Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting

The 4/2011 Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 6th of October 2011 in room 203/Building 72 at 1.00 pm.

Present:
A/Professor L. Kleeman (Chair)
Ros Rimington
Professor A Lowery (HoD)

Students Representatives Present:
Amirhossein Bahmanpour
Andrew Ringenbergs
Xuan Tong

Minutes

The chair reported that the last scheduled meeting was delayed due to the illness of the chair. The recent staff restructuring that occurred in the Department was discussed. Students were concerned about the perception of uncertainty in the teaching programme. However once the semester was underway this concern has proved unfounded since all units are running well and no units have been cancelled.

The third year design has been well received by students with a new design robot competition underway. There was a perception that Mechatronic students were at an advantage in that unit until it was pointed out that Mechatronic students do a different design unit in third year. These mechanically skilful students were actually ECSE students! There was some reported overlap in ECE3091 design lecture material with other units and the material being seen as too generic in nature. Student felt that lectures were not particularly useful since much of the design and teamwork learning was obtained in the laboratory by doing rather than listening.

The power core and elective units have been reported to be going well with good support in the laboratories.

Some CRO equipment problems were reported.

In ECE4075 some students reported that the preparation in real time systems from ECE3073 was not adequate since the laboratory and lectures were restricted to the last few weeks of semester. This problem will be rectified in the next offering of ECE3073. It was noted that the performance in the laboratory test was very good this year however.

In ECE4024 the lecture scheduling did not always allow for good preparation for the laboratories. A student commented that the two halves of the unit were quite disjoint and the lectures chopped and changed too much between them.
There was some discussion of the difficulty for overseas students to find vocational work. Also the deadline for applying had shifted earlier in the year to around March/April for the following Summer since many companies were combining their recruitment of graduates with vocational work students. The Engineering Australia website was cited as very useful in obtaining information about availability of work from various companies.

Next scheduled meeting: Week 4 Semester 1 2012