Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting

The 3/2011 Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 24th of May 2011 in room 203/Building 72 at 1.00 pm.

Present:
A/Professor L. Kleeman (Chair)  
Ros Rimington  
A/Professor R A Russell  
Dr. Andrew Price

Apologies:
Professor A Lowery (HoD)

Students Representatives Present:
Amirhossein Bahmanpour  
Andrew Ringenbergs  
Hannah Ervin  
Meng Wang  
Mohammad Zohair Fazilati

Minutes

ECE2011 – The chair reported that the coordinator of ECE2011 has responded to previous items of the committee as follows:

1) "The first was in connection with the tutorials and involved the limited time between the tutorial questions being made available and the actual tutorial class (where it is assumed the students will have attempted the problems). "
   This is not true, all the tutorials are available online. The complete and detailed solutions are made available after each tutorial.
2) "The connection between the lectures (highly abstract) and tutorial problems (more applied) was a concern. Would be nice if lecturer went through some tutorial style problems on the OHP."  
   My level of abstraction in the lectures increased after the last student complaint. Filling the gap between lectures and tutorial is exactly the effort that is required from the students to learn this subject.
3) "Also a concern that because the past exam questions are recycled from year to year they have become a test of memory alone."  
   The mid semester test was nowhere recycled and even had some completely new questions (such as prove the nonlinearity of a system). The average mark was not high. This shows it was not so easy and definitely not mnemonic but conceptual. In fact it accurately discriminated on the amount of work that the students put in self studying.

Students representatives reported that they liked the feedback provided by the mid semester test and it provided useful motivation to work harder.
ECE2061 – the feedback from students was very positive about the labs, tutorials and lectures.

ECE3092 – lecture attendance was reported as low and the lecturing style difficult to follow, particularly the systems engineering component of the unit. Students commented that the material would be more useful once they had a few year’s experience in industry.

ECE3073 – students appreciated the extension of the lab hours in the last week so they could complete the lab work and liked the unit.

ECE3022 A concern was raised about the use of CST software in the labs and whether additional licences could be obtained or the software be made available on machines in other laboratories. It was subsequently reported later in the meeting by AP that 50 licences were available and this seemed to be reasonable.

The selection process was queried for 4th year projects and how student could find a topic. At present students are expected to ask individual academics and discuss projects one on one. Some academics posted topics on the Blackboard site and the chair will investigate whether better dissemination of project topics can be arranged.

Week 12 revision was discussed now that week 13 of teaching has been abolished at Monash in line with other Australian universities. It was noted that there was no common approach for revision lectures in week 12 although most units used some form of revision.

TRC3500 was reported to be very popular with students, particularly the hands on laboratory work. RAR took the credit for developing the unit and chair noted that JL was responsible for improving the unit evaluations recently after a couple of years of poor evaluation when the unit was taught using casual lecturers.

Next scheduled meeting: Week 4 Semester 2 2011