Minutes for Staff Student Consultative Committee (SSCC)

2nd June, 2017

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting attended by:** | ECE Departmental Staff, ECE student reps | | |
| **Absent from meeting:** | Basil Mustafa, Benjamin Tan, Edward Zhang, George Xu, Hamid Reza, Jacob Thornton, Nipoon Patel, Samuel Zheng, Theo Oswandi, Vaishnavi Muppavaram, Zachariah Huxford, Catherine Watson, Ivor Woodfield, Kevin Wang, Morteza Biglari-Abhari, Nasser Giacaman | | |
| **Date:** | **2nd June 2017** | | |
| **Time:** | 12pm – 1:30pm | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **ECE Student Reps 2017** | | |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |  | **Part II** | **Part III** | **Part IV** | **Postgrad** | |  | Name | Name | Name | Name | | **EEE** | Basil Mustafa | Farhana Basheer Ahamed | Basma Hassan | Hamid Reza | | Jacob Thornton | Jonathan Yeoh | Murali Magesan | Benjamin Tan | | **CSE** | Kunal Bhatia | Vaishnavi Muppavaram | Nipoon Patel |  | | George Xu | Sakayan Sitsabesan | Karen Panoedjoe |  | | **SE** | Zachariah Huxford | Michael Kemp | Michael Kim |  | | Edward Zhang | Kenney Chan | Gabriel Tiongco |  | |  | Samuel Zheng | Theo Oswandi |  |  |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **HoD** | Prof. Kevin Sowerby | | | | **Deputy HoD (Academic)** | Dr Bernard Guillemin | | | | **Programme Leaders** | EEE:  AP Nirmal Nair | CSE:  Dr Morteza Biglari-Abhari | SE:  AP Catherine Watson | | **Director of Graduate Studies** | Dr Nitish Patel | | | | **PG Advisors** | EEE:  Dr Dariusz Kacprzak | CSE:  Dr Kevin Wang | SE:  Dr Nasser Giacaman | | **Technical Manager** | Mr Robert Champion | | | | **Group Services Coordinator** | Ms Aruna Sundar-Lal | | | | **Group Services Administrator** | Mr John Lau | | | | **Engineering IT Service Manager** | Mr Ivor Woodfield | | | | **SSCC Chair** | AP Partha Roop | | | | | | |
|  | |  | |
| **Agenda Topic #2.2:** **General matters**  **Notes:**   * Voting was not done anonymously regarding student reps selection in previous years i.e. 2016 and earlier. Everybody could tell who is voting for whom and the voting process causes disruption during lectures, hence the online voting has been introduced in 2017. During the meeting student feedback was obtained on this system for considering potential improvements.   Students were able to vote more than once though the admin could detect and remove duplicates. This problem has been fixed. Suggestion were made to make everybody aware of the online voting system in the first couple of lectures where many students most likely will show up.  One student did not receive the email about the online voting system, Partha to follow up once the student ID is provided to him.   * Reps have not organised a BBQ in Semester 1 yet, Basma proposed 7th June. Many reps felt that it is not a good idea as reports and assignments are due, attendance will be low.   Partha encouraged to have a BBQ next Semester and to plan it early so as to bring everyone together. Bernard has a copy of coursework/tests dates and able to advise student reps a good time to have a BBQ   * Meet the fam event had a decent turn out, good weather, good food, played some sports. Part II, III and IV students had a discussion about courses   Reps suggest to have this event held in the 3rd or 4th week next year | | | |
| **Action Items:**  The username (student who missed the voting) will be sent to Partha to follow up | | | **Deadlines:** |
| **Agenda Topic #2.3: Postgraduates**  **Notes:**   * Aruna has looked into the issues that were raised in the previous meeting | | | |
| **Action Items:** | | | **Deadlines:** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda Topic #2.5: Part III**  Notes:   * Ex-library furniture shortage (tables, chairs, multi-boxes, extension cords, bean bags, whiteboards), Faculty SSCC issue * Path next to the ex-library is too dark, it’s a health and safety issue and will refer to Faculty SSCC * UG4 requires the doors to be opened and closed in a specific manner and lights switch off randomly in the evenings and not able to switch them on manually * UG4’s furniture like trim of the desks is coming apart   Courses   * SOFTENG 364, students feel they are not sure what’s being assessed, there is no indication of what sort of answers are expected. Students were not able to practice questions before test.   Catherine’s test, half the class asked for model answers. Questions were open ended and students not sure how much to write   * SOFTENG 350, went through some exam questions and students find the lecturer too subjective. Conflict between students and lecturer during a lecture and on Piazza. Students find it difficult to understand their justification and pretty much feel that they have to learn lecturers ‘views’ * ENGEN 303, no feedback given for tests. Bernard suggests to talk to Deputy Dean, Gerard Rowe * One student rep raised issue with the costs of different papers, Bernard explained that in general Engineering papers are more expensive compared to Science papers and Part IV courses are in general more costly. Budget is set on the entire programme and its spread out to individual courses * COMPSYS 201, different teaching team this year and has significant improvement * SOFTENG 251, last year reps think the exam was too long and it was a 2 hour exam.   Bernard explains there is a tendency to have 2 hour exams rather than 3 hour exams in the future | |
| **Action Items**  Rob to follow up on the UG4 doors | **Deadlines:** |
| **Agenda Topic #2.6: Part IV**  Notes:   * Many SOFTENG students see themselves only partially aligned with the Faculty of Engineering and the ECE department. Separate events being held for SE students exclusively (SESA)   Kevin stated that SOFTENG courses should be taught separately and not combined with COMPSCI courses.  Having common projects or shared courses across 3 programmes would help, especially at Part II.   * Emailed students a survey about upcoming Part IV dinner (expectations/costs etc.), reps believe the part IV students interact more closely this year and expect a higher attendance   Aim to have it after Part IV project and before the systems week   * One concern was made about noise. There are no subject librarians to keep students quiet in the Library at the moment | |
| **General Discussion about better SE integration:**  **SE representatives raised several interesting ideas that may improve better integration of SE students in ECE. These include:**   1. **Many SE and CSE courses are on the same theme. These could be combined. Partha mentioned that he discussed with Catherine regarding this. Catherine has suggested having SE numbers for some CSE courses that are pertinent for SE. We could do the same for some SE courses that are pertinent to CSE.** 2. **The idea of a “common Part II” was discussed at length.** 3. **The idea of a design project, say using IoT domain, was discussed so as to have teams that comprise of SE, CSE, and EE students, where they solved problems related to their expertise.** | |
| **Action Items** | **Deadlines:** |
| **Agenda Topic #2.8: Any other matters**  Notes:   * Nitish will give a talk this week during a COMPSYS 201 lecture about practical work, this is for Part II students only | |
| **Action Items** | **Deadlines:** |