Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting

The 1/2009 Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 24th of March 2009 in room 203/Building 72 at 1.00 pm.

Minutes

Present:  A/Professor L. Kleeman (Chair)
A/Professor G. Holmes
Dr. Andrew Price
Ms Ros Rimington

Apologies: Professor Arthur Lowery

Students Present:
Elizabeth Anderson (Level 3 BE),
Andrew Bonavia (Level 3 / 4 BTE),
Ahmad Sammour (Level 3 BE),
Ashleigh Sun (Level 3 BE)
Wendy Ni (Level 5 BSc/BE)
Sarah Fitzpatrick (Level 3 BE)
Praneel Kumar (Level 3 BCom/Mechatronics)
Rory Paltridge (Level 4 BCSE)
Manish Pahwa (Level 3 BCom/BE)
Brendan Li (Level 3 BCom/BE)

Watson Doyle introduced the purpose of the committee as a forum for discussion of course matters and a mechanism for student feedback to improve the student experience and quality of education. Student representatives were encouraged to become known in class so that students can email items for discussion on this committee. Student representatives’ email addresses are published on the Departmental webpages accessible to enrolled students.

Comments were made about recorded lecture videos being a very good resource especially during the examination period for revision purposes.

Access to computer labs was highlighted as a problem – this was due to failure of the centralised automatic scheduling of locking/unlocking of rooms and this was being addressed. This did raise the suggestion that a simple mechanism be set up for reporting facility and equipment problems, such as a website or generic email address. This will be followed up by LK and announced on the ECSE website and on lab notice boards.

Level 3:

The following comments were made concerning ECE3093: difficult to follow, logical flow was compromised by the lack of proofs, too much sampling of results, examples were good and relevant to engineering, and the tutor Alan Couchman (an ECSE graduate) was very good for engineers without strong Mathematical background. The chair discussed the fact that the previous year many comments were received
on this committee concerning ECE3093 and these were used to revise the material and one comment from last year concerned the presentation of too many proofs and it is interesting that these are now sought after again by some students.

In Applied DSP ECE4012 more tutorials were requested at the start of lab sessions. The mathematical background was needed to better understand the laboratory exercises.

Level 4:

The 4th year thesis was discussed and the suggestion made by a student representative that the class could be emailed about relevant deadlines and organisation. AP pointed out that all this information was provided on the Blackboard site and student should look there for this information.

ECE4077 labs were commented as “straight from the Matlab book” and follow the recipe style instruction and that more creative labs would be more useful.

Problems at the faculty level with registration of elective units for 2009 with WES was discussed and how some units were not listed correctly. Although the problem was rectified later by faculty, students were concerned that they should be emailed when enrolment availabilities change since they then may wish to change their enrolment in response to these changes.

DGH reported on changes to electives in the power area and that a meeting with students concerned was held to discuss the running of ECE4053 this year and follow on effects with other power elective scheduling. DGH will outline these changes in a revision to the ECSE undergraduate guide online.

Next scheduled meeting: 28th April 2009