



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

Staff/Student Meeting No. 3 2006

The third Staff/Student meeting for the Clayton School of Information Technology (Computer Science and Software Engineering students only) was held on Tuesday 29th August 2006 at 10am in the Seminar Room G55/75, Clayton campus.

Present:

Mrs Renee Bartholomeusz, Mrs Nandita Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor Maria Garcia de la Banda, Professor Gopal Gupta, Associate Professor John Hurst, Miss Michelle Leclair, Dr Bernd Meyer, Dr Ann Nicholson, Dr Ron Pose, Dr Nasrin Rahmati, Dr Sid Ray, Dr Peter Tischer, Dr Stephen Welsh.

Daniel Heath (2nd year CompSci), Chitra Appalanaidu (3rd year CompSci), Dmitri Nikulin (1st year SoftEng), Kalpana Soni (4th year SoftEng), Mathieu Tozer (BA/BCompSci), Kirsten Frederiksen (BL/BCompSci), Ben Porter (CompSci Honours), Huddia Amiri (CompSci Honours), Chung Tue Nguyen (SoftEng Honours)

Apologies:

Dr David Albrecht, Dr Alan Dorin, Dr Tim Ferguson, Mr Charles Greif, Nicholas Meinhold (BSc/BCompSci), Jeffrey Parsons (1st year CompSci), Dr Sita Ramakrishnan

Welcome:

The meeting was chaired by the Associate Head of School, Dr Ann Nicholson who opened the meeting at 10.05am and welcomed the staff and student representatives.

Ann announced that Dr Stephen Welsh was available at the beginning of the meeting to answer any technical questions.

Ann asked whether students were supposed to use HEAT. Stephen said yes and that he had already been receiving HEAT requests from students.

Daniel Heath said the printers in the Campus Centre had the default printer set as Colour and as a result had to pay for colour printing that could have been black and white. He suggested re-naming the printers so it is clearer.

Action: Michelle Leclair to look into it with ITS

Kalpana Soni reported that not all students have access to the MUSE lab and the printer in the lab is low on toner and always low on paper.

Ann said that you have to log a HEAT request for toner and paper refills.

1st YEAR:

Software Engineering representative Dmitri Nikulin reported the difficulty of having a burst of assignments due in Week 6.

Daniel Heath also agreed that all IT assignments were due in Week 6 and Week 11.

Dr Nasrin Rahmati stated that her assignment (FIT1003) covers material taught in Weeks 1 to 5 so assessment had to be due in Week 6.

Associate Professor John Hurst stated that there has to be material given for there to be assessment and was open to any ideas the students had.

Dmitri said that it didn't matter because students always leave assignments to the last minute anyway.

Daniel Heath said assessment was necessary as it was what actually made him learn the material.

Dr Ann Nicholson asked if there were any issues with FIT1001 but there were none to report.

Students complained that the assignment for FIT1010 wasn't good. It was basically re-wording lecture notes which required no skill, was like being in English class.

Dmitri reported that FIT1003 assignment wasn't good, it had no content.

Dr Nasrin Rahmati stated that the assessment for FIT1003 was prepared by someone else and she just delivers the material.

Dr Nicholson said there was a review on the Common Core units and the cross-campus difficulties were being looked at.

Associate Professor Maria Garcia de la Banda asked about FIT1008.

Overall, students were enjoying FIT1008.

2nd YEAR:

Students reported that the Courseware page from 2005 for Database Management Systems was still up with no note saying it had moved to MUSO for 2006.

Students asked why Business Systems students had tutorials for CSE2316/3318/BUS3112 but the Computer Science/Software Engineering cohort didn't?

Dr Nicholson said it was culture, Business Systems have always had tutorials, Computer Science always had the Help Room/Consultation.

Mathieu Tozer said that he was taking the unit again, and was enjoying it more than last year.

3rd YEAR:

CSE3325 was very satisfactory.

However, the focus was mainly on the presentation rather than the technologies, students were required to use CGI scripts but never learnt it.

The actual teaching of the unit was good.

The unit needs to be more technological rather than theoretical, and Mathieu Tozer said that it needs to be more up to date with what's currently on the Web.

Dr Nicholson asked about CSE2309/3309 Artificial Intelligence.

Daniel Heath replied that the programming languages are a bit too hard, and sometimes it's not exactly clear what students have to do. Daniel also admitted that they were now 3rd year students and were not supposed to be spoon-fed.

Daniel said that the unit was taught well, although challenging.

CSE3323 (Professor Gopal Gupta's unit) students said was good.

Assignment 1 however, was quite long even though they were told not to spend too much time on it.

Action: Professor Gopal will reduce the length of the 2nd assignment

Professor Gupta agreed that the assignment was too long for him to even read and mark.

Daniel Heath said that CSE3314 Image Processing (Dr Sid Ray) was good.

Sometimes Sid's handwriting is difficult to read.

Daniel also said that it takes a while to find the documentation you need on the Imaging Library.

Students said that Gopal's 2 hour lecture for CSE3323 can sometimes be too long.

Gopal informed the meeting that the second hour is usually scheduled for guest speakers.

Dr Nicholson asked if there was a break, and Gopal said that wasn't the case as students didn't come back, and that students complain if the lecture finishes too early or goes too long.

Chitra Appalanaidu stated that she would like to have a weekly deadline for CSE3301 Project to make sure they were on track.

Associate Professor Maria Garcia de la Banda said that it was a lot of work to read code, especially every week, and too much feedback would make it her work.

Dr Nicholson said that too much feedback was not resource efficient and that students were in 3rd year and should be working more independently.

Associate Professor John Hurst said that CSE3301 was a capstone unit, for students to work unassisted as is in Industry, and weekly feedback was too much.

Mathieu Tozer reported that CSE3301 Project was good and that he came up with his own project and it was great to have the opportunity to do that.

4th YEAR:

4th year representatives reported that it was good that the Project students didn't have compulsory lectures, and that students met up and worked on their projects themselves.

Representatives made note that at the IBM workshop, some of the computers weren't working in the MUSE lab.

Students requested a stapler to be put in the MUSE lab next to the printer for big documents.

Action: Michelle Leclair to arrange for a stapler to be put in the MUSE lab

Daniel Heath asked if it was possible to connect to lab machines from home. Dmitri stated that this was possible.

Dr Nicholson asked whether it would be good to have a Technical discussion board. Representatives said that this was a good idea.

Daniel Heath suggested an open access Wiki newsgroup.

Dr Nicholson said that this was something the Monash IT Society could run.

4th year students reported that they were currently busy applying for jobs and that the market at the moment was 50/50.

Final year students want more information about the job market.

Dr Nicholson suggested that maybe the Faculty or Monash IT Society could set up a site to advertise jobs.

Chung Tue (Duck) Nguyen reported that in CSE4892 Information Security, it took two hours to install Windows, he suggested having Windows installed before the class.

Duck also reported that the website for CSE4333 Parallel Systems was unorganized and the assignment due dates keep changing.

HONOURS:

Duck Nguyen said that interim Honours presentations were a good idea and an advantage for Software Engineers.

Honours representatives said that students doing the two three point units didn't like the fact that they don't get their marks until the end of the year.

Ben Porter reported that some Honours swipe cards still don't work on the first floor of building 75.

DOUBLE DEGREE'S:

Dr Nicholson asked students if they were receiving adequate course advice.

Daniel Heath said that most students were not seeking course advice and didn't know what units to choose for 3rd Year.

Dr Nicholson suggested giving out course maps in the first lecture each semester.

Students expressed how bad it was for them if they failed core units like CSE2304 and CSE3308 which were only run once a year. If they failed, they had to wait another year to repeat.

Dr Nicholson pointed out that they may have to run those units twice, and that the transition to Java was tricky.

Meeting closed 11.05am