UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
FACULTY OF INFORMATICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 4/05 to be held at 1.30pm on Thursday 30 June 2005 in the Faculty Meeting Room, Building 39, room 150A.

PRESENT: Dr G Trott (Acting Chair), Prof S Bouzerdoum, Dr R Caladine, Mr P Castle, Ms B James, Ms A Meldrum, A/Prof P Nickolas, Dr A Porter, Mr P Vial and Dr A Worthy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms K Sheridan, Ms S Lambert (CEDIR) & Prof R Whelan (Dean, Faculty of Science).

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

*1.1 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from: Mr B Brown and A/Prof F Naghdy.

*1.2 Arrangement of Agenda

1.2.1 Items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2, 4.1, 7.1, 7.2, 8.2, 8.6, 8.16, 9 and 11 were starred (*) for discussion.

1.2.2 A motion to adopt the draft resolutions for the unstarred items was carried.

*1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 19 May 2005

The Committee confirmed the minutes of Meeting 3/05 held 19 May 2005.

1.4 Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

1.4.1 Major Course Revision – Bachelor of Engineering

The course proposal will be forwarded to the next Academic Senate Standing Committee meeting (24 August).

1.4.2 Revision of Undergraduate LLB Program

SITACS and the Faculty of Law have agreed to a revised BInfoTech/LLB double degree structure in light of the proposed LLB changes. The agreed enrolment pattern does not deviate much from the current enrolment pattern. In addition, the listed course requirements will be revised to clearly reflect the minimum credit point value required for the BInfoTech component of the double degree.
2. COURSE PROPOSAL – INTERNATIONAL BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS)

The Faculty of Science wishes to introduce a new International Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree. The degree includes 24 credit points studied at an overseas institution, an International Studies minor and a proposed Technology minor. The Technology minor includes 30 credit points of subjects chosen from the faculties of Engineering and Informatics.

Professor Rob Whelan, Dean of the Faculty of Science, attended the FEC meeting and provided the following background on the proposal:

- The proposal was initiated by comments made at a Science Faculty Advisory Committee meeting and is based on the strong conviction that the future for education is degrees with an international perspective.

- In particular, the future study of Science should cover social sciences – or the place of science in society – as well as technical aspects. This is achieved by the inclusion of the International Studies and Technology minors.

- He met with Professor Joe Chicharo earlier this year and discussed what Informatics subjects would be appropriate. It is hoped the subject lists are considered relevant by Informatics FEC.

In response to questions regarding the proposal, Professor Whelan noted:

- The title of the degree is under discussion and it will be revised to commence ‘Bachelor of Science’.

- All Science programs include a statistics requirement, and some also include mathematics. The inclusion of a Mathematics and Statistics stream can be considered in the future.

- The course is the first of its kind at the University, however faculties such as Education already offer global classroom link subjects.

FEC agreed that the proposed subject lists are well prepared and relevant, and confirmed that pre-requisite requirements are adequately covered. The Committee agreed to support the proposal.

Resolved (FEC05/16)

That FEC recommends:

(a) support for the International Bachelor of Science (Honours), as proposed by the Faculty of Science, and

(b) the inclusion of Informatics subjects to form a Technology minor within the proposed International Bachelor of Science (Honours), as listed in the attachment to the agenda.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – VERBAL REPORT

There was no report for this meeting. However, the Chair did welcome Mr Peter Vial who has replaced Dr Jason Lukasiak as the SECTE representative.
4. **REPORT FROM CEDIR/LEARNING DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

*4.1 CEDIR – Ric Caladine and Sarah Lambert*

Ms Sarah Lambert, CEDIR Faculty Service Agreement (FSA) Manager, attended to discuss the impact of the WebCT Vista transition on the FSA. She tabled a summary of current Informatics FSA projects and noted that:

- The WebCT Vista transition is a top priority over the next 18 months and support under FSA will also focus on this priority.

- Accordingly, a call for FSA projects has not gone out for next session. Instead, Sandra Wills will meet with the Dean and Heads of Schools to determine a prioritised list of projects requiring WebCT transition support within the Faculty.

- Some video and DVD production will still be available, but the focus will be on e-learning projects.

- Twice the number of projects will be supported by CEDIR over the next 18 months than would normally be supported under the current FSA arrangements.

In response to a question, Ms Lambert outlined the steps involved in the transition process:

- Automatic migration of content and materials from WebCT to WebCT Vista by CEDIR and ITS staff. The technical transfer is complicated and will be time consuming.

- Quality assurance and tidying by CEDIR staff to ensure nothing has ‘dropped off’ during the migration process.

- Training and staff development will be provided for academic staff.

- Context-sensitive help and embedded staff and student support will be available within site.

5. **REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY – ANNETTE MELDRUM**

There was no report for this meeting.

6. **REPORT FROM STUDENT MEMBER – BOB BROWN**

There was no report for this meeting.
7. REPORTS FROM FEC WORKING PARTIES

*7.1 QUALITY101 Working Party

Dr Anne Porter reported that some data and feedback has been received for subject monitored during Autumn session 2005. She presented some material to the FEC meeting regarding CSCI114 noting the following trends:

- Usefulness of particular resources, as determined by students, declined in some areas compared to last year.
- Despite this, students perceived themselves as more competent.
- However, international students felt less confident in some areas, even though they received the same results as domestic students.
- Patterns of what is useful for learning is different between domestic and international students.

The failure rates are still quite high for CSCI114 and MATH161, but no conclusions can be drawn until a detailed analysis is completed.

*7.2 Tertiary Literacies Integration Working Party

The Working Party met on 14 June 2005. Ms Bronwyn James tabled a draft summary of the current integration of academic and information literacies within Informatics subjects. It is expected that the mapping of this integration will be finalised soon. Ms James noted that the next stage will be the identification of where more support may be required.

8. SCHOOL ITEMS

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL, COMPUTER & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING

8.1 Subject Revision – ECTE202

Resolved (FEC05/17)

That FEC recommends approval of the revision to subject content and learning outcomes for ECTE202 – Circuits and Systems, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, effective from 2006.

*8.2 Subject Revision – ECTE212

Mr Peter Vial noted that the word ‘circuits’ was spelt incorrectly in the subject content description on the subject proposal form.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal subject to the correction of this minor error in the paperwork.
Resolved (FEC05/18)
That FEC recommends approval of the following revisions to ECTE212 – Electronics and Communications, effective from 2006:
(a) change of subject title to ‘Electronics’; and
(b) revisions to subject content and learning outcomes, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda (subject to the minor change indicated in the minutes).

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER SCIENCE

8.3 Revision of Pre-requisite – IACT302

Resolved (FEC05/19)
That FEC recommends approval of the following revised pre-requisite for IACT302 – Corporate Network Planning, effective from 2006:
“IACT202 or ELEC211 or ELEC212 or ECTE211 or ECTE212 or ECTE282 or ECTE283”

8.4 Revision of Pre-requisite – CSCI399

Resolved (FEC05/20)
That FEC recommends approval of the following revised pre-requisite for CSCI399 – Server Technology, effective from 2006:
“(CSCI212 and CSCI213) or (ITCS213 and 6cp at 200 level)”

8.5 Subject Revision – CSCI205

Resolved (FEC05/21)
That FEC recommends approval of the revision to subject content and learning outcomes for CSCI205 – Development Methods and Tools, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, effective from 2006.

*8.6 Subject Revision – CSCI222

As the subject proposal lists that the subject is offered in Dubai, Mr Ric Caladine noted that eduStream is available and has been utilised by Commerce staff teaching to Dubai. The Committee clarified that Faculty subjects are taught by staff on the Dubai campus, therefore, eduStream is not required.

Resolved (FEC05/22)
That FEC:
(a) endorses the revision to subject content and learning outcomes for CSCI222 – Systems Development, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, effective from Spring 2005.
(b) notes that Faculty approved the revisions at its meeting of 16 June 2005, subject to endorsement by FEC.
8.7 Subject Revision – CSCI311

Resolved (FEC05/23)
That FEC recommends approval of the revision to subject content and learning outcomes for CSCI311 – Software Process Management, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, effective from 2006.

8.8 Subject Revisions – CSCI213/ ITCS907/ MCS9213

Resolved (FEC05/24)
That FEC recommends approval of the following revisions to CSCI213/ ITCS907/ MCS9213 – Java Programming & the Internet, effective from 2006:
(a) revisions to subject content, learning outcomes and tertiary literacies, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, and
(b) change of subject title to ‘Java Programming and Object Oriented Design’.

8.9 New Subject – ITCS213

Resolved (FEC05/25)
That FEC:
(a) recommends approval of the new subject ITCS213 – Java Programming & the Internet, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, to be introduced in 2006, and
(b) notes the new subject will only be available to BIST students.

8.10 Major Course Revision – Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology

Resolved (FEC05/26)
That FEC:
(a) recommends approval of the deletion of CSCI325 – Software Engineering Formal Methods and CSCI425 – Topics in Software Engineering, from 2006;
(b) recommends approval of new subjects CSCI318 – Software Engineering Practices and Principles and CSCI410 – Formal Methods in Software Engineering, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, to be introduced in 2006;
(c) recommends approval of the major course amendment to the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology degree, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, to be introduced in 2006;
(d) requests that Faculty forward the course proposal to Academic Senate Standing Committee for approval, with a request that the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) waive the requirement for an ECAC report, as endorsed in the Course Approval Guidelines; and
(e) notes that no changes will be made to the current subject, CSCI925 – Topics in Software Engineering.
8.11 Subject Revision – ITCS935

Resolved (FEC05/27)
That FEC recommends approval of the following revisions to ITCS935 – Software Engineering Formal Methods, to be introduced in 2006:
(a) change of subject code and title to CSCI910 – Formal Methods in Software Engineering; and
(b) minor revisions to subject content and learning objectives, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda.

8.12 Minor Course Revision – Master of Computer Studies

Resolved (FEC05/28)
That FEC:
(a) recommends approval of the new subjects MCS9206 – Markup Languages and MCS9318 – Software Engineering Practices and Principles, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, to be introduced in 2006;
(b) recommends approval of the minor course amendment to the Master of Computer Studies degree, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, to be introduced in 2006, and
(c) requests that Faculty forward the course proposal to Academic Senate Standing Committee for approval.

8.13 Minor Course Revision – Bachelor of Computer Science

Resolved (FEC05/29)
That FEC:
(a) recommends approval of the minor course amendment to the Bachelor of Computer Science degree, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda, to be introduced in 2006, and
(b) requests that Faculty forward the course proposal to Academic Senate Standing Committee for approval.

8.14 Deletion of SITACS Prizes

Resolved (FEC05/30)
That FEC:
(a) notes the withdrawal of sponsors for the following prizes:
   (i) Cashcard Australia Ltd. Prize
   (ii) Nortel Networks Australia First Year Prize
   (iii) Nortel Networks Australia Third Year Prize
(b) recommends the prizes be deleted, noting no award will be made for students studying in 2005, and
(c) asks the Faculty to notify the University’s Student Awards Committee of the prize deletions.

8.15 Item for Noting

Resolved (FEC05/31)
That FEC notes the following revised contact hours for ITCS436/936 – Detailed Design of Integrated Solutions for eBusiness, effective from Spring session 2005:

“2 hour lecture and 2 hour tutorial”
*8.16 Minor Course Revision – Bachelor of Mathematics and Finance

The proposal states, under ‘Transition Arrangements’, that agreement is being sought from the School of Accounting and Finance to allow students who did ECON101 in Autumn 2005 and delayed ECON111 until their second year to enrol in ECON111 and FIN221 concurrently in Autumn 2006.

A/Prof Peter Nickolas reported that Professor Andrew Worthington, Head of the School of Accounting and Finance has since agreed to this arrangement. Accordingly, the Committee agreed to approve the proposal subject to the updating of the paperwork.

Resolved (FEC05/32)
That FEC:
(a) recommends approval of the minor course amendment to the Bachelor of Mathematics and Finance degree, as outlined in the attachment to the agenda (subject to the minor addition indicated in the minutes), to be introduced in 2006, and
(c) requests that Faculty forward the course proposal to Academic Senate Standing Committee for approval.

*9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & FEEDBACK

9.1 Awarding University Medals

The Chair noted that the issue paper attached to the agenda was recently discussed by the University Student Awards Committee (SAC). He tabled a memo outlining revised wording for consideration by the members of the SAC and noted that the issue paper is in the early stages of consultation, and has been provided to FEC for information at this stage.

The Committee briefly discussed the awarding of university medals, highlighting that the current method is problematic for double degree students.

9.2 Dean’s Merit List Rules

The Committee briefly discussed the proposed revisions to the method of determining Dean’s Merit Lists, noting:

- The current method determines in which faculty list a student is included based on degree rather than individual subjects. However, students may be enrolled in a particular degree, but only undertaking subjects from another faculty.
- The method should remain inclusive of cross-faculty degrees/arrangements.
- Inclusion on the Dean’s Merit List is a university acknowledgement of good performance.
- The proposal also removes the requirement that First Class Honours students are automatically included in the list.
10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

There were no items for noting.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Annette Worthy raised a query regarding the best way to ensure BIST Honours students are identified in classes they attend as part of their Honours program, as they are not formally enrolled in individual subjects. In addition, Dr Worthy raised the issue of collating results and informing students of mid-year results.

It was suggested that Dr Worthy and Dr Geoff Trott review the BIST Honours results and ensure that an ongoing dialogue is maintained with subject coordinators of subjects that include BIST Honours students. Individual mid-year results can be provided to students after all results have been released.

12. NEXT MEETING

18 August 2005 Faculty Meeting Room, 39.150A.

Dr G Trott
Acting Chair
21 July 2005