

The University of Sheffield
Department Of Computer Science

Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 02 May 2012

G22 Regent Court

13:15

MINUTES

Present:

Staff		Students	
Chairman	Tony Simons [AJHS]	Undergraduate Year 1	
Secretary	Kathryn Roden[KMR]	Artificial Intelligence	Thomas Allen [TA]
Dept Administrator	Zoe Fletcher [ZCF]	Enterprise Computing/ITMB	Oliver Grayson [OG]
Year 1 Tutor	Amanda Sharkey [AJCS]	Software Engineering	Andreas Tsiapalis [AT]
Year 2 Tutor	Mark Stevenson [RMS]	Undergraduate Year 2	
Year 3 and 4 Tutor	Mike Stannett [MPS]	Computer Science	Carl Clegg [CC]
Director of Teaching	Siobhan North [SDN]	Artificial Intelligence	Lianne Meah-Brabbins [LMB]
Library Representative	Lex Rigby [LR]	Software Engineering	Rob Spick [RS]
		MSc	
		SSIT	Joseph Kempka [JK]

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: John Derrick [JD] Head of Department, Dave Abbott [DJA], Technical Support Manager, George Wilson [GAW], Senior Programmer, Matthew Shaw [MS], Level 1 Computer Science Representative.

Noted: AJHS welcomed the committee and acknowledged the apologies.

Noted: The previous minutes were agreed as a fair and accurate representation of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the last meeting

Action carried over from last meeting: (item 2 on previous minutes) TC to send information to DJA on what is needed in the student wiki.

Noted: (item 2 on previous minutes) AJHS fed back comments to the lecturer of COM1001 that some students felt that the briefs can be very similar and so it is hard to understand the differences. The module lecturer (Dr Kirill Bogdanov) responded, by email, that *the "similar" projects were in fact quite different.*

Example: compiler vs. compiler learning tool. In the former, students have to validate input and generate Java code. In the latter, they have to implement (a) "samples" which may have to fit specific patterns, (b) quizzes and (c) help system.

Noted: Students thought it would be useful if the projects were completely different.

Action: AJHS to feed back comment to lecturer of COM1001.

Noted: (item 2 on previous minutes) AJHS fed back student concern over the levels of group work to the Information and Management school. By email; Linda Lewis in the MGT School confirmed that only 17% of assessment is group work in the first year and John Bennett in the INF School clarified that there are no level 1 INF modules.

Noted: (item 2 on previous minutes) LR reported back that the issue with the faulty plug sockets has been fed back to Estates and that it is being treated as a Health and Safety issue. All the plug sockets should be replaced within a year. LR encouraged students to still report faults as and when they find them.

Noted: By email; Amy Collins [AC] (library representative) commented that the IC are currently looking at making more informal collaborative spaces available. SDN commented that there will be more study rooms in 2014 with the new engineering building.

Noted: In response to the student feedback (discussed in previous meeting) AC confirmed that the library has the ebook of Bainbridge 'Introduction to information technology law'.

Noted: (item 3.1.2 on previous minutes) AJHS fed back positive comments from students to the lecturers of COM1003 and COM1004.

Noted: (item 3.2.1 on previous minutes) AJHS fed back student concerns over the publicising of assignment deadlines in the Philosophy Department to the chair of their SSLCOM (this was related to COM students taking PHI211). The lecturer for PHI211 responded that the hand-in dates are published in a module course book, but would announce deadlines in lectures too in the future.

Noted: (item 3.2.2 on previous minutes) AJHS fed back to SchARR that the vending machine in the student common room is broken. SchARR confirmed that they have called out an engineer to fix it.

Noted: (item 3.2.3 on previous minutes) AJHS fed back positive comments from the students to the lecturer of COM3005.

Noted: (item 3.2.3 on previous minutes) AJHS fed back to the lecturer of MAS276 that students felt they taught with lots of passion and that they provide students with an interactive learning environment. The students also felt the demonstrators were also very helpful. The lecturer responded that it is nice to know that students are appreciative of her efforts.

Noted: (item 3.3.1 on previous minutes) DJA will identify over the summer which academics will need to use the Tomcat server to make sure they configure it in the same way. AJHS commented that he spoke to GAW to investigate a student complaint, GAW told AJHS that it was a student error which caused the server to crash. SDN commented that there needs to be a back up for GAW who can restart

the server when GAW is away. JK also asked if the Tomcat server could just be re-started over night automatically.

Action: AJHS to feed back SDN and JK comments to DJA.

Noted: (item 3.4.1 on previous minutes). AJHS fed back Genesys students concerns over the marking of work. An email response from the lecturers was received: *I would add that a balance has to be struck between when we give feedback and the quality of that feedback. The training period lasted 5 weeks this year from the start of Semester 1. That is, it wasn't until week 6 that things properly got going and not until a few weeks after that when work began in earnest on the projects. If there is too little observation time, the feedback will not be very accurate.*

The students also wanted to know why there was an overlap in the data collected for assessment. Marian Gheorghe told AJHS that the data collected is subtly different. One set refers to data for clients and the other relates to the students involved. Marian confirmed that both collections of data were still necessary.

Noted: AJHS fed back student comments (from the student evaluation) regarding problems with lecture theatres to Cliff Alcock. Hicks LT2 was brought up as a particular problem. AJHS received the following response by email: *Hicks LT2 is in fact scheduled for refurbishment this coming summer which will include the provision of new AV and IT kit. The plan is, with larger lecture theatres such as this one, to install two projectors and screens to enable either dual projection or to display two different images. The plan then will be to roll out this type of installation in other theatres.*

Noted: ZCF confirmed that lots of lecture theatres in the Hicks building will be refurbished over the summer. SDN suggested that students see what the lecture theatres are like next year and feed back if there are any problems.

Noted: AJHS fed back to academics that students enjoyed using clickers and would like to use them more in lectures.

3. Teaching Related Matters

Noted: Students asked where they could get A1 posters printed for their Software hut presentation.

The following suggestions were made:

- Don't have to print onto A1 – do a collage
- University Print Unit
- Print Shop on Division Street

4. Any other business

Noted: SDN told students that she is in the early stages of redesigning the intranet and would like to get some student views. It was mentioned that The Network Guide is difficult to find. SDN will email student representatives over the summer to get feedback.

Noted: MPS mentioned that this year we have used a new system for students to pick projects and said that any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

5. Date of next meeting: TBC