



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Department
Of
Computer
Science.

Minutes Meeting of Industrial Liaison Board

Date: 13 May 2009

Present:

Stuart Green (Chair)	[SG]	ZOOtech
Malcom Beatty	[MB]	IBM
Tony Cowling	[AJC]	Accreditation and BCS contact
Sam Chapman	[SC]	K-Now
Anthony Fretwell-Downing	[AFD]	Fretwell Downing Group
Marian Gheorghe	[MG]	Director of Finance
Alex Healing	[AH]	BT
Mike Holcombe	[WMLH]	Careers Officer
Chris Murray	[CM]	Genesys Business Manager
Siobhan North	[SDN]	Deputy Head of Department Head of Teaching
Dominic Watts	[DW]	Microsoft
Greg Whitfield	[GW]	Lightwork Design

Apologies Paul Berman (The Press Association), Mandy Chessell (IBM). Matt Dudbridge (LinkedIn), Simon Fisher (IBM), Paul Marrow (BT), Mark Shackleton (BT). Richard Warden (Software Futures), John Derrrick (Head of Department), Phil McMinn (Director of Enterprise Computing Course)

1. Welcome and apologies

Noted: SG welcomed the committee and acknowledged the apologies.

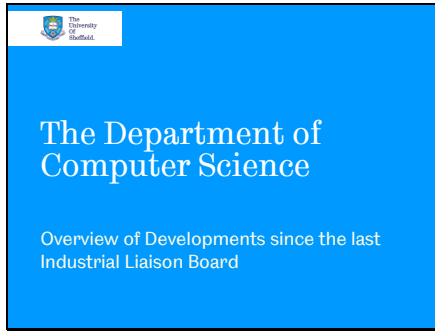
Noted: The Board members briefly outlined their roles

2. Minutes of last meeting

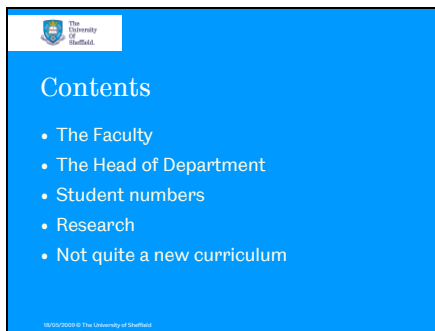
Noted: It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a fair and accurate record.

3. Deputy Head of Department presentation on the Department

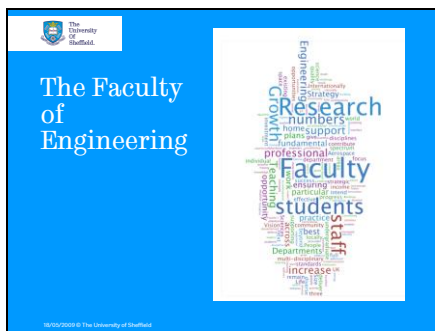
Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3



Noted: SDN explained that the Department of Computer Science is now in the Faculty of Engineering. Previously we were split between two faculties: Pure Science and Engineering.

Noted: The Faculty of Engineering consists of seven departments.

Slide 4

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Change of Head of Department

- John Derrick took over from Phil Green on 1 January
- But isn't here today
- Same deputy




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Noted: SDN explained that Prof John Derrick is the new Head of Department. He took over from Prof Phil Green in January 2009.

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Students – we lost some

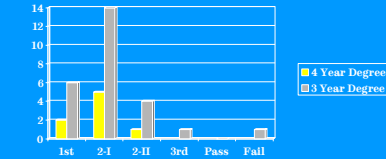


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Student – we lost some



Category	4 Year Degree	3 Year Degree
1st	2	6
2-I	5	14
2-II	1	4
3rd	0	1
Pass	0	0
Fail	0	1

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Noted: SDN commented that we had some very good results from our students who graduated last year.

Slide 7



Students – we gained some

- Autumn 2008 was the best year for undergraduate recruitment since 2002
 - 72 home single subject + 12 home dual
 - 16 overseas single subject
- Improved Recruitment of MSc Students
 - 62 of them; all but 4 overseas
- One fewer new PhD Student

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Noted: SDN explained that we have had a very good year for student recruitment.

Most MSc applicants are overseas students.

DW asked what happens to home students? – do they apply for MSc courses? SDN explained that previously they have been able to get good graduate jobs after completing their BSc/MComp courses. However we may see more home applicants as a result of the recession.

WMLH commented that we are second to Cambridge when it comes to graduates getting graduate level jobs within six months of leaving university.

SDN commented that the current PhD uptake is about 15 per year. However this may be affected by the new Points Based System which could make it harder for students to get Visas.

Slide 8



Recruitment 2009

- Numbers for 2009 Entry look good
- We have a new degree for students without A level maths – Information Technology Management for Business
- We are communicating in new ways

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Noted: SDN commented that we already have five applicants signed up for the new ITMB course due to start in September 2009

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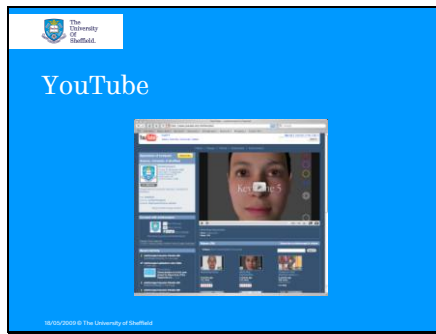


Facebook

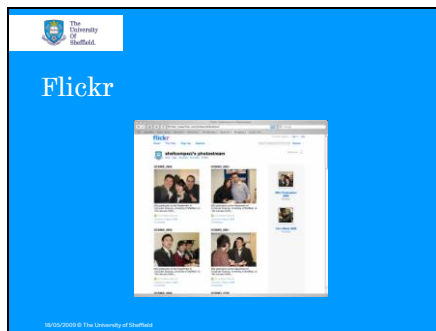


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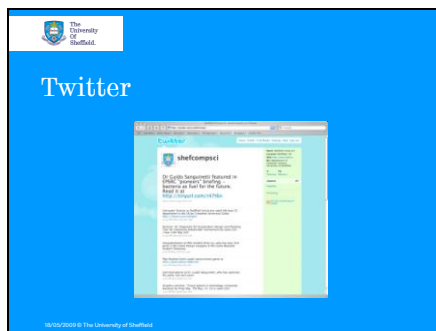
Slide 10




Slide 11



Slide 12




Slide 13




6th Best Computer Science Department

- High scores for student satisfaction, research assessment, entry standards and graduate prospects in the guide for next year



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Slide 14



The Research Assessment Exercise

- 65% of our research work was rated world leading or internationally excellent
- Research Power was 15th out of 81 UK Departments
- The money may still be reduced

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Slide 15



Research

- We have lots of new grants
 - EPSRC - Battaglia, Walker, Smallwood - £956,207
 - EU - Phil Green - £352,549
 - EPSRC - J Derrick - £324,340
 - GCHQ - Guthrie, Wilks - £141,763
- We have a new research group

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Organisations Information and Knowledge Group (OAK)

- Knowledge Technologies for
 - Knowledge Management in large organisations
 - Web 3.0
 - Digital Economy
- Headed by Fabio Ciravegna



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Organisations Information and Knowledge Group (OAK)

- £3.5m funds since 2005
 - From EU, RC-UK
 - Industry (Rolls-Royce, Kodak, Lycos, Environment Agency)
 - Coordination of X-Media, large EU project (€13.5m)
- A spin-out company (K-Now Ltd)



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Slide 18


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Teaching

- We have a new first year curriculum for this October and are working on revising the later years

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The New Curriculum

- Will be presented next by the new head of teaching

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Any Questions?

4. Head of Teaching on the new curriculum proposals

Slide 1



The New Curriculum

- Revised 1st year will be introduced in 2009/10
- Revised 2nd, 3rd and 4th years must all be introduced together in 2010/11

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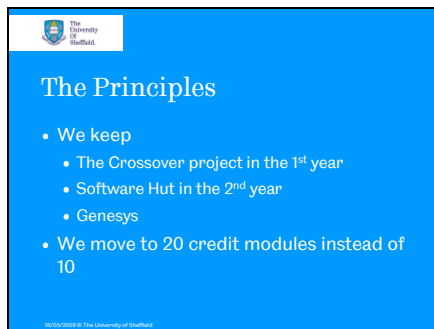


The University of Sheffield logo is in the top left corner. The slide has a blue background with white text. The title is "The Principles". There are two bullet points. At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: "18/05/2016 © The University of Sheffield".

The Principles

- We keep our most distinctive feature – our emphasis on allowing students to experience building software as it is built in the real world
- We reduce the students' opportunities to fail

Slide 3



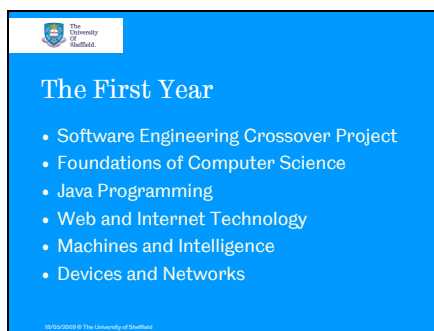
The University of Sheffield logo is in the top left corner. The slide has a blue background with white text. The title is "The Principles". There are two main bullet points, with the first one having three sub-bullets. At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: "18/05/2016 © The University of Sheffield".

The Principles

- We keep
 - The Crossover project in the 1st year
 - Software Hut in the 2nd year
 - Genesys
- We move to 20 credit modules instead of 10

Noted: By having more 20 credit modules this could help reduce the students chance to fail. MB asked what about losing sight of struggling students. SDN confirmed that this has been factored in by avoiding January examinations and having large scale projects so we can see what the students are up to. Exams would be taken at the end of year in June.

Slide 4



The University of Sheffield logo is in the top left corner. The slide has a blue background with white text. The title is "The First Year". There are five bullet points. At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: "18/05/2016 © The University of Sheffield".

The First Year

- Software Engineering Crossover Project
- Foundations of Computer Science
- Java Programming
- Web and Internet Technology
- Machines and Intelligence
- Devices and Networks

Noted: The new first year will not be that much different from the current one. Devices and Networks is an optional module so now students don't have to pick a non computer science module to make up their credits.

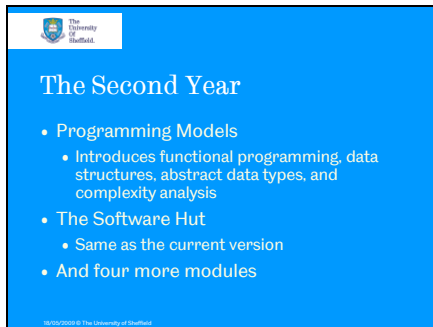
Slide 5



The University of Sheffield logo is in the top left corner. The slide title is "The Second Year". The main content is a bulleted list: "A work in progress", "We will have six compulsory modules", "No modules outside the department", and "Short and Fat or Long and Thin?". The footer contains "© 2015 The University of Sheffield".

Noted: The second year is still in progress.

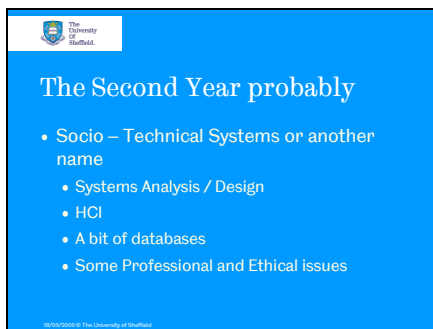
Slide 6



The University of Sheffield logo is in the top left corner. The slide title is "The Second Year". The main content is a bulleted list: "Programming Models" (with sub-points: "Introduces functional programming, data structures, abstract data types, and complexity analysis"), "The Software Hut" (with sub-point: "Same as the current version"), and "And four more modules". The footer contains "© 2015 The University of Sheffield".


Noted: GW asked what the Software Hus is. WMLH commented that we get 4 teams of customers/clients. 3 to 4 teams of students then compete to build a system for each client – they must deliver a high quality, well tested system in 12 weeks. The client then chooses which team is the best and then takes away and uses the product that has been developed. WMLH commented that if any of the members wanted to be clients to let us know

Slide 7



The University of Sheffield logo is in the top left corner. The slide title is "The Second Year probably". The main content is a bulleted list: "Socio – Technical Systems or another name" (with sub-points: "Systems Analysis / Design", "HCI", "A bit of databases", and "Some Professional and Ethical issues"). The footer contains "© 2015 The University of Sheffield".

Slide 8




The Second Year probably

- Something Theoretical with a better name
 - Logic
 - Automata and languages
 - Symbolic Reasoning

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Slide 9




The Second Year probably

- Data Driven Computing
 - What is data?
 - Finding features in data
 - Learning from data
 - MATLAB

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Slide 10




The Second Year probably

- Bio Inspired Computing
 - Sensing
 - Control
 - Behaviour
- Bio Inspired Computing Robotics and AI
 - Bio-Inspiration and Modelling
 - Learning and adaptation
 - Sensing, feedback and control

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Slide 11




The Second Year

- Programming Models
- The Software Hut
- Socio – Technical Systems
- Something Theoretical
- Data Driven Computing
- Bio Inspired Computing (with AIP)

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The Third Year

- Probably not very different but
 - We are actively seeking one year placements now
 - We would welcome suggestions for individual projects from you

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Noted: SDN commented that the selection criteria for third year projects is based on students grades.

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The Fourth Year

- We will keep Genesys
- We are going to have to change it to consist of eight 15 credit modules from 2010

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5. General discussion and development of the ILB

Noted: SG put to the board 'what is the future of the ILB' and gave some background to the ILB: The ILB has been chaired and run by WMLH for several years, and ILB members have been invited to the poster session which seems to be enjoyed by all who attend.

In the past there has been a session held in November where members of the ILB (not University members) come and talk directly to the students. On one occasion this was very successful – lectures were cancelled and lots of students turned up. However there were other occasions where it was hard to get any students to come along so the November session has not been run for a few years.

Noted: SG asked all the members what they would like to get out of the ILB

SDN commented that any ideas on teaching would be useful; what do you think we should be teaching; what skills do you want students to have?

WMLH commented that it would be useful to have contacts in relation to placements. Also using guest lecturers in courses could be developed.

AJC commented that identifying which new technologies are likely to be industry relevant would be useful. Currently we don't have much feel for where industry is going to be taking technology.

WMLH commented that we want to raise the profile of the companies through the ILB. MG suggested inviting students and individuals from industry to group seminars.

DW commented that there seems to be an absence of Microsoft content in teaching. WMLH responded that with regards to Software Hut many of the clients are not in a position to buy Microsoft supporting technology. CM also commented that in relation to epiGenesys there are licensing issues and they need to speak to Microsoft about this.

MB commented that as it is their first ILB there is lots to take back and think about, so doesn't really know what they want out of it at the moment.

SC would like to get more information about third year projects.

AH would like to be involved with industrial placements and having a part in syllabus shaping to ensure well trained graduated.

AFD commented that they were very interested in work placements. It is a good opportunity to work with smaller companies.

GW would like to get knowledge transfer out of the ILB. They are a local company, so it is important to be visible in the community. He also commented that he is interested in placements.

AJC commented that projects are both for level three students and MSc students.

GW was concerned that if they work with a student on a project then they can't have any software that has been worked on. SDN commented that as students projects are done as part of a degree the work belongs to the University and not to the company. WMLH commented that he is trying to get some more information from the Pro Vice Chancellor how students can use the software that they have developed.

SG would like to see a timetable of key events, such as poster sessions, deadlines for project submission.

AFD thought it would be a good idea to have a list of everyone who has attended and a two line CV

SDN asked if it would be a good idea to put company logos on the ILB website.

SG would like to increase the visibility of the ILB to students. Maybe having a student rep on the meetings would be a good idea. WMLH commented that in the past there used to be an undergraduate rep who would come to the meetings.

6. Poster session winner and any other business

Noted: The winner of the poster session was Christopher Green.