

minutes/stafstud/11-10-95/GC

The University of Sheffield  
Department of Computer Science  
Minutes of Staff Student Liaison Committee  
Held at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 11 October 1995

Present: Jon Kerridge (Chair), Matt Fairtlough, Mike Holcombe, Mick Humble, Steve Maddock, Jim McGregor, Siobhan North, Dave Sloss, George Wilson, Neale Cresswell, Kieran Ginty, Martin Overton (1st Year), Stuart Cunningham (2nd Year), David Bellamy, Damion Yates (3rd Year), Konstantinos Kottos, Philip Nicholls (MSc)

Apologies: Matthew O'Donnell (1st Year), John Everett (MSc)

Minutes: Gillian Callaghan

No formal agenda was presented in order to allow an open discussion of the issues the students' wished to raise. The role of this committee is to identify problems within the University environment and specific problems with the course.

1. Matters arising from previous minutes

Matt Fairtlough felt the comments made re: COM224 were wrong. David Bellamy argued that he had taken the course, and felt that the minutes were right.

Whilst it was argued that if the committee was to work then the comments should be done in a frank manner, it was also commented that the contents of the minutes should be accurate in conveying who made a remark or opinion, i.e. was it an individual member of the committee, a large number of students or the committee? It was felt that minutes needed to be changed to reflect this.

2. Social Space for students

Part of Teaching Lab 1 has been set aside for this. It will need to be run by a Student Committee. A Computing Society could be run. Certain rules will need to be understood. Course Reps should try and get a committee together and then report back to Mike Holcombe, Colin Smythe or Jon Kerridge. An email alias for the Student Committee would be an advantage, and also some sort of newsgroup.

Action: David Bellamy

3. Courses

MSc students would like to receive module information and reading lists before they come to

the University.

A course evaluation will be distributed to all students in the Spring Semester. This must be taken seriously. It was proposed that students should be involved in the design of the form. Proposals will be discussed in the next meeting.

Action: Mike Holcombe

Philip Nicholls commented on the MSc Grid for combining practical and exam grades as being incorrect.

Action: Siobhan North

Lecturers should take into account that when setting projects, they should make sure that libraries have sufficient copies of the relevant books. Steve Maddock pointed out that he had informed Blackwells of the number of students for COM123 and the fact that the course book was a compulsory buy, but they still hadn't got enough copies in the shop. A letter of complaint should be drafted to Blackwells.

Action: Gillian Callaghan

There have been concerns about some lecture theatres that are too small. The capacity is lower than the amount of students taking the course.

COM123 - There were complaints that the lecturers take the assumption that students understand the jargon, and there are too few demonstrators. MSc students taking the course should have been doing the course over a Semester, and not just six weeks as undergraduates do.

COM125 - This course is over subscribed, and it is a struggle to get seated in the lecture theatre.

COM221 - students liked being able to choose their own groups for the group project.

COM321 - This was seen as too technical for some students who had come from a non-technical background, i.e. MSc Conversion Students. It was agreed that the committee should speak to Colin Smythe about this.

Action: Jon Kerridge, Siobhan North and Mike Holcombe

#### Maxi Project

MEng students feel that the Maxi project shouldn't be scheduled on a Wednesday. The other problem is that the report is directly after the examination period. The Maxi Project should be discussed at Teachcom. Stan Price has spoken to the MSc students and they haven't any complaints.

#### 4. Technical and Support

Students would like to have a user name rather than an alias. George Wilson agreed that he would like to move to this system, but all students will have ACS accounts at Christmas anyhow.

All maintenance for the PCs in the Lewin Lab will be handed over to ACS, allowing all students access. Students asked if the department would have priority over the machines, but this was said not to be possible.

It is unsure how printing will work when the Lewin Lab is open access. At the moment, Unix Printing is free but this could be abolished.

A program has been set up for the Technical Departmental Library System, and will be in use when the student photos have been digitised.

#### 5. Any Other Business

David Bellamy reported that the MEng students have had problems with their grants, he will report on any more problems etc. when they occur. MEng students need to be made aware that they will maintain their current tutors, unless they're on Sabbatical.

The Students Union need to be informed who the course reps are, as there are training courses for them to attend.

The MSc students were impressed with the MSc introduction in the Red Deer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st November 1995 at 3.00pm  
in G22