Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting

The 4/2013 Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 15th October 2013 in room 203/Building 72 at 1.00 pm.

Minutes

Staff:  
A/Professor Lindsay Kleeman (Chair)  
Professor Jamie Evans (HoD)  
A/Professor R Andy Russell  
Mr Geoff Binns (ECSE Resource Manager)

Students Representatives:  
James Salamy (1st yr Mechatronics/BSc)  
Brendan Wreford (5th yr BSc/BE)  
Gabrielle Syliuris (2nd year)  
Ben Ebsworth (4th yr BSc/BE)

Minutes

Feedback related to evening weekday access to 10 pm of ECSE labs first floor 35 was discussed. The current trial runs from week 9 to end of week 12 (this meeting is in week 11) and is supervised by a postgraduate students from the HelpDesk team to provide student supervision, security and OHS oversight. Approximately 40 to 50 students are present each night with numbers starting to taper off around 9 pm. There have been no reports of OHS problems or security concerns. Student feedback has been very positive. Students have been using the labs mainly for ECE3091 Design but other units are also represented such as ECE4075 Real Time Embedded Systems, ECE2072 Digital Systems and ENG1030 Electrical Systems.

Students have asked for a means to provide requests for computer software and drivers on the lab computers. The students report that requests to eSolutions are ignored. The drivers for the CROs in the lab have been requested for example. One approach is to email the relevant unit coordinator who can submit requests to eSolutions on behalf of the students.

The committee discussed the assessment of ECE3091 where it was suggested that too much emphasis was placed on the competition results rather than the functionality of the robot designed. Coming up against a good opponent can unfairly lower a groups’ assessment. Also the issue of teaching students scheduling skills was discussed since many students leave the design project to the last minute or underestimate the time required for each part. One approach that relies on setting deadlines each week would not achieve improved scheduling skills since the deadlines provide that scheduling rather than the student setting their own deadlines. It was agreed that an earlier deadline for the prototype may be a good compromise.

Alternative online means for collecting student issues were discussed such as websites that order issues based on voting of the students.

The meeting closed at 2 pm. **Next scheduled meeting: Week 4 Semester 1 2014**