Minutes for the Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting

12.30pm, 16 May 2000 in G22

Present: Steve Maddock (Chairman), Emma Burnley, Tony Simons, Guy Brown, George Wilson, Tony Chilton, Matt Fairtlough, Nyree Musgrave (MSc Information Systems Rep), Ewan McEachran (MSc SST Rep), Mark Tice (1st year Artificial Intelligence Rep), Ed Smith (1st year Computer Science).

Apologies: Simon Payne, Sunny Mehat, Phil McMinn and Steve Renals.

Minutes: Linda Perna

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with comments made under matters arising from minutes.

2. Matters arising from minutes

Opening Times of the Lewin Lab

Tony Chilton has again spoken to the porters about students using the lab after 6.00. The porters deny asking anyone to leave before 6.30. A problem that has arisen is that students aren't signing in after 6.00 and it is important that they do so for Health and Safety regulations.

Vending Machine

Ed Smith has come up with a proposal regarding the vending machine. Steve was asked to put forward the proposal at the next departmental board meeting.

SCM

2.7 Survey of Teaching Equipment in Computer Science

George has collated the survey information which points to a greater need for PCs over Unix machines. There is also a need for more printers. In the short term a suggestion has been made for George to put a notice on one PC so that it becomes a priority printing machine.

GAW

2.8 Late arrivals at lectures

Last SSLCOM minutes claimed that there was dissent from students about introducing a similar

procedure to non attendance for students persistently late for lectures. This should have read that "There was dissent from academic members and some students as to whether this was appropriate..."

3. Chairman's statement

No statement.

4. Report from Computer Science Society - Ed Smith

Ed reported that the Computer Science Society was looking ahead to next year and planning more speakers and social activities and was thinking of taking over the Computer Science football team.

Recently the Society invited Dr Ian Badcoe from a local computer games company to give a talk. This was a resounding success with around 70 students attending.

Emma asked Ed to provide a sheet introducing the Computer Science Society and what it does so that it can be included in a pack for new students to the Department.

Ed Smith

5. DCS Website - Tony Simons

Tony Simons asked the committee to comment on the new DCS website 'all teaching links' web page.

Minor errors were pointed out. For instance, there are no links to Computer Architecture (Michael Hannaford's site) and there is a broken link to COM240.

Students also mentioned that there are discrepancies between the University site and the Department's site, with respect to teaching information.

It was suggested that Reading Lists be added to the Teaching links page and Registration information be added to provide help for transferring between one year and the next.

6. Issues to be raised at Faculty of Engineering SSLCOM

No issues were flagged for raising at a future Faculty of Engineering SSLCOM.

7. Other Business

7.1 Attendance at lectures

Tony Simons mentioned the growing concern of poor attendance at lectures. The students put forward the following reasons for this:

- Approaching hand in deadlines meant that some people worked on their assignments rather than attending lectures.

- Some lectures were dull and added no value to lecture notes.

- For some students a single lecture on one day meant that travelling in to the University for an hour didn't seem worthwhile.

Tony would be bringing this issue up at the teaching retreat.

7.2 Personal tutorial system

Discussion moved on to the personal tutorial system. Some students felt that the benefits of this were rather patchy. Some students felt it was a worthwhile exercise, whereas some didn't depending on the topic or the lecturer. The committee believes that the year tutors should conduct a thorough review of the personal tutorial system.

Year 1 and Year 2 Tutors

8. Date of next meeting

Next academic year. All current reps are requested to attend the first meeting in lieu of a replacement.