

**Clayton School of Information Technology
Student/Staff Meeting No. 4 2007**

Minutes of the fourth Student/Staff meeting for the Clayton School of Information Technology on Monday 17th September 2007 at 1.00pm in room 115/63, Clayton campus.

Present

Daminda Alahakoon-FIT2006/BUS3502, Sue Bedingfield-FIT2017/BUS1110, Nandita Bhattacharjee-FIT1001, Alan Dorin-FIT1002, John Hurst-FIT2022, Michelle Leclair, Ian Martin-BUS3600, Jon McCormack-CSE3313, Chris Mears-FIT1008/FIT1015 Sid Ray-CSE3301, Margot Schuhmacher, David Taniar-FIT1004/BUS3112

Chitra Appalanaidu-Comp Sci Hons, Victoria Colquhoun-2nd year SE, Kirsten Frederiksen-BL/BCompSci, Hong Yu Lau-BCom/BBusSys, Dmitri Nikulin-2nd year SE, Jeffrey Parsons-2nd year CS, Peter Uhe-BSci CS Study Area, Joseph Vu-1st year IBL

Apologies

David Albrecht, Yen Cheung, Robiah El-Saadi, Karen Fenwick, Kym McGain, Nicholas Meinhold, Ann Nicholson, Mahbubur Rahim, Nasrin Rahmati, Sita Ramakrishnan, Caitlin Slattery, Michael Wulfsohn, Chung-Hsing Yeh

Sue Bedingfield chaired the meeting in Ann Nicholson's absence and opened the meeting at 1.05pm.

SECOND YEAR

FIT2022 (Associate Professor John Hurst)

- Students are concerned that links in labs aren't working.

ACTION: Jeffrey Parsons to advise John which links they are.

- Some people are unhappy about the change in how labs are marked.
- John confirmed that there was no change in the way labs were marked.
- Students were not clear on how much lab work they were to do.
- Some students felt that the labs were not clearly structured and John disagreed with this comment.
- John stated that the labs were to demonstrate that you have learnt something, not how much you completed. The labs were about learning, not collecting marks and are designed to stretch you.

FIT2002 (Dr Mahbubur Rahim)

- Students want to know whether tutorial solutions will be published for revision.

ACTION: Sue Bedingfield to notify lecturer of this in his absence at the meeting.

- Concern with assignments, assessment is one assignment broken down into three separate assignments and feedback was not given back in time from subsequent assignment.

FIRST YEAR

FIT1004 (Dr David Taniar)

- Lectures are good.
- When Lindsay Smith took the lecture, his examples actually using Oracle were very beneficial.

FIT1005 (Dr Carlo Kopp)

- Joseph received conflicting information in regards to the lecture.
- Some students say that the lecturer spends too much time drifting away from the topic and other's say the lectures are great and concise.
- There is a language barrier with one of the tutors.

ACTION: Joseph Vu to take this issue up with Carlo.

FIT1003 (Dr Nasrin Rahmati)

- Subject material is not engaging.
- Complaints that the unit has VCE level material.
- Lecturer jumps off topic and spends 25 minutes on one slide.
- There are only around 7 students attending the lecture.
- Alan Dorin said that sometimes going off the topic can be beneficial and sometimes there is a reason for doing so.

ACTION: Notify Chief Examiner that subject material is not engaging students at the Clayton Campus.

HONOURS

FIT4009 & FIT4010 (Dr David Albrecht & Professor Kim Marriott)

- Students want the major assignment released earlier, some have not been released yet.
- Students would like the thesis due date pushed back, an extra week would be good.
- Students are very happy about the thesis writing workshop and are looking forward to it.
- Students were happy with David Green for having his assignment out and releasing his marks early.

DOUBLE DEGREES

FIT1005/FIT2008/BUS3150 (Carlo Kopp)

- There were plagiarism issues with Assignment 1.
- There was a change in the criteria within a week of the assignment due date and students who submitted early were accused of plagiarism because the change of criteria was to cite references.
- It was pointed out to students that they should be aware of the Faculty policy regarding plagiarism even if it is not specifically mentioned in the assignment handout.
- There was confusion as to how to submit the assignment.
- Students were initially supposed to submit via MUSO and a hard copy.
- They were then told to submit via Damocles.

- Students reported that there was some inconsistency between campuses, some submitted via MUSO, others were to submit via Damocles.
- ACTION:** Notify Carlo and Chief Examiner regarding submission issues.
- There were concerns that for the past 8 weeks the unit has been all about data communications rather than networks.
 - The material on networks has been brief with not much practical work, just definitions and advantages.
 - Students want more material on how to design and implement a network in a variety of situations.

FIT1008/FIT1015 (Maria Garcia de la Banda)

- There was a suggestion to do labs over a couple of weeks.

General Feedback

- Students enquired as to where to find information regarding 2008 unit offerings and information.
- Margot advised that there were a certain number of open access units available through MUSO where you could view unit content which is accessible to everyone internal to the University, not just Information Technology students.
- Students were also advised to check the University handbook for information.
- Concerns that with Damocles (FIT1005/FIT2008/BUS3150 & FIT2043), the use of MUSO is breaking down.
- Students who are required to submit via Damocles don't receive their marks back through MUSO, and Damocles has no feedback option.
- Main point was that MUSO was used to provide students with their marks, this is not happening when students submit via Damocles and students are still waiting on assignment results.
- Perl was great last semester and students enjoyed it.
- 3 point units are good for double degree students.
- Computer Science Project (CSE3301) is running over summer which is very beneficial for double degree students.

Sue Bedingfield highlighted action items document from the previous meeting.

Meeting closed at 1.40pm

The following feedback was received via email for FIT1010 (A/Prof Ann Nicholson)

- Students in FIT1010 asked whether it was possible to have tute and prac material released earlier i.e. before the weekend.

ACTION: Ann to have tutes and pracs released earlier (next week's tutes already available)

- Students in FIT1010 found that there wasn't enough time to complete the Fridge implementation or found it difficult.
- It was noted that some of those students hadn't completed FIT1002 and were given a simpler prac to follow.
- Some questions in the mid-semester test were ambiguous and unclear.

ACTION: Ann has already allocated week 11 as a Unit Test Review. Regarding ambiguity, Ann did get the tutors to review the questions also, but inevitably it is difficult with multiple choice sometimes. If students want to email specific examples, Ann will note them for next year and when putting together the multiple choice questions in the final exam.

The following feedback was received via email for FIT1008 (A/Prof Maria Garcia de la Banda)

- There are a small amount of students who are finding the pracs difficult however, these students may not be attending the lectures regularly or are not seeking sufficient help.
- The material currently being taught is very interesting, and lecturers are offering excellent help to those who need it.

Next meeting TBA, 2008