much more prior knowledge on certain topics, such as limits, factorial and other pre-calculus concept. Lastly, it has been noted that students who have just done further maths, find they have more difficulty with this unit. It is felt that students need to have done methods or specialists maths to be better capable of doing this unit and understand the content.

SECOND YEAR UNITS

FIT2001 Systems development - Chris Gonsalvez (CE), Cheryl Howard, Mehran Vahid

Students would like the lecturer to be more assertive. Students have not yet spoken to Mehran regarding this concern. Overall, students are enjoying the unit and have suggested that they would like the lecture slides put up the week before.

FIT2003 IT professional practice - Kirsten Ellis (CE)

Students are overall content with this unit. The only main concern students have raised, is that they have been told they cannot get full marks for e-folios due to the bell curve and this worries students. Also, students have commented that the folio activities have not been put up for students. Sue is to follow-up with Kirsten regarding this concerns. Overall, most students have been enjoying the mindfulness components of the unit.

FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures - Arun Konagurthu (CE)

The feedback from students for this unit has been overall very positive. Students feel that the lecturer is enthusiastic and inspires students to learn. Students really appreciate this approach. The only concern raised by some students, was in regarding to assignment 3, where students felt the specifications of marks were ambiguous. Arun has commented that this done on purpose. Arun also took the opportunity to comment on students that have been disruptive during the lectures by constantly talking, even if he tells them to 'Please be quiet'. The student reps will be passing on this message to the fellow students to be mindful of.

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

No feedback.

FIT2017 Computer models for business decision making - John Betts (CE), David Dowe

Student have expressed positive feedback for this unit, particularly in regards to the first assignment. Students feel that the report and feedback on Moodle for their assignments was good and provided lots of detail and comments.

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

Some students have expressed that they are not enjoying their tutorials. Students have also raised concerns that there is still a high need for more tutor consultations outside of lab classes.

FIT2069 Computer architecture - Carlo Kopp (CE)

Students are enjoying the labs for this unit so far, with the exception of week 8, which students found was too hard and a huge step then in previous labs.

FIT2081 Mobile application development - Stephen Huxford (CE)

No feedback

FIT2083 Research methods in computer science - David Green (CE)

No feedback

FIT2085 Introduction to computer science - Julian Garcia (CE), Jojo Wong

No feedback

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 overall satisfied with this unit and are getting their assignments returned on time, in which students are content about. Students have also expressed that Moodle is used well for this unit and have commented that the Moodle templates for each unit seems to be different. David Albrecht expressed that having the different Moodle templates enables Academics to have a bit of freedom when setting out their Moodle page for their unit and that overall certain templates are better suited depending on the style and structure of the unit.

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

No feedback

FIT3063 Human-computer interaction - Marc Cheong (CE)

Students have been really enjoying the unit and overall have no issues.

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

Students have commented that the assignments are now being returned on time, which was a previous issue some students had raised. Students are also finding that less students have been turning up to the labs, as students are not needing the labs as much at the moment.

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), 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. OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS