

Department of Computer Science

Minutes of Staff/Student Meeting

Monday 12 August 2013

Present:

Staff: Paul Denny (Chair), Ann Cameron, Adriana Ferraro, Angela Chang, Sithra Sukumaar

Student: Georgi de Stigter (101), Alyssa Ong (105), Kenneth Anderson (105), Yur-Sheng Chang (111/111G), Eugene Song (111), Ocean Wu (210), Joshua Ng (220), Daniel Oram (225), Chris Petty (230), Jasmine Vickery (230), Li-Wen Yin (280), Timothy Diack (314,340), Kieran Jaunay (320), Chris Pearce (367)

Apologies:

Staff: Robert Sheehan, Ian Watson

Student: Aska Lai (111), Tim Lee (101), Christy Lam (335), Pheng Taing (335).

If you attended the meeting and your name does not appear above, you did not fill out the attendance sheet as requested.

1) Welcome

Paul welcomed all the class representatives, outlined their responsibilities (including making themselves known to the class, and acting as a liaison with the course lecturer for raising student concerns), and thanked them for volunteering to represent their peers.

7 of the class reps present at the meeting attended the AUSA class rep information sessions on 30/31 July and 2/3 August.

2) HoD report

- Giovanni Russello received half a million dollars start-up funding from the UniServices board for FireDroid. The FireDroid team are now moving into newer (and flashier) premises up by UniServices.

- Ian Watson has been invited by Event Communications, a London-based exhibition design group, to be an advisor to the redevelopment of the communications gallery of the Russian Polytechnic Science Museum in Moscow. This is part of a \$250 million (USD) refurbishment of one of Moscow's cultural landmarks. The communications gallery holds their computing history displays.

- Andrew Luxton-Reilly has won a CLear (Centre for Learning & Research in Higher Education) Fellowship for 2014. This fellowship provides for 0.2 of his time to contribute to a multi-disciplinary community of practice dedicated to researching and disseminating effective teaching strategies around 'Rethinking the classroom: Interactive teaching and learning'. Andrew is selected as the fellow for the Faculty of Science.

- Mark Wilson (with Robin Pemantle, University of Pennsylvania) has written a research monograph "Analytic Combinatorics in Several Variables", published by Cambridge University Press in June 2013. This 380-page book contains the results of more than a decade of work.

- Cris Calude and Alastair Abbott have contributed two chapters to a major book on Alan Turing

3) Technical report

There was no technical report for this meeting.

4) Elect representatives

The following 3 students were selected as representatives on the Faculty of Science Undergraduate Staff/Student Consultative Committee:

UG reps: Alyssa Ong (CS105), Ocean Wu (CS210) and Jasmine Vickery (CS230)

The following student was selected (via email) as representative on the Faculty of Science Postgraduate Staff/Student Consultative Committee:

PG Reg: Ruslan Idrisov (715)

Tim Diack will continue to attend the Faculty meeting due to his role on the Faculty of Science Students Association.

The date for the UGSSCC meeting is Tue 20th August (1pm) and the PGSSCC is scheduled for Tue 13 August (1pm).

5) General business

Tim Diack reported back on the most recent Faculty UGSSCC held at the end of last semester. The meeting was very short as there were no concerns raised.

A suggestion was made to have a physical hand-in box for assignments that required written work. This seems to have arisen as a result of some students creating very large files after scanning hand written assignments. Given the usefulness of digital submissions, it seems that providing advice for how to manage the file size (using suitable resolution and compression) would be a good solution.

The new ADB has generally been working well and was described as "really nice".

With some combinations of courses assignment due dates have coincided causing high workloads - this issue has been discussed before at the department AC and it is too difficult to coordinate assessment deadlines within the department as well as cross-department. Unfortunately such situations can sometimes occur and students need to plan for this and manage their time accordingly. A related suggestion was made that where possible, lecturers could indicate on the course information sheet or assignment handout, when all prerequisite material for a certain part of an assignment would be covered as a guide for students to plan when they can start work.

There was some discussion around NetLogin and the inconvenience of being logged out when hibernating a laptop. The general understanding was that NetLogin needs to maintain a connection to the server and if this does not happen for a period of time the session will end. Some class reps reported the documentation on NetLogin seemed out of date or contained links that were broken or inconsistent.

The First Floor Computer lab is sometimes overly loud with a group of students congregating near the back of the lab. This can be brought to the demonstrator's attention (either by asking a demonstrator directly or putting in a Demonstrator help request on the Computer Labs web page) or SIT can be contacted directly on ss@sit.auckland.ac.nz.

There was a positive report that very few people now seem to place their belongings at a computer and then leave for extended periods of time (for example to attend a lecture and then expect to return to the same computer). This used to be quite a common problem when the lab was busy, but does not appear to be happening as often.

The annoying ticking noise in the Owen G Glenn lecture theatre (115) is still a problem. It may be related to lecturers using their own laptops in the theatre, as some reps have noticed it does not occur when using the lectern machine.

Meeting finished by 1.45 pm

See you all on 23rd September 2013