MONASH University

Faculty of Information Technology, Clayton Campus
Student/Staff Meeting

Meeting 2, Semester 2 2016
Date and Location: Tuesday 20 August, 2016 at 2pm in room 115, 25 Exhibition Walk (building 63).
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PRESENT
Chair: Sue Bedingfield
Assistant to Chair: Michelle Leclair

Staff		**Students**
Phillip Abramson	Carlo Kopp	Nikolaj Frey (BCS 1st year)
Joshua Akerstein	Yuan-Fang Li	Matthew Gueit (BSE 2nd year)
Nawfal Ali	Kerri Morgan	Joshua Nelsson-Smith (BSE 2nd year)
John Betts	Rebecca Robinson	Ghina Yashar (BSE 2nd year)
Jason Ceddia	Guido Tack	
Alan Dorin		
Julian Garcia		
Reza Haffari		

Apologies

Staff	**Students**
David Albrecht	Emily Dao (BCS Adv (Hons) 1st year)
Marc Cheong	Antoni Erdeg (BInfoTech 1st year)
Arun Konagurthu	Harshini Ganesh (BInfoTech 1st year)
Robyn McNamara	Apoorv Kansal (BCS Adv (Hons) 1st year)
Jojo Wong	Andrew Tang (BBIS 3rd 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

FIT1008 Introduction to computer science Julian Garcia (CE), David Albrecht

Lectures are great and Julian is fun and engaging. The tutorials are fun and students look forward to them.
Phillip Abramson asked why lecture attendance was poor and the response was that the lecture slides were quite
good and covered everything. Some students felt that they could catch up in the tutorials and labs.
Julian said that he would be interested to hear feedback on the new lecture timetable of 3 x 1 hour lectures as
opposed to 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour lecture.

EMAILED FEEDBACK - The lecturers are very thorough and clearly know the content. The labs are well presented and
organised. Some students have said they are glad that large assignments (spanning across 2 weeks) have checkpoints
as it forces them to work continuously on the project rather than last minute work. However, a number of students
feel that the code reviews should not include ratings but only descriptive feedback as they feel uncomfortable to
provide lower ratings.

FIT1013 Digital futures: IT for business Yen Cheung (CE)

No feedback.

FIT1041 Research Project 1 Guido Tack (CE)

No feedback.

FIT1043 Introduction to data science Wray Buntine (CE), Mark Carman

The most recent assignment is relevant to the real world. Students would like more support for technique and syntax
for Python code. Students felt that the tutorial did not cover the required material. Mark is a very enthusiastic
lecturer.

FIT1045 Introduction to algorithms and programming Kerri Morgan (CE), Aamir Cheema

No feedback.

FIT1046 Creative computing foundations Thomas Chandler (CE), Derrick Martin

No feedback.

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

No feedback.

FIT1048 Foundations of C++ Matthew Butler (CE), Tim Dwyer

Students are finding that using Windows and Visual Studio to learn C++. Students feel this is a bit restrictive.

EMAILED FEEDBACK - The lecturer is very friendly and welcoming. He clearly knows the content well and a lot of
students enjoy the way he tries to map key concepts to simple real life scenarios and games. The breaks in lectures
are useful for some students as it gives them a quick opportunity to ask questions personally. Although this unit is
tailored for both beginners and advanced programmers, some students feel that it would be beneficial to have 2
separate units. I have spoken to a few experienced C++ students and most of them say they only started attending
lectures after week 7 or simply watch lectures online at a faster speed.

FIT1049/FIT2003 IT professional practice Chris Messom (CE), Ann Nicholson, Josh Akerstein

Overall students are pleased with the lectures and they are well presented. Some of the content however can be too simple or obvious. Josh responded by mentioning that with the semi-flipped classroom mode, he does go over some key points during the lecture. This is also because according to clicker responses, around 50% of students are not doing the pre-reading.

FIT1051 Programming foundations Stephen Huxford (CE), Marc Cheong

No feedback.

MAT1841   Continuous mathematics for computer science Daniel McInnes (CE)

Students feel that Daniel goes through the material too fast and they leave lectures not feeling confident. Students also reported that the other lecturer for the unit, Dr Michael Payne, is a bit too slow although they do acknowledge that it is his first time lecturing. Students would like more focused explanations to their questions.

EMAILED FEEDBACK - Some students feel that there is just too much content and the theory is being rushed through. Some students have complained that in the second assignment, there were questions that did not really test the concept knowledge and instead had a major emphasis on long and tedious algebraic manipulation. Tutorials have been a positive as students work actively in groups to solves question - a very similar style to MAT1830 Discrete Maths.

SECOND YEAR UNITS

FIT2001 Systems development (Caulfield) David Squire (CE) Mahbubur Rahim

Students felt that there was an overlap with this unit and FIT2043, FIT2024, FIT2002 and FIT1010. Sue responded that with the change in courses, these issues may have already been rectified in the new degrees. FIT1010 for example is no longer offered.

FIT2002 IT project management Mary Lim (CE)

Students mentioned that with Assignment 1 they had to submit their report to Turn It In. There were lots of instances of the case studies returning high 'like' rates due to them being commonly used.

Students also said they would prefer to just use MARS and not clickers. Jason responded that clickers are being phased out and there is also a scheme in the pipeline to buy back the clickers.

FIT2004 Algorithms and data structures Arun Konagurthu (CE), Aamir Cheema

No feedback.

FIT2014 Theory of computation Graham Farr (CE)

No feedback.

FIT2043 Technical documentation for software engineers David Squire (CE), Robyn McNamara

Matthew had already discussed this with Robyn, but reported that students wanted the lecture slides uploaded before the lecture. Robyn preferred not to do this as students would then not turn up to the lectures. Robyn said that she would upload the slides as soon as possible after the lectures.

Assignment 2 and 3 had a lot of XML and XSLT. Students would have liked this to be covered a bit more as they said there were only 3 x 1 hour lectures on that material. Sue advised the students to speak directly to Robyn about this.

FIT2070 Operating systems Bala Srinivasan (CE), Jojo Wong

Students reported that the most recent assignment asked them to write programs in C but they were not taught C in the lectures. They would prefer that elementary concepts in C are taught in the lectures or to change the language in the assignment. Students also mentioned that the background colour of the lecture slides made them hard to read.

Students felt that the lectures, labs and assignments are not linked or relevant to each other. Sue reported that the units is being redeveloped for 2017.

FIT2073 Game design studio 1 Derrick Martin (CE), Matt Butler

No feedback.

FIT2078 Introduction to security Nandita Bhattacharjee (CE), Ron Steinfeld

No feedback.

FIT2079 Data visualisation Tim Dwyer (CE), Kim Marriott

No feedback.

FIT2090 Business information systems and processes Yen Cheung (CE), Mary Lim

No feedback.

MAT2003 Continuous mathematics for computer science Daniel McInnes (CE)

Daniel lectures at a reasonable pace and gives the students a chance to ask questions.

THIRD YEAR UNITS

FIT3003 Business intelligence and data warehousing David Taniar (CE)

No feedback.

FIT3013 Formal specification for software engineering Yuan-Fang Li (CE), Chris Ling

Students reported that the assignments were very difficult and they were struggling to manage. Working in groups for assignment 2 was hard and impossible to work on unless all group members were present. Students mentioned that Rodin is difficult to work with in a group. Yuan-Fang responded that whilst he acknowledged the assignment was difficult, it was designed in groups to alleviate the difficulty and that there were hands-on sessions and a demo done in the lecture. If students had the choice, some would prefer to do the assignment individually. Alan commented that working in groups and learning to come up with solutions together is part of the software engineering degree outcomes. Yuan-Fang advised that he would get further feedback from the class at the end of the semester.

It was also mentioned that lecture attendance was small due to the timing (4pm to 6pm) which often clashed with work commitments. Students said that it was easy to catch up on the lecture material by attending the labs.

FIT3036 Computer science project Marc Cheong (CE), Jojo Wong, Ingrid Zukerman, Pierre LeBodic

No feedback.

FIT3080 Intelligent systems Ingrid Zukerman (CE), Reza Haffari

No feedback.

FIT3083 e-Business software technologies Stephen Huxford (CE), Michael Wybrow

No feedback.

FIT3088 Computer graphics Alan Dorin (CE), Amar Hassan

No feedback.

FIT3134 IT-based entrepreneurship Chris Gonsalvez (CE), Chris Behrenbruch

Students reported that they were struggling with the duration of the classes. The lecture runs from 2pm to 4pm and the tutorial immediately after from 4pm to 6pm. It was mentioned that the unit has always been timetabled that way at Caulfield.

FIT3136 IT governance and strategy for business Caddie Gao (CE), Mahbubur Rahim

No feedback.

FIT3138 Real time enterprise systems Mary Lim (CE)

No feedback.

FIT3139 Computational science Arun Konagurthu (CE)

No feedback.

FIT3142 Distributed computing Carlo Kopp (CE), Asad Khan

No feedback.

FIT3152 Data analytics John Betts (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.

FIT4010 Advanced topics in algorithms and discrete structures Kerri Morgan (CE)

No feedback.

FIT4012 Advanced topics in computational science Bernd Meyer (CE)

No feedback.

4. **OTHER/GENERAL BUSINESS**

No other business.