

The University of Sheffield
Department Of Computer Science

Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday 25th April 2007
G22 -2.15pm

MINUTES

1. Present: Mike Holcombe(Chair), Guy Brown (1ST Year Tutor) Joab Winkler (Deputy Director of Teaching) Dave Abbott (Technical Support Manager), James Shaw (Union Rep & 4th Year Rep), Jenny Edwards (3rd Year AI&cs rep) Sam Flower (1st Year Comp Sci) Samuel Fernando (MSc HLT) Mesude Bicak (MSc ASE) Joseph Joseph Ninan (MSc ACS) Wrishi Basu (MSc ASE) Shri Krishan Yadav (MSc SSIT) Scott Bentham (1st Year Comp Science Rep), Sara North (secretary)

Apologies – Steve Maddock (2nd Year Rep), ZCF (Departmental Administrator), Jon Barker (MSc Course Director), George Wilson (Senior Programmer, Software & Network)

Introduced Joab Winkler Deputy Director of Teaching.

2. Matters Arising from Last Meeting -

Email received from Jon Barker confirming that he will take the item to the Teachcom meeting on the 2nd May 2007 regarding scheduling of both MSc & UGs deadlines and noted that students would prefer these spread over a longer period.

Item 4.

MPC comments were that students should turn up to classes to be prepared for exams/tests. WMLH confirmed that he did elaborate that some students do have to work and they need notice to schedule their working commitments and student life. WMLH also confirmed that the Dean of Engineering was aware of the problem is looking to change things.

Item 3.

Asked JRW to take to Teachcom, students wanting feedback on their interim report, JRW confirms that comments from academics were that if the comments were seen by students then they wouldn't be detailed enough. Suggestion of split mark sheet, half for comments to be viewed and feedback to students and the other half for module.

JRW TO REFER TO TEACHCOM

3. Teaching Related Issues

JS asked why for COM262 (FC) students were only given 2 weeks to do 60% of module work and 5 weeks for 40%.

JRW TO REFER TEACHCOM

SkY spoke on behalf of MSc SSIT students who found the Verification and Testing module irrelevant to anything else they had been taught and thought the module would be better replaced by lab classes, saying many students are still struggling with installation of software.

SkY also mentioned COM4280/6864 The Intelligent Web module is compulsory for MSc SSIT students, SSIT students are expected to know advanced java and be as good As MSc ASE students.

JRW confirmed that these items have been noted and will be changed next year. GJB asked for clarification that there are no timetabled lab classes. SkY confirmed.

ASE Seminar is also compulsory for SSIT, students not sure if relevant, not happy about the presentation not being marked and that they have to write an abstract in the seminar from the slides shown at the seminar and the slides are only upload after seminar.

JRW TO REFER TEACHCOM

SkY went on to mention Lewin Lab facilities, and juniper server is always down, particularly over Easter, SF also confirmed.

DA confirms there has been a problem with Juniper server, WMLH asks if Juniper should be backed up. DA confirms but that this is necessary for all the systems. DA confirms he will try and redesign the server and speak to whoever is in charge of the finances.

DA confirms also that in order for students to have the required software installed on the machines in the Lewin Lab then they need to be told what students require.

DA TO ACTION

SB asked if they could have Java 6 installed on the machines, DA confirms they are hoping to have this done within the next week or so.

4. Distribution of MSc SSIT's student workload. (Shri Krishan Yadav)

Email received from Jon Barker confirming that he will take the item to the Teachcom meeting on the 2nd May 2007 regarding scheduling of both MSc & UGs deadlines and noted that students would prefer these spread over a longer period.

5. Eclipse IDE

JJN asked if they could have Eclipse IDE installed onto the CIC's machines, DA confirms he will do this on GAW behalf.

DA TO ACTION

JS also asked for NetBeans to be installed, DA said he would also deal with this.

6. AOB

Sam Flower asked if more information about the Computer Science Social Events is available. WMLH said he would try and contact Mathew Nicholas. WMLH also informed students that if they were involved in events like this and helped organise the Computer Science social, then it would contribute to Sheffield Graduate Awards.

WMLH TO ACTION

JRW confirmed he was dealing with student feedback, but that we still require more responses and more constructive comments from students. SSLCOM asked for sight of the comment or graphs, JRW said he wasn't sure where the information was held and would have to speak to Zoe on her return from holiday.

JRW/ZCF TO ACTION

WMLH had received feedback from several students who are not happy with the departments use of 'Turn it in', issues include that the students are presumed guilty, students concerned that their creative work/ information will be available to anyone on a commercial database. The issue was discussed and decided to refer to Teachcom, asking for more information about the new procedure be available.

JRW TO ACTION

7. Date of Next Meeting – next academic year.