UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
FACULTY OF INFORMATICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 5/03 held at 1.30pm on Thursday 23 October 2003 in the Faculty Meeting Room, Building 39, room 150A.

PRESENT: A/Prof F Naghdy (Chair), A/Prof N Gray, Mr E Ha, Dr C McPhail, Ms A Meldrum, Dr I Piper, Dr A Porter, Dr D Platt, Dr G Trott and Dr A Worthy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms K Sheridan.

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

*1.1 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from: Ms M Chatterjee, Dr J Lukasiak, A/Prof T Wysocki.

The following members are currently on leave: Ms B James.

*1.2 Arrangement of Agenda

1.2.1 Items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2 and 6.5 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 11 September 2003

The Committee confirmed the minutes of Meeting 4/03 held on 11 September 2003.

*1.4 Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

1.4.1 WUC – Diploma in Information Technology

A/Prof Neil Gray noted that the proposals were at the University-level committees and that concerns were raised about who is certifying the CISCO component of the Diploma. Discussions are taking place with SITACS and WUC staff.

1.4.2 Pass/Failure Rates

Due to the short period of time since the last FEC meeting, the working party has not had a chance to meet. They will, however, provide further updates to the next FEC meeting. In addition, the feedback regarding what data should be accessible via COGNOS will be forwarded to the appropriate Committee for consideration.
2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – VERBAL REPORT

2.1 Faculty Service Agreements – Call for Submissions
The Chair noted that CEDIR has called for submissions for free production of teaching resources for Spring Session 2004. Development and production will take place in Autumn Session 2004. An email will be sent to all staff calling for submissions, and FEC members are asked to encourage staff to make a submission.

ACTION: Faculty Officer to send email to all Informatics staff regarding FSA submissions.

3. REPORT FROM CEDIR/LEARNING DEVELOPMENT UNIT

No reports received.

4. REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY – ANNETTE MELDRUM

No report for this meeting.

5. REPORT FROM STUDENT MEMBER

No report received.

6. SCHOOL ITEMS

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL, COMPUTER & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING

6.1 Revised Co-requisite for INFO202

Resolved (FEC03/31)
That FEC recommend that the co-requisite for INFO202 – Project be amended to read from 2004:

CSCI213 and (ECTE291 or ECTE283).

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER SCIENCE

6.2 Revision of Prizes

Resolved (FEC03/32)
That FEC recommend approval of revisions to prize conditions, such that from 2005 (based on 2004 results):

(i) The Cashcard Australia Ltd Prize will be awarded for CSCI114 and CCSI102, rather than for CSCI111 and CSCI102.

(ii) The Nortel Networks Australia First Year Prize will be awarded for CSCI124 rather than for CSCI121.

(iii) The SITACS Visiting Committee Prize will be awarded for CSCI102 rather than for CSCI101 and CSCI102.
6.3 New Prize – GETRONICS Australia Pty Ltd Prize

Resolved (FEC03/33)
That FEC recommend approval of the introduction of the Getronics Australia Pty Ltd Prize, to be awarded for the first time in 2004.

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED STATISTICS

6.4 INFO911 - Revised Prerequisite

Resolved (FEC03/34)
That FEC recommend approval of the following changes to INFO911 Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, effective from 2004:
(i) Deletion of the current prerequisite; and
(ii) Addition of the following phrase under Additional Information on the Subject Database: “Knowledge of mathematical and statistical notation at an introductory level is assumed”.

*6.5 INFO411 - Revised Prerequisite

Dr Ian Piper expressed concerns about the change in pre-requisite as it appears that the subject includes sufficient statistical and computer science content to require a stronger mathematical pre-requisite than that proposed. It was noted that the spirit of the subject is that pre-requisites should not be necessary, however, it appears that in practice pre-requisites are required, even if it is only for the computer science content of the subject.

Due to this concern, and the fact that the SMAAS reps on FEC were not familiar with the proposed change, FEC requested that the proposed change be referred back to the School to be reconsidered in consultation with SITACS.

Resolved (FEC03/35)
That FEC refer the proposal for a change to the pre-requisite for INFO411 Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery back to the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics for reconsideration, and request that the School consult with SITACS regarding the change.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Anne Porter raised the issue of how IT-related policies which impact on teaching and learning are often approved for implementation without appropriate consultation with faculties. For example, the progress of the online learning policy in unknown, and this issue was of some concern to the few who had an opportunity to view the policy. Other IT policies have been approved without Faculties being given the opportunity to provide feedback.

Dr Porter requested that members be conscious of recent changes to IT policies and read them carefully. If enough staff object to the policies, perhaps FEC should question why these issues are not coming to the Faculty, in some form, for consideration.

ACTION: Faculty Officer to enquire about progress of Online Learning Policy.

F Naghdy
Chair
29 October 2003