

# Minutes of the Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting

## 2:30 5 March 2003

**Present:** Noel Sharkey, Steve Maddock, Tony Simons, Guy Brown, George Wilson, Tony Chilton, Julian Briggs, Philip Cole (2nd Year Computer Science), Antranik Kasparian (2nd Year Software Engineering), Graham Haynes (2nd Year Duals), Ian Craney (3rd Year Computer Science), Stuart McNulty (3rd Year Software Engineering), Andrew Jacklin (Dual Degrees), Joss Wright (4th Year Computer Science), Atit Desai (MSc Advance Computer Science), Joanna Davison (Advanced Software Engineering), Wendy O'Flynn (MSc Information Systems).

**Minutes:** Monika Kus

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

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

### 2. Matters arising from minutes

Tony will make sure that the SSLCOM notice board displaying reps' photos has been installed.

**Action Tony C**

The Council agreed to the installation of a vending machine in the Lewin Lab. The machine and special bins should be arriving shortly. Antranik will keep an eye on the progress.

**Action Antranik**

Steve reported that the delays in returning work to students had been discussed in Departmental Board and advised that any further cases of work not being returned within 3 weeks should be reported to the SSLCOM alias immediately. It appears that COM3110 and COM3190 remain a problem.

Steve reported that Rob Gaizauskas had defended his case regarding COM3110 and would also respond in writing. The inconsistency of marking applied to COM2030 **not** COM3110 and Monika will alter the minutes and email Rob to explain.

**Action Monika**

Tony will check radiators and air conditioning settings in the Lewin Lab as they appear to be working incorrectly.

**Action Tony C**

Antranik will take Stuart's suggestion regarding consultation sessions during the revision period to Departmental Board.

**Action Antranik**

TeachCom will discuss the standardisation of home directories at their next meeting.

**Action Tony S**

### 3. Chairman's statement

Noel urged the committee to proceed as time was short. One change he requested from the reps was that all complaints should be, where possible, accompanied by numbers of students (or proportion)

who made the complain. It is no good if 2% complain and we make changes that disturb the other 98%.

#### **4. Report from Computer Science Society**

Stuart would like to see more support from students in the Society's activities. He stated the CSS web page was under construction. He will report in more detail at the next meeting.

#### **5. Report from Union Rep**

Atit Desai introduced himself as the new Union representative.

#### **6. Faculty of Engineering issues**

A new representative - Antranik - has been elected in view of Kasper's non-attendance at Faculty meetings. Kasper will be informed he has been demoted.

**Action Monika**

The issues to report are: smoking on the Mappin Building steps and air conditioning in St George's LT22.

#### **7. Student views on the proposed assessment change**

This took up most of the time in the meeting. It is clearly a touchy subject with the students.

Antranik reported his efforts to research students' views on the proposed change of coursework/exam ratio to make modules either 100% exam or 100% coursework. He presented a breakdown of the views from 72 students into neat categories. One problem was that this document was just a little lengthy for us to read at the meeting and the overall statistics seemed to show a very wide spread of views among the students.

There was a heated discussion although there seemed to be some differences between the representatives and the survey - everyone had their own opinion. In general, the representatives felt that for many courses this would not be a good idea. The IS rep thought that it would be a bad idea for the programming courses to be exam only and Steve Maddock put forward a case that, because of plagiarism, they could not be course work only.

No conclusion was reached except that the survey should be presented to the Departmental Board.

**Action Tony S**

#### **8. Outcome of module feedback forms**

The student reps wanted to know why the students could not see the feedback from the courses as they felt that maybe the same complaints appeared every year and no one did anything about them. The general feeling of the reps was that, in the interests of greater transparency, the results of the module

feedback should be available in some form for everyone to read.

The questionnaires are being collated. Tony Simons will ask TeachCom to publish a summary of the results.

**Action Tony S**

### **9. Lewin lab suggestion box**

The box was opened by Tony prior to the meeting and found to be empty.

### **10. Any other business**

None.

### **11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place in G22 on 7 May 2003 from 1:15 until 2:45.