

EECS STUDENT STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes from meeting held on 3 November 2021 13:00-14:30, Microsoft Teams

Present

Name	Initials	Department	Role
Mustafa Bozkurt	MB	EECS	Year 2 Tutor
Dola Aina	DA	EECS	Student Support Officer
Matthew Huntbach	MH	EECS	Senior Tutor
Tassos Tombros	TT	EECS	Senior Lecturer/Student Experience Officer
Yue Chen	YC	EECS	Director of Education
Steve Uhlig	SU	EECS	Head of School
Mahesha Samaratunga	MS	EECS	Year 1 Tutor/Director of Wellbeing
Israel Mason-Williams	IMW	EECS	Year 2 Computer Science Student
Md "Red" Redwanul Haque	RH	EECS	Year 2 Computer Science Student
Meet Chandreshkumar Shah	MCS	EECS	Year 2 Computer Systems Engineering Student
Mohammed Raiid Ali	MRA	EECS	Year 2 Computer Science Student
Nafisa Shaikh	NS	EECS	Year 2 Creative Computing Student
Ruihan Zhao	RZ	EECS	Year 1 Computer Science Student
Saloni Salian	SS	EECS	Year 1 Computer Science Student
Hugo Marinho Lapa	HM	EECS	Year 1 Computer Science Student
Zeynep Filizer	ZF	EECS	Year 2 Computer Science (with Management) Student
Rosa Chandler	RC	EECS	Student Support Administrator

Preliminary Items

- **Welcome and Introductions**

TT and YC clarified the purpose of this meeting is for students to provide feedback on their course (positive and negative) to give us a better understanding as a department of what changes need to be implemented, what is working well, and to allow us to raise issues with relevant MO's/departments.

Year 1

Modules

- *ECS407U Logic and Discreet Structures*: HM voiced that students would benefit greatly from a workbook for this module as it is difficult to find materials for missed classes/lectures.
- *Prof. Practice and Research*: nothing to encourage early participation; students often mute themselves and do not engage over Teams; missing team members negatively impact students who do attend every week. Difficult to collaborate with group when some students do not engage at all. MS commented that peer evaluation is incorporated into the grading process, however HM said that this is strangely not encouraging those students to participate.
- *ES404U Computer Systems Networking*: course pacing is too fast, no opportunity for students to ask questions before moving onto new material. A separate Q&A session would be useful.

Other comments

- *Staff Office Hours*: SS suggested that office hours be circulated as many students are unaware of them; perhaps add a function to students' timetables to show office hours.
- *Pre-recorded lectures*: scheduling and pre-recorded lectures cause issues for Q+A sessions across all modules, students would benefit from additional Q+A sessions (or to make use of staff office hours).
- TT mentioned the EECS Discord Server and SU encouraged them to use this channel to raise anything anonymously for a faster response time.

- HM – general feedback is that overall, the course is progressing well and for the most part, all materials are available. Pre-recorded lectures are not a problem and everything is very well organized.
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Year 2

Modules

- *ECS519U Database Systems*: picking a group early in the term was anxiety inducing for students and has had a knock-on effect whereby groups are not communicating. It would be beneficial in future to have groups assigned.
 - NS expressed that many Creative Computing students have had to consider mixing with Computer Science students due to the way labs have been timetabled, and many are unhappy with this because of unfamiliarity with the students and materials covered.
 - Complaints that the lectures are too long (often reaching 2hr30) and students struggle to digest information.
 - Q&A Sessions for this module would be helpful for students who feel behind.
- *ECS528 Communication Systems*: MS voiced concerns from fellow students that this module is lacking extra resources, e.g optional/recommended reading, catch-up materials.
 - RH expressed that pre-recorded lectures cause issues in that the tutorials are being used to cover the same material, and that they would benefit from interactive live lectures. TT confirmed that this may be challenging for timetabling to arrange, but we will certainly pass on the request.
- ZF expressed that there are no recorded seminars for Financial Accounting module and no access to recorded lectures/notes for Business Modelling, also that slides are being uploaded on the day of the lecture which prevents students getting ahead. TT advised these are not EECS modules but we will pass the feedback onto the relevant department.

Other comments

- IMW sought clarification on whether students must complete mid-term tests in-person or if they will be available online. TT confirmed that we are not in a position to be making all students attend (international students, those with health conditions, those who are isolating etc) and that the tests across all modules will follow suit from last year, where they took place online. Advised to seek further clarification from Thomas Roelleke (MO for Database Systems).

- Students felt that having multiple online learning platforms could be confusing and would rather everything be streamed on BB Collaborate. MB confirmed that BB Collaborate is somewhat unreliable and that Zoom/MS Teams are used more frequently to avoid technical difficulties and to make it more accessible to students who are off-campus.
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Year 3 - No course reps present (Saba was unable to attend).

Feedback on ITL building

- Complaints about lack of heating in ITL building: TT said his understanding was that ventilation and lack of heating is to help limit the spread of coronavirus; if we do not have these measures in place, we would need to limit numbers of students in ITL which would not be ideal.
 - Students voiced that although ventilation needs to be in place, there should be adequate heating as there is no apparent link between temperature and the spread of the virus.
 - TT and SU agreed to raise this with Estates and confirm if anything can be done about this.
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Any Other Business (AOB)

- MS reminded students that as Wellbeing Director, she offers weekly sessions on a Wednesday for 1st year undergraduate students from 2pm-3pm. These sessions are an opportunity for you to share any wellbeing concerns or ideas for improvement. Mahesha also offers 1:1 appointments by request on Mondays and Fridays.
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Date of next meeting

TBC