

Department of Computer Science

Minutes of Staff/Student Meeting

Monday 23 September 2013

Present:

Staff: Paul Denny (Chair), Adriana Ferraro, Angela Chang, Clark Thomborson, Robert Sheehan, Sithra Sukumaar, Sean Davidson, Henry Guo, Pan Hu and Arash Heidarian (PhD)

Student: Kenneth Anderson (105), Alyssa Ong (105), Yur-Sheng Chang (111/111G), Eugene Song (111), Joshua Ng (220), Daniel Oram (225), Chris Petty (230), Jasmine Vickery (230), Tim Diack (314,340), Kieran Jaunay (320), Tianhao Du (340), Chris Pearce (367) and Ruslan Idrisov (715)

Apologies:

Staff:

Student: Christy Lam (335), Georgi de Stigter (101), Li-Wen Yin (280) and 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 the class representatives to the final meeting of the semester and thanked them for their duties. A delicious lunch was served.

2) HoD report

- Beryl Plimmer, Wannes van der Mark and Robert Amor were awarded \$70,000 of strategic capex for a new 3D printer, this will get us a ProJet 460Plus colour 3D printer capable of 2 million colours and a build area of 20cm cubed.

- Michael Dinneen and students had considerable success at the NZ Programming Contest (NZPC 2013) winning the Tertiary Open ("Miranda's team") and Open

categories. Results at:
<http://public.webdev.aut.ac.nz/NZPC/Contest/Scoreboard.aspx>

3) Technical report

Sean Davidson presented the technical report. Science IT has now moved to a very spacious new location in the Cap and Gown lounge. The bar facilities are still in place, but sadly the beer taps have been disconnected. As a result of feedback from a previous staff student meeting, the student computing lab website (scl.ec.auckland.ac.nz - the default home page for browsers in the lab) has been updated and now includes a prominent "Call demonstrator" button.

Sean discussed the login issues caused by the roaming profiles that was a major problem last year. After considerable effort diagnosing this issue with Microsoft, the problem turned out to be linked to SQL server which has now been removed from the image. SQL Express is the replacement local database engine.

Lots of maintenance work within the labs has also been taking place. In particular the all of the desks have been re-edged, although some of this work was not completed to standard and will be redone. There are a large number of broken chairs that are slowly being replaced. Also, the carpet in the lab is wearing out very quickly but replacing this completely is a very large job.

Sean also reported that there have been some noise issues in the labs over the last couple of days, mainly in the FCL. One individual seems to be the main cause of these noise complaints and is being monitored (and trying to avoid Sean).

4) Department representative reports

Reporting back from the Faculty of Science Undergraduate Staff/Student Consultative Committee were our UG reps: Alyssa Ong (CS105) and Jasmine Vickery (CS230). A number of issues were discussed at the Faculty meeting, including lecture theatre clocks being poorly positioned for the lecturer to see and not being set accurately in some rooms. There was also discussion about posting course related material on external sites (mainly facebook) and what constituted cheating. Students need to be sensible about posting any part of any assessed work online where it is accessible by others.

Reporting back from the Faculty of Science Postgraduate Staff/Student Consultative Committee were our PG rep: Ruslan Idrisov (715). At this meeting there was discussion about PhD scholarships not providing adequate financial support for students, and some user interface issues for students using SSO trying to enrol in papers. There was also discussion about the length of time (often more than one month) that it took to receive copies of exam scripts back once requested.

5) Issues from last meeting

Related to problems with NetLogin raised in the last meeting, Sean reported back that there is a new client version 4.06 that now fixes many of these issues.

Regarding lab issues that cannot be resolved by a demonstrator (for example, if there are students being disruptive), Sean confirmed that ss@sit.auckland.ac.nz is the appropriate email address to use to get an SIT staff member to investigate

The annoying ticking noise in the Owen G Glenn lecture theatres (which has been reported several times when a guest PC is connected) can be resolved by plugging in the standard 3.5mm audio cable (even if the guest PC is not generating any audio output).

6) General business

Class rep Ocean Wu (CS210) emailed an issue regarding the door to ENG3403. This door is situated at the front of the lecture theatre and appears to be broken as it makes a lot of noise when opened. This is disruptive to class when students arrive late. While it would be better for students to arrive to class on time, a request was made to at least fix the door. UPDATE: Paul raised a maintenance request with Property Services to fix the noise issue with this door which has now been completed.

The website "<https://crocodoc.com/>" was discussed (it allows users to upload MS Office and PDF documents which are converted to HTML 5 so that they can be annotated by users). Some students were using this to upload previous exam papers (mainly if solutions were not released by staff to such papers) so that students could collectively discuss answers. Students working together to discuss solutions to previous exam papers is not uncommon and this provides a way for students to do so remotely with a greater number of peers - however it was not clear whether copyright issues were involved.

Pheng Taing (CS335) emailed an issue regarding making previous test papers available. The library does a good job of cataloging old exams, but old test papers are normally made available by teaching staff. There is no official policy on making test papers (or their solutions) available, so this is up to the instructor but it is considered very useful for students to have access to these for learning and study purposes.

The meeting finished at 1.45 pm.

Wish you all good luck in your semester exams!