

**Clayton School of Information Technology
Student/Staff Meeting No. 1, 2009**

Minutes of the first Staff/Student meeting held for the Clayton School of Information Technology on Friday, 24th April at 1.00 pm in room 115/63, Clayton campus.

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

Present:

Staff: John Betts (Chair), Nandita Bhattacharjee, Karen Fenwick, Peter Tischer, Michael Smith, Sita Ramakrishnan, David Squire, Paul van Haaster, Ingrid Zukerman, Kim Marriott, Margot Schumacher, Graham Farr, Jon McCormack, Mark Wallace, Bala Srinivasan.

Students: Boshen Brendan Jiang – 2nd year BBIS (IBL), Rahmat Nadiri– 1st year BCS, Michael Leroy – 3rd year BCS, Thomas Moor & Stanislav Likane 1st year BSE, Tien Minh Phan – 2nd year BSE, David Warner BA/CompSci, Adarsh Bantwal – BBIS Hons, Jeff Parsons – BCS Hons & Dmitri Nikulin BSE Hons.

Apologies

Angela Carbone, Damminda Alahakoon, Maria Garcia de la Banda, Bernd Meyer, Kevin Korb, Ann Nicholson, Sue Bedingfield, Ian Martin, Alan Dorin, John Hurst, David Green. Michael Wybrow, Yen Cheung, David Taniar.

WELCOME:

John opened the meeting at 1.05 pm and welcomed everyone to the first meeting for semester 1. He also welcomed the new student representatives to the meeting.

FIRST YEAR

FIT1001 – Computer Systems

Lecturers were productive. Concerns that tests were run in 3 consecutive weeks the lecturer advised that this was due to Easter and mid-semester break.

FIT1002 – Computer programming

Feedback suggested that this unit was a too easy for computer science students and that they could take another unit in its place. Lectures are very noisy due to the large numbers.

The issue of whether very able students could take an alternative programming unit instead was discussed. There was support for this idea from some lecturers and students.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to course directors.

SECOND YEAR

FIT2001 Systems analysis & design

Unit is unpopular with the same material in FIT1003 being repeated in FIT2001.
Lectures are very noisy.

Action: The faculty is currently reviewing common core units. This feedback will be communicated to this review.

FIT2004 – Algorithms and data structures

Students would like more consultations.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to the lecturer concerned.

FIT2006 – Business process modelling & workflow

Students found the lecturer hard to understand. Handouts were not presented properly and contained spelling errors.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to the lecturer concerned.

FIT2010/1004 Database

Assignment marks were not given however grades were given at a later stage.
Students thought this was odd.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to the lecturer concerned.

FIT2035 - Professional communications

Students felt that some lecture notes were presented as “a massive wall of text’ and that some user-friendly formatting would be appreciated.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to the lecturer/tutor concerned.

FIT2043 -Technical documentation for software engineers

Assignment was not clear. Not enough information in the lecture notes, clearer instructions required. Only a basic level of instruction given.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to the lecturer concerned.

FIT3010 – Grid computing

Students are required to attend MURPA lectures but would rather spend the time on the unit content.

Note: There was some discussion as to whether the requirement of attending MURPA lectures was valid. Currently – the unit handbook entry makes no mention of these however the unit guide lists attendance at the MURPA lectures as a requirement.

FIT3014 – Analysis and design

Student would like real life cases and required tutorial answers. Students also found the unit boring.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to the lecturer concerned.

FIT3042 – Systems tools and programming languages

Students described the unit as “awesome”, very challenging. Students were concerned that the “automatic marker” for assignment submission was the only means of marking. A/Prof assured students that this was for student feedback only.

FIT4004/5171 – System validation

Students were happy with the unit.

FIT4005 – Research methods

Students felt there was not enough tangible material (for example, not a lot of reading). There was some concern that, for some students, certain assignments were due before ethics clearance could be obtained. These students need to make some arrangements with Prof. Green to resolve this problem. The tutorial workshop run by Noriaki Sato was very good. Students felt that tutorials too long for the amount of work given/

Action: Dr. Betts will discuss the problem of assignments requiring ethics clearance with the lecturer concerned.

FIT4012 – Advanced topics in computer science

Students were very happy with the unit, content and presentation. However, they felt there was not enough time to complete the assignment.

Action: Dr. Betts will refer this to the lecturer concerned.

GENERAL

Students would like Power Architect software installed on computers in EH1 & 2 labs.

Action: Paul van Haaster will follow this up.

3rd year students are concerned that they are not ready for industry. Sita advised that workshop may be run and she was arranging for ANZ to talk to the class.

Late enrolling students who missed orientation found it difficult to find lecture theatres. A map of the lecture theatre should be included in the enrolment packs.

Meeting closed at 1.50 pm.

Next meeting: Friday 22nd May.

1.00pm, Room 115/63