

**Clayton School of Information Technology  
(Computer Science and Software Engineering)**

**Staff/Student Meeting No. 1 2006**

An Introductory Staff/Student meeting for the Clayton School of Information Technology (Computer Science and Software Engineering students only) was held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 1pm in the Seminar Room, Clayton campus.

**Present:**

Dr Ann Nicholson (Associate Head of School), Jeffrey Parsons (1<sup>st</sup> year CompSci), Daniel Heath (2<sup>nd</sup> year CompSci), Kefu Li (2<sup>nd</sup> year CompSci), Chitra Appalanaidu (3<sup>rd</sup> year CompSci), Hao Zhou (3<sup>rd</sup> year CompSci), Dmitri Nikulin (1<sup>st</sup> year SoftEng), Kalpana Soni (4<sup>th</sup> year SoftEng), Mathieu Tozer (BA/BCompSci), Nicholas Meinhold (BSc/BCompSci), Ben Porter (CompSci Honours), Huddia Amiri (CompSci Honours), Chung Tue Nguyen (SoftEng Honours), Karen Fenwick (Senior Administrative Officer), Michelle Leclair (Administrative Officer)

**Apologies:**

Erica Foley (3<sup>rd</sup> year CompSci), Kirsten Frederiksen (BL/BCompSci), Jesse Trapp (M.I.T.S)

**Introduction/Welcome**

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ann Nicholson who opened the meeting and welcomed the student representatives.

Ann explained how the Staff/Student Meetings worked to the new representatives and explained that this was another forum for communication between staff and students. She informed the representatives that two meetings were scheduled per semester and gave them advice on how to relay feedback in the upcoming meeting with the academics.

The student representatives and Karen Fenwick and Michelle Leclair then introduced themselves.

**Actioned items from the last meeting** in 2005 were discussed.

Honours Labs/Printers – Current honours students reported everything was going well in labs.

Dr Nicholson called for reports for all degrees for each year level starting with Honours, Fourth Year, and Third Year etc.

## **HONOURS**

Students reported that the Honours Labs were running smoothly but swipe card access doesn't work on certain doors on the first floor of building 75 which is a problem after hours.

**Action: Donna-Lee Stanes**

Ann asked Honours representatives about the FIT4005 lecture format running for the whole day, and they reported that it can be draining.

Software Engineering Honours students are confused about the requirements and schedules for components of FIT4005 and asked for clarification about why lecture material is now on MUSO.

Ann explained that the new structure will have a common core, and all CSE codes will change to FIT codes. Ann also advised that the current Computer Science and Software Engineering website will eventually change to Faculty sites, and that there will be no more Courseware pages, they will all be MUSO sites.

Students asked why the Authcate browser wasn't saving passwords and if Japanese is available on computers in labs.

**ACTION: Michelle Leclair to ask Paul van Haaster if HEAT requests are available to students.**

## **FOURTH YEAR**

There were complaints about the lectures for 4<sup>th</sup> year Software Engineering students having compulsory lectures, and the fact that they get penalized for not attending.

**ACTION: Ann will talk to Sita Ramakrishnan about this issue.**

Representatives reported that guest lectures were a bit of a problem, students were being taught in C, but the overseas guests who came, spoke in Java.

**ACTION: Ann Nicholson to speak to Sita Ramakrishnan**

The toilets in Building 25 where a lot of CSSE students have lectures are always in a terrible condition.

**ACTION: Karen Fenwick to report to University Cleaners.**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR**

Representatives stated that CSE3305 assignment 1 was extremely difficult, and that the tutorials and the assignment had nothing to do with each other. Ann explained that Dr Kevin Korb had only taken the unit over in 2005. Ann also made representatives aware that we were going through a transitional period at the moment, and that CSE3305 may not have adapted with time and that she was aware that not all students take math's these days. Mathieu made the point that there was too much of a gap for double degree students between taking Formal Methods I and Formal Methods II.

Karen suggested using the Help Room for further assistance in that unit, but students reported that the Help Room was a bit useless; the person in the Help Room for CSE3305 was not even taking any tutorials this semester. Ann then asked for feedback on CSE3305 lectures, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year representatives stated that readings for the following lecture was not available in time. Students also said that more copies of the textbook were required in the library as the small amount that was available were always on loan. Students sometimes felt that no-one really understood what was going on in the lectures and that Kevin goes through the material too fast.

**Action: Lecturer to be advised.**

Some students also felt that the lecture for Unix Tools needed a bit more preparation. Michelle then reported that the lecturer for Unix Tools has to come straight from lecturing another unit and Ann agreed that it can sometimes be difficult lecturing two different units in two hours.

**ACTION: Admin responsible for timetabling to ensure that academics don't have this problem for semester two lecture timetable.**

CSE3308 lectures are o.k. and initially only 2005 site was available. Site now updated.

CSE3318 assignment was a bit vague.

### **SECOND YEAR**

2<sup>nd</sup> year student representatives reported that one of the CSE2304 demonstrators was not familiar with the material.

**ACTION: Karen Fenwick to advise Ann of name of tutor**

Ann explained how hard it was to consistently have good tutors across all units every semester. Good tutors usually get jobs and the change from C to Java also brought about the loss of some tutors.

Students thought that CSE2304 lecture material, practicals and tutorials were all

very different. Ann advised that the lecturer supplies different things in different formats and that the material is well structured and covers a lot.

Chitra, who is a student who transferred from Malaysia campus, stated that the teaching of CSE2304 in Malaysia was a lot more practical than at Clayton.

Ann advised that it is harder to teach in bigger classes.

Representatives reported that CSE1308/2306 had become a lot less practical, and that there was not enough 'touching' of hardware. Students reported that the software was not good or reliable and that there were regular crashes on UNIX. Ann advised that a Windows version should be installed soon.

Students asked if they could get licenses for FPGA advantage. 2<sup>nd</sup> year students reported that the tutor Robert Prain was very good. They thought that Andrew Paplinski was sometimes difficult to understand, but it wasn't causing them too much of a problem as Robert Prain made up for whatever they missed in lectures, in their tutorials.

Student representatives pointed out that they didn't receive any feedback from CSE2318 in semester 2, 2005.

**ACTION: Karen Fenwick can supply a breakdown of results for CSE2318 for interested students.**

## **FIRST YEAR**

Students reported a problem Windows on some computers with building 19 and EH3 labs with password and other information being retained.

1<sup>st</sup> year representatives wanted to know what the Monash policy was in regards to connecting to external PC's. Is it allowed and how to do it?

Students expressed concern using the program MM Logic in FIT1001. They stated that it may be somewhat unsuitable as it draws very misleading diagrams. Student representatives pointed out that there were some errors in FIT1001 lecture notes, and that even though the error may be small, it can change the complete meaning.

Students pointed out that the assignment for CSE1308 had not been finalized until 1 week prior to the due date.

Students also reported that Scientific Linux has problems in adequate testing and USB connection.

**ACTION: Student reps to supply Ann Nicholson with more details to follow up.**

Students mentioned the fact that they didn't like Sophos Anti Virus running the wizard every time they logged in.

FIT1002 – no major problems.

### **SCI/COMPSCI**

Nicholas pointed out that there were problems with choosing approved Computer Science electives, Ann pointed out that this was because of the transitional phase the Faculty was going through.