Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting

The 4/2008 Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 29 July 2008 in room 203/Building 72 at 1.00 pm.

Minutes

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

Students Present:
Elizabeth Anderson (Level 2 BE),
Andrew Bonavia (Level 3 / 4 BTE),
Ahmad Sammour (Level 3 BE)

Minutes

Timetabling was discussed in relation to clashes between units and the issue of the difficulty of scheduling and managing laboratory classes when students change enrolments and groups up to two weeks into the semester. There was basic agreement that most issues were resolved now that week 3 had commenced, but at a cost in staff and student time and anxiety. The chair commented that the dates for enrolment changes and automatic allocation of Allocate+ were not compatible in that situations have arisen were late changes cannot be resolved without changing previously allocated sessions to students. A clash between ECE3091 lecture and ECE4054 lab was noted and a suggestion made that ECE3091 lectures be recorded via the tablet PC pilot programme. Andrew Price suggested that the lecture notes would be adequate and no recorded lectures were planned in ECE3091.

Level 3/4:
There was a comment that insufficient electives were available in semester 1 compared to semester 2. When the detail was discussed this could be resolved by accepting a corequisite and by planning ahead unit choices in key discipline areas. For example many power electives require ECE3051 as a corequisite and therefore this unit needs to be taken in 3rd year to enable all the power electives to be taken. Moreover the concept of students being able to take most electives in one discipline area was presented as unrealistic and choice may need to be interpreted as taking a majority of what is offered and choosing which units not to take. One outcome of the discussion was that it would be helpful for 2nd year students to be advised as a group at the end of semester 2 on the implications to the selection of core units in level 3 and 4 for their elective choices over a 2 year cycle.

Comments were made on level 3 tutorials and the different approaches used. In general the students found the tutorial sessions very helpful. In ECE3022 there was one “tutorial” hour per week with the lecturer and it was agreed that this really was group problem class rather than a small group tutorial where individual questions can
be answered. Discussion centred on the use of discussion groups on MUSO to suggest problems that could be solved in that class.

Last semester there were some concerns about the lack of help available during the exam period in ECE3092 due to the absence of the lecturer.

**Level 2:**
Level 2 was reported to be very well organised in terms of the timely availability of teaching material and labs with the semester 2 units in level 2. There was some discussion about problems with ECE2061 in semester 1 and teaching styles of powerpoint versus "traditional blackboard" approaches using either a tablet PC or a writing pad combined with visualiser.

**Next scheduled meeting: 26th August 2008.**