

School of Computer Science and Engineering Education Committee Meeting Friday October 17, 2025

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location: Hybrid format – Virtual via Microsoft Teams and in person at K17, Room 113.

PRESENT:

Wayne Wobcke (Chair)
Ashesh Mahidadia
Paul Hunter
Arcot Sowmya
Shiling Wu
Chun Tung Chou
Oliver Diessel
Alan Blair
Sonit Singh
Sasha Vassar
Francisco Cruz Naranjo
Shaveen Singh
Zhengyi Yang

Yuchao Jiang
Nicholas George
Tina Tuomikoski
Salil Kanhere
Basem Suleiman
Sushmita Ruj
Angela Finlayson
Raymond Louie
Nadeem Ahmed
Rahat Masood
Yulei Sui
Arash Shaghaghi
Rachid Hamadi

APOLOGIES:

Benjamin Tag
Flora Salim
Jake Renzella
Adiya Joshi
Jiaojiao Jing
Sanjay Jha
Gernot Heiser

IN ATTENDANCE:

Maggie Le (Secretary)

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:06 pm.

The recording of the meeting is set to auto-delete after 120 days to maintain confidentiality and used only for minute verification.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of both the August and September meetings were accepted.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

3.1. Comprehensive Course Review Pilot (Sasha)

The meeting discussed the recent comprehensive course review for COMP3900/9900, highlighting the need to delineate the scope of the reviews, the need for clearer guidelines for the conduct of the reviews, and the importance of including school-level academic oversight in future reviews. Sasha was asked to provide concrete recommendations concerning the CCR process that could be passed on to the faculty.

3.2. Academic Program Review – Master of Cyber Security (Rahat)

We are awaiting recommendations from the review panel.

3.3. BSc (Computer Science, Data Science) – India (Andrew, Jake, Raveen)

Sowmya and the Chair provided updates on the India programs, detailing ongoing challenges in aligning course offerings and program structures between the Sydney and India campuses, the need for program revisions post-approval, governance structures, and operational differences such as semester models and resource sharing.

For Data Science, the Computer Science courses selected by Maths & Stats are different from those planned to be offered by CSE. It is necessary to review future program revisions to ensure consistency and supportability across both campuses.

The India programs will include joint management committees at both operational and academic levels. There are ongoing discussions about compliance, resource allocation, and the participation of India campus academics in professional development activities.

The India campus will operate on a two-semester model with different holiday periods from Sydney; it will not be in line with UNSW academic calendars. This creates potential difficulties in course delivery and student mobility.

There are concerns about sharing course materials, assessments and lab exercises due to differences in copyright laws and the need to maintain academic integrity. An IP audit is underway to determine ownership and permissible sharing of materials.

Physical classroom capacity in India is limited to 60 students, hence online classes may be arranged. The program is designed with a staff-student ratio of 1:22 and with limited options to students offered within India programs.

3.4. Policy on CSE Undergraduate Thesis Supervision Panels (Chun Tung)

Members discussed policies for undergraduate thesis supervision, the differences between thesis course series, and group thesis projects.

Chun Tung outlined the proposed policy that all undergraduate thesis projects must have a CSE academic involved as supervisor, co-supervisor, or assessor, especially when the primary supervisor is external to CSE. A guide document is provided to new supervisors. It is necessary to have more structured involvement of assessors early in the process.

Chun Tung outlined the differences between the 4951/2/3 and 4961/2/3 thesis series, particularly in units of credit and expected workload. Work is in progress to make these differences more visible to supervisors and assessors, and to ensure appropriate workload to be assigned. Members suggested that group size and composition (e.g. mixing students from different thesis series) should be considered in student workload and assessment.

It was noted that thesis policies remain the same until more data is collected and revisit policy changes in the broader program redesign. It was also proposed that a similar survey to myExperience will be implemented to gather feedback on thesis courses, which will allow the school to analyse results by stream.

The proposed policy on thesis supervision and assessment panels was accepted by majority vote.

4. Items for Noting/Discussion

4.1. MIT Software Engineering Specialization (Eric, Yulei)

A proposal to add COMP6080 Web Front-End Programming to the list of electives was put by the Chair. The relevant parties will consider this and come to a decision before the next meeting.



4.2. Proposed Revisions to Bachelor of Data Science and Decisions (Raveen)

As Raveen was absent, the Chair noted a proposal by Maths & Stats to restructure the degree to include a Maths & Stats and Computing core, allowing numerous specializations. Details would be provided in the next meeting.

4.3. Marks Distributions for Online Courses

Grade Inflation in Online Courses. The SARG meeting for H5 found unusually high average marks in some online courses (around 97 in one course). Convenors were asked to explain, and future terms will include stricter reviews of mark distributions. Such courses are candidates for CCR.

Project-Based Course Assessment. The SARG meeting for T2 raised concerns about students passing project-based courses without meeting exam requirements. Assessment structures will be reviewed to uphold academic standards.

Faculty Oversight and Policy Gaps. Marks from online courses have not been reviewed by faculty, revealing a lack of oversight. New processes and working groups will be introduced to address this issue.

4.4. Calendar Project Course Offerings

The Chair outlined preparations for the transition to the semester model in 2028. Topics included course scheduling, space needs, staff workload and the importance of timely input from academics.

5. REPORTS

5.1. School Assessment Review Group (SARG)

See item 4.3.

5.2. Faculty Education Committee (FEC)

WAM and Honours Classification. The Chair explained changes to how the WAM is calculated for determining the class of honours, now excluding first-year courses and academic withdrawals. There is additional complexity for dual degrees.

AAEE (Australasian Association for Engineering Education) Conference. This will be hosted by UNSW in December 2026. Any ideas for events or papers welcome. Participation is encouraged.

5.3. Workload Committee

Teaching Allocation. Gaps for 2026 include COMP9820 Software Project Management, COMP2511 Software Design and Architecture, COMP9312 Data Analytics for Graphs and COMP9414 Artificial Intelligence.

Working Groups. These may need to be established to look more closely at project assessment in courses with substantial project components, and at how extended versions of courses differ from base versions.

5.4. Accreditation (Sara)

Sara shared updates on accreditation, highlighting the need to map elective curricula, extended deadlines, and extra staff support. Ashesh was named a key contributor.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

N/A



ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1. Comprehensive Course Review Recommendations.** Sasha to compile a list of recommendations for next month's Faculty Education Committee meeting.
- 6.2. Semester Model Space Planning.** Wayne to fill out the spreadsheet with estimated semester splits and tutorial/lab requirements to support space planning.
- 6.3. Specialization Lead Appointment.** Sowmya to appoint a lead for the undergraduate Bachelor of Data Science and Decisions specialization in Computational Data Science to manage electives and program updates.
- 6.4. Software Engineering Specialization.** Ashesh, Eric and Yulei to finalize the elective list and report back at the next Education Committee meeting.
- 6.5. Thesis Course Planning for Semester Model.** Chun Tung to develop a thesis course structure and unit allocation plan for the 2028 semester model to present for discussion at the next meeting.
- 6.6. Curriculum Mapping for Accreditation.** Sara, Ashesh and other staff to complete curriculum mapping of electives to align with learning outcomes.
- 6.7. VIP Project Records.** Sara, Raveen, Yuchao, Yang and Helen to gather details on current and past VIP projects for accreditation documentation.
- 6.8. Education Committee Terms of Reference.** The Chair and committee members to collect input on potential revisions for discussion at the November meeting.

The meeting closed at 13:41 pm.

DR WAYNE WOBCKE
Chair

