

**Clayton School of Information Technology
Student/Staff Meeting No. 1, 2008**

Minutes of the first Staff/Student meeting held for the Clayton School of Information Technology on Monday, 21st April 2008 at 12.00 pm in room 115/63, Clayton campus.

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

Present:

Zaid Abbas, Damminda Alahakoon, David Albrecht, Alan Dorin, Maria Garcia de la Banda, Rod Martin, Jon McCormack, Enes Makalic, Bernd Meyer, Tien Minh Phan, Rita Quieros, Nasrin Rahmati, Sita Ramakrishnan, Sid Ray, Margot Schuhmacher, Caitlin Slattery, David Squire, David Taniar, Peter Tischer, Paul van Haaster, Joseph Vu, Tim Ward, Ingrid Zukerman

Apologies

Nandita Bhattacharjee, Yen Cheung, John Hurst, Asad Khan, Ann Nicholson

WELCOME:

The meeting was chaired by Associate Head of School, Dr David Albrecht who opened the meeting at 12:05 pm and welcomed everyone to the first staff/student meeting for 2008.

David went through the action items from the pre-advisory session with student representatives on 31st March

- Lecturers have been asked to post consultation times.
- David discussed the large gaps between classes for some students with Karen Fenwick and it was felt that it was better to have gaps than clashes.
- On checking with maintenance was discovered there is no air conditioning in lecture theatre S5 which explains why it is so hot and stuffy. Karen Fenwick is trying to organise less lectures there.
- The suggestions regarding the Faculty ball have been passed onto Joseph Vu who is organising the Social Club.
- David has been informed by Technical Support that IT students have an internet quota of 5GB which is very generous compared to what students from other faculties have.

- Sita Ramakrishnan will follow up the issue of gaining access to a server for the Studio projects with Technical services.
- David has asked lecturers, when taping their lectures, to mention the slide number they are referring to when they are explaining a slide.
- There are now quick links to Blackboard, Moodle, and Sakai from the School's home page.
- David has asked lecturers to use sensible names for their files that they upload to Blackboard, Moodle, and Sakai.
- David Squire reported that he has rewritten Damocles and that it now runs 50% faster.

FIRST YEAR

FIT1001

Lab time for the last prac was too short for marking to be included.

Ingrid Zukerman stated that labs usually go over 2 weeks so they should be marked at the end of second week. However, the last lab was an exception due to Anzac Day.

FIT1002

Excellent slides and overall the feedback was positive. Students were wondering why they hadn't got their test marks back as yet. They felt that test 2 was harder than test 1. Also, there was a 3 minute gap between the first and last person to start and felt this was unfair.

Alan Dorin explained that some students had done their test at Caulfield and he was still waiting for their papers and that the tests were set by the lecturer at Caulfield.

Students mentioned that the wrong version of the Java SE Development Kit was on some machines in some labs.

Action: *Paul van Haaster will investigate.*

FIT1006

Systat is only installed in 1 lab – can this be installed in more labs?

Action: *Paul van Haaster will investigate.*

SECOND YEAR

FIT2013

Lack of feedback on mid semester test. Spoken to Lyfie Sugianto already.

Action: *Lyfie Sugianto will get back to students with feedback.*

FIT2006

An assignment for this unit is due on Friday, 25 April which is a public holiday!

Damminda Alahakoon said an email with the new date of Monday, 28 April was being sent out.

Moodle

Complaints regarding some forums. Students are automatically subscribed to some forums and are subsequently receiving a large amount of spam. Even those who had manually disabled their subscriptions still had them coming in.

Action: *Margot Schuhmacher will unsubscribe all students from all forums except the announcement forum.*

Ftp Server

Was it possible to have a ftp server to cache files?

Action: *Paul van Haaster would investigate the possibility for getting an ftp server to store unit resources.*

Lab Access

Although students had access to 24 hour labs in buildings 19 and 26, after-hours swipe card access to these buildings didn't always work and as FIT students they felt that they should be able to get into these buildings to access the labs. Caitlin pointed out that this wasn't always possible since there were students from other faculties enrolled in IT units and it was difficult to isolate FIT students and give only them building access after hours. Paul van Haaster said that only 1% to 2% of students have a problem with access and that if they had a problem with access, they could contact him directly.

THIRD YEAR

FIT3022

Students were struggling with this subject as the content is not so interesting.

FIT3009

Students are satisfied with the way this unit is progressing.

FIT3051

Satisfaction was low – lots of rote learning. It was felt that the lecturer was concentrating too much on the finance aspect of the subject and not enough on decision support systems, and the unit was deviating from the unit outline.

Action: *David Albrecht will follow this up with the lecturer.*

FIT3084

Focusing more on design rather than implementation. Students were struggling to implement.

Alan Dorin informed them that the lectures haven't covered implementation. There is one assignment on design, one assignment on implementation, and no programming required for the first assignment.

The unit was proceeding too slow for some students.

Action: *Alan Dorin will investigate the possibility of introducing the implementation material earlier..*

FIT3086

Feedback was mixed – a bit slow – but overall generally good.

FIT3077

Very good feedback overall – no complaints.

FIT3042

Very good feedback but the lecturer was a bit obsessed with MACS!

General

Students would like to see anonymous MUSO feedback forums put back on.

Action: *David Albrecht will inform lecturers.*

HONOURS

Computer Science :

No feedback to report

Software Engineering :

Students had noticed that staff morale had generally picked up. Feedback on advanced topics was good and they found Sita Ramakrishnan's workshops very enjoyable.

GENERAL

There was number of comments regarding individual lecturers' styles.

Action: *David Albrecht will discuss these matters with the individual lecturers.*

Meeting closed at 12.45 pm.

Next meeting on Monday, 19th May 2008.