School of Computer Science and Engineering

Education Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 25 May 2023

PRESENT:	John Shepherd (Chair)	Eric Martin
	Yuchao Jiang	Fethi Rabhi
	Alan Blair	Jake Renzella
	Armin Chitizadeh	Raveen de Silva
	Chun Tung Chou	Andrew Taylor
	Oliver Diessel	Paul Hunter
	Bruno Gaeta	Rahat Masood
	Sara Ballouz	Michael Thielscher
	Raymond Louie	Basem Suleiman
	Nicola Kwan	Kristian Mansfield
	Sasha Vassar	Michael Bain
	Sushmita Ruj	Francisco Naranjo
	Arash Shaghaghi	Sushmita Ruj
	Raymond Wong	Imran Razzak
	Richard Buckland	Salil Kanhere
	Arcot Sowmya	Sebastian Kandi
APOLOGIES:	Tina Tuomikoski	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Cathy Kwan (Secretary)	

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2023.

Resolution:
The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

The Committee discussed open action items from the meeting held on 27 April 2023.

4. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Nil

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Terms of Reference.

Section 2 Roles and Responsibilities:
All are acceptable excluding exams. Exam monitoring and review is the topic that requires further discussion. ACS accreditation requires all exams to be invigilated or they will withdraw the accreditation.

Section 3 Composition
Jas will make the required changes. One of them was AS suggested research reps not have any voting power.

Resolution:
The Committee accepted the 2023 Education Committee Terms of Reference subject to the minor changes.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1. ECLIPS, ECOS, Data Cleansing and CSE Course Outlines

JS was planning to prepare a table of course status but didn't have time. CO also needs to meet the standard especially if the course is on an advanced level.

6.2. ASB Master of Cyber Security Management

There is an undergraduate and postgraduate working group investigating Cyber Security Programs. Looking at current offerings and offerings at other institutions e.g. USYD. There is strong demand from overseas markets. They are talking to industry partners. Three-year degree with the possibility of a fourth-year, industry placement is also a possibility. The possibility of a double degree with Law or Psychology. Wargames component. JS raised the issue of new course numbers and staffing issues. RB said we can make use of current courses with some upgrades. A few new entry-level cyber courses for everyone and cyber researchers/industry experts can do specialist units. Can work with existing staff or tap into other schools e.g. Law/Psychology.

6.3. Elite Students Program

Raveen discussed the proposed changes.

We plan to remove the UAI pathway and increase the WAM requirement to prevent new students from dropping below the WAM requirement. AB made the comment to suggest a placement test to exempt COMP1511 so these students can go directly to COMP1521 or other courses. This exemption also can be made available to students outside CSE programs. RB mentioned that these elite students can be good in technical but not in social so having them is beneficial to other students. AS supported the idea of exemption because these students didn't have enough challenges and were unfair to them as well as discouraging to the other students.

6.4. COMP3121/9101 Revisions

Raveen discussed the proposed changes.

6.5. Courses with Low Enrolments

Given the growth in student numbers, the School will need to have more offerings of some large core courses. Questions were raised as to how we can afford to keep running courses with relatively few students. E.g. do all of the following courses need to run in 2024?

Student Enrolments	Course Code and Title
10	COMP6741 Algorithms for Intractable Pbs
34	COMP9491 Applied AI
39	COMP9727 Recommender Systems
44	COMP4511 User Interface Design & Construction
50	COMP3821 Ext Algorithms & Programming Techniques
50	COMP9242 Advanced Operating Systems
51	COMP2111 System Modelling and Design
55	COMP6733 Internet of Things
56	COMP4336 Mobile Data Networking
56	COMP6721 (In-)Formal Methods
62	COMP3153 Algorithmic Verification
63	COMP6451 Cryptocurrency and DLT
78	COMP4337 Securing Fixed & Wireless Networks
80	COMP4141 Theory of Computation
82	COMP9032 Microprocessors & Interfacing
92	COMP4121 Advanced Algorithms

93	COMP3131 Programming Languages & Compilers
96	COMP3431 Robotic Software Architecture

COMP4337 relevant for Cyber Security – can be offered after 2024 if not offered in 2024 and COMP3431 supports Robocup. One concern is whether these courses contribute to PhD intake – AT will do a check, but the number is expected to be minimal.

6.6. ACS vs COMP39900 – Alan Blair

COMP3900/9900 - ACS requested we make a certain percentage of those projects industry lead. Discussion was held about introducing a new course code e.g. COMP3910 as a substitute for 3900/9900. 10 weeks is too short so may be run similar to VIP program over two or three terms. There is demand from computer science students for an advanced software engineering course but it should not be available to software engineering students as it may be too similar the software engineering workshop. If only available to computer science students, and not software engineering students, then it would be problematic to call it advanced software engineering. There are issues about the structure of the course and the name.

Basem is looking at 3900 as he taught an equivalent course in Syd Uni & has industry contacts. AT briefed 1700 starting computer science in 2023, two years of growth locked in for 3900. There is an idea of doing an industry project, it will be a gigantic undertaking. There was a suggestion to have two to three projects rather than 20 and groups can be larger than five. There can be overlapping projects, industry likes it as they can compare projects. Deakin has one full-time staff member to liaise with industry over projects and every academic must supervise one industry-linked project.

7. ITEMS FOR NOTING AND INFORMATION

7.1. Reports from Committees outside CSE

JS attended the Faculty Education Committee. Project Nexus will start and expression of interest process soon.

7.2. MIT "Wireframe" Restructuring Postgraduate Programs

Program attributes to be AQF compliant, which requires non-problematic reformulation for Master and Graduate Diplomas. The structure of the Graduate Certificate in Computing, with its only 24 units of credit (UoC), makes the exercise impossible, so will necessitate making it 36 or 48 UoC, so that it becomes a degree with the attributes of a "true" postgraduate degree (also making it possible to rename it as "Graduate Certificate in IT"). With that change, it won't be possible any more to let it give students with a non-computing background a chance to prove themselves to then be allowed to articulate to Graduate Diploma or Masters, but Faculty says a new bridging degree would then be created for that purpose.

Each specialisation will have its own flavour of the program attributes. There is a requirement to make all prescribed electives of a specialisation ADKs, which is made possible by removing some courses from the lists and promoting others (probably three) to ADKs. Bioinformatics and e-commerce were removed as specialisations. Data science specialisation "cleaned" more than the others that remain. There is a pressure to have more industry involvement expected to increase, for COMP9900 in particular.

7.3. Report on UNSW Online

The Director of UNSW Online advised members that there are not enough staff to teach the online courses as our staff are overloaded. Program reviews have started. The School is not leading any of the reviews but needs to provide feedback/information on its courses. ZZEN9215 under course redevelopment, has been delayed several times. Jiaojiao has been working with SME to resolve the issue.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

DR JOHN SHEPHERD
Chair