

**Clayton School of Information Technology  
Student/Staff Meeting No. 2, Semester 2 2009**

Minutes of the second Staff/Student meeting for semester 2 held for the Clayton School of Information Technology on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October at 1.00 pm in room 115/63, Clayton campus.

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**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:**

**Present:**

Staff: John Betts (Chair) Gemma Dwyer, Nandita Bhattacharjee, Karen Fenwick, David Squire, Margot Schumacher, Graham Farr, David Albrecht, Rodney Martin, Ann Nicholson, Maria Garcia de la Banda, Sid Ray.

Students: Joshua Teichman - 1<sup>st</sup> year BBIS (IBL), Anna Cheong - 1<sup>st</sup> year BBIS, Joseph Vu - 3<sup>rd</sup> year BBIS (IBL), Stanislav Likane 1<sup>st</sup> year BSE, year BSE, Jeff Parsons – BCS Hons & Dmitri Nikulin BSE Hons.

***Apologies tendered and correspondence sent via email:***

Shehan Dewendege - BCom/BBIS  
David Warner- BA/CompSci

**Apologies:**

Damminda Alahakoon, Bernd Meyer, Alan Dorin, Steve Wright, Peter Tischer, Vincent Lee, Chung-Hsing Yeh, Carlo Kopp, David Taniar, Oshadi Alahakoon, Sue Foster.

**WELCOME:**

John opened the meeting at 1.05 pm and welcomed everyone to the second meeting for semester 2. He also welcomed the student representatives to the meeting.

- (1) The suggestion that future meetings be chaired by a student was put to the meeting.

*Staff and students expressed the preference that meetings continue to be chaired by an academic staff member.*

- (2) The need to standardise the name of the meeting and to determine regular timings of meetings was then considered.

*Title of the meeting to be "Student-Staff meeting".*

*To be scheduled in week 4 and week 10 of Semesters 1 and 2 of each year.*

<b>FIRST YEAR UNITS</b>
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FIT1001 – Computer systems

Very good unit students happy with it.

### FIT1002 – Computer programming

#### **Feedback via email:**

- Students generally very happy with this subject.
  - Subject would benefit from perhaps having more consultation times.
- Response from Dr David Albrecht: Currently there is opportunity for students to attend three consultations, none of which are regularly utilised.*

### FIT1003 – IT in organisations

#### **Feedback via email:**

- Students do not find this subject particularly difficult but find the content somewhat uninteresting
- Many students feel that the content can be covered much quicker than it is in the lectures
- Likewise, the tutorial content also could be covered quite quickly but generally is dragged out across two hours
- Lecturer is good but, as above, people would prefer it if he went through the content much quicker

From IBL perspective unit is good and assignment is beneficial as it helps to prepare for field trip.

*Comment: This unit is currently being re-developed.*

### FIT1005 – Networks and data communications

#### **Feedback via email:**

- Many students have identified this subject as their most difficult one
- PASS program is beneficial
- Students find that they are overwhelmed by the amount of content – prefer if lecturers went through the concepts more slowly
- Lectures need to have a lot more worked examples, particularly to ensure that the students are well-prepared for the tutorials
- Students at times find that the tutorials are not strictly relevant to the lectures and they often do not feel the lectures have prepared them for the tutorials (due to the lack of worked examples)
- Importantly, students want to have a better idea of the big picture and how all the topics studied relate to that
- At times, the subject seems to become lost in its depth and does not relate back to the more surface-level, fundamental content
- Lectures seem to lack direction at times
- Students find that the content and scope of the subject does not feel strictly relevant to IT. Many students expected the subject to focus on things like network topologies and hardware rather than signal encoding, errors in transmission etc. which all feel like electrical engineering
- This issue can possibly be addressed by taking the time to actually explain how the machine/signal-level content is actually relevant to those wishing to enter less-technical roles in future

Lectures have improved since the last meeting however Malik is still going over time as he is trying to cover too much content.

Very big unit, students feel it's a lot to learn in the semester.

*ACTION: This unit is currently being developed for the revised common core. Dr John Betts to direct specific complaints to Asad Khan.*

### FIT1006 – Business information analysis

Unit is ok, although students feel the assignment is too vague and therefore too much time is spent in tute clarifying the assignment. The subject is difficult for people who have not previously studied mathematics.

Students commented that the test seemed longer than the sample papers suggested. Lecture notes are very good, however both lectures are early (9am) so attendance is always poor.

*ACTION: Dr John Betts commented that the assignment had been used for several years in its current form without any complaints by students. Similarly the mid-semester test was the same length as those in previous years. He undertook to discuss with Karen Fenwick the timetabling for next year.*

### FIT1008/1015 – Computer science

Students are really freaked out about exam.

Overall students are generally concerned about this unit as many find it very hard.

*ACTION: Maria said that students are doing really well this year with mid semester test results good. Many students do fail this unit at their first attempt.*

*There are 6 practice exams for students to work through as well as the common mistakes and if they attempt all of them properly they should be well equipped for the exam.*

### FIT1010 – Introduction to software engineering

Lots of material to get through in the semester.

Students not very happy with marking criteria in group assessments.

*ACTION: Ann commented that the group marking is made up a mixture of individual and group work to develop group cohesion.*

### MAT1830 – Mathematics for computer science 2

Students noted improvements since last meeting.

No past exams available to students on blackboard.

*ACTION: Dr John Betts to discuss these matters with Lecturer ASAP.*

### MAT1831 – Mathematics for computer science 1 (Semester 1)

Students felt the sample exams did not accurately reflect what was on the exam paper.

<b>SECOND YEAR UNITS</b>
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### FIT2011 Decision support systems fundamentals

Lecturer considered cancelling a lecture again due to unruly students (2 or 3 max) but some students approached him and asked him to continue, highlighting that it would be unfair on the students who had come to the lecture to learn.

### FIT2014 Theory of computation

**Feedback via email:**

No consultation times.

### FIT2022 Computer systems 2

**Feedback via email:**

Doesn't seem to be well organised - the lecturer simply reads from the slides, and the exam is all multiple choice questions.

FIT2024 Software engineering practice

***Feedback via email:***

Good subject, but the assignments seem too long. Eiffel (programming language) appears to be rarely used around the world.

<b>THIRD YEAR UNITS</b>
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FIT3086 – Multi media programming and the World Wide Web

Students feel the unit is heavily design related and should not be core for Soft Eng. Lecturer teaches about old frameworks and languages, students think this is outdated and he is teaching too much in the past.

Students are unclear about how the assignment is assessed as lecturer continually changes the marking criteria.

FIT3103 –Business case development

In regards to the oral presentation assessment some students felt disadvantaged as there was always a dominant member within the groups who would take control over the entire presentation.

*Action: Academic staff suggested getting together prior to the actual day of the presentation and doing a rehearsal. Improve lines of communication within the group.*

*Note: the lecturer has advised students that they would not be disadvantaged by individual group members going over time in their presentation.*

<b>FOURTH YEAR UNITS</b>
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FIT4001/FIT5174 – Parallel and distributed systems.

Students felt there were too many assessments (4 x assignments and 1 x Test) for the unit.

One of the assignments didn't seem to be reviewed by Lecturer.

Students prefer Moodle.

Students commented that there were some hardware problems during semester that interfered with completing assignment work.

FIT4010 – Advanced topics in algorithms and discrete structures

Students were very happy with the unit and content. They thought that everything is great!

The students love Moodle and Zinc.

Meeting closed at 2.00 pm.

Next meeting: Approx Week 4 semester 1, 2010 (TBC)

1.00pm, Room 115/63