

Department of Computer Science**Staff Student Liaison Committee****held on Wednesday, 3 March 2004 1:30 pm**

Present: Julian Briggs, Tony Chilton, Christopher Dodman (2nd year AI), Jahan Haroon (1st year AI), Antranik Kasparian (3rd SE), Dr Steve Maddock, Noel Sharkey, Tony Simons, George Wilson, Joe Zakzouk (3rd year AI).

Apologies: Guy Brown
Peter Langton

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

The student representatives say that there is still dissatisfaction with the with the departmental website which is difficult to navigate and lacks a site map. Students were advised to email webmaster when they experience problems.

It appears that both students and staff are in support of the 1st year mentoring scheme. Students are encouraged to go ahead with the project and approach HoD for funding.

The students were presented with the outcome of student evaluation questionnaires from autumn and spring semesters of 2002/03. It appears that generally the number of people voting is very small although the response to the paper version was better. Both the presentation and content of the questionnaires were criticised with the members wanting to see more summaries rather than numerous histograms.

The real issue is still the mechanism to ensure that students fill in the questionnaire and it was agreed that making feedback instant and the results public would encourage the students to take part in the exercise. It was agreed that Noel would ask the Departmental Board to publish the results on the web or at least make them available to the reps.

Having looked at the number who filled in the forms, the reps felt that some of the courses were not being properly evaluated. They are resolved to talk to their fellow students and explain the importance of fill in the questionnaires

Action Noel**3. Report from Computer Science Society**

Nothing new to report

4. Report from Union rep

Nothing new to report

6. Faculty of Engineering issues

Longer library opening hours were discussed at the last Faculty meeting.

7. Unix/Linux tuition for First years - Jahan Haroon

Jahan feels that first year students need some Unix/Linux tuition. Apparently other universities teach Unix together with other operating systems and recommend books on Unix in their reading lists. Companies require their employees to be Unix/Linux users.

Several suggestions were made including self help in Solaris, lunchtime workshops on Unix, incorporating teaching Unix in a module (COM1030 or COM1040) or taking back the 20 free credits offered to students and introducing practical, marketable skills modules instead.

Action Julian

8. Lewin Lab suggestion box

The box was found to be empty.

9. Any other business

Antranik suggested assigning one of the small rooms off the Lewin lab as a quiet room. This was approved and G12d will be marked as a quiet room.

Action Tony

It appears that printing credits are not being received by students, as promised by the Department. It needs to be checked if we have received the money back from CICS. Noel will take the matter to Departmental Board.

Action Noel

10. Date of next meeting

To be arranged.