

School of Computer Science and Engineering Education Committee Meeting Friday March 20, 2026

Date: 20/03/2026

Time: 12:00PM – 2:00PM

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

MEMBERS AND INVITEES PRESENT:

Wayne Wobcke (Chair)
Andrew Taylor
Ashesh Mahidadia
Arcot Sowmya
Sara Ballouz
Oliver Diessel
Jake Renzella
Alan Blair
Eric Martin
Chun Tung Chou
Sasha Vassar
Nicholas George
Sapna Saini

APOLOGIES: IN ATTENDANCE:

Fethi Rabhi, Tina Tuomikoski
Danielle Eccles (Minutes)

1. MEETING OPENING

The Chair opened the meeting at 12.05pm.

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

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 13, 2026 meeting were accepted without amendment.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

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

There is still no response from the faculty concerning the ongoing ownership and direction of the online Cyber Security programs, hence our response to the APR cannot yet be finalized.

3.2. Bachelor/Master of Data Science and Decisions Changes (Raveen)

There is no update since the last meeting. The School of Maths & Stats are planning to revise the jointly taught Data Science courses and are in discussions with the School of Business. Any updates are likely to apply only from 2028, coinciding with the first offering of DATA1001 in Bengaluru.

3.3. Review of Online Teaching (Sonit, Rahat)

It was noted that the current and new LLL funding models do not cover course updates and revisions, however special funding may be requested for course redesign on a case-by-case basis. Sonit reported that course redesign has commenced for a number of Data Science courses. Ensuring academic integrity, especially of online exams, is a major concern which will be discussed with UNSW Lifelong Learning.

3.4. Review of Assessment in Project-Based Courses (Ashesh)

A group within the Education Committee is reviewing assessment in project-based courses to (a) ensure academic quality standards are met, including consistency of marking and academic integrity, and (b) to identify any areas for improvement in efficiency. An initial meeting concerning DATA3001 has been held.

4. ITEMS FOR NOTING/DISCUSSION

4.1. UNSW Canberra Program Revisions (Ashesh)

UNSW Canberra School of Systems and Computing is proposing a new coursework Master of AI, and revision of their HDR titles from Computer Science to AI, Cybersecurity and Systems. This notification is the first step in formal consultation, with more details to follow. There was a discussion on whether UNSW Sydney should (also) introduce AI-focused degrees. There is a necessity to avoid both overlap between UNSW Sydney and Canberra programs and an external committee for coordination, as was proposed for the Cyber Security programs.

4.2. Preparing AI-Enabled Graduates: Redesigning Courses/Programs (Ashesh)

Ashesh highlighted the need to include more teaching of the appropriate use of AI tools throughout the curriculum, either through new courses or revisions to existing courses such as ENGG1811. Meetings will be held with other schools in the faculty to understand their requirements.

In relation to academic staff workload, Wayne emphasized the need for reliable information on the effectiveness of AI tools for use by academics in teaching, and undertook to maintain a repository of evidence of the potential impact of AI tools on academic teaching work.

4.3. Calendar Transition (Andrew, Wayne, Ashesh)

Wayne summarized recent developments, including lab space planning, thesis transition models, and the impact on teaching workload distribution. Estate Management has confirmed that CSE will have two more Linux labs, however no extra labs will be built for running lab exams, so a contingency plan may be required for CSE lab exams in 2028, depending on enrolments. Ideally, space for exams will be allocated centrally so that other spaces around the university can be utilized.

The calendar thesis working group has developed a plan for the transition between terms and semesters for students starting their thesis in 2027.

Teaching workload projection for 2028 is under construction. Lecturers of core courses and EF staff will be contacted about how they plan to run their courses and balance workload under the semester calendar.

4.4. UNSW Bengaluru (Andrew, Jake, Raveen)

Recruitment for Bengaluru academic positions is underway. The school has been asked to provide a plan to handle the contingency that no suitable candidate to teach WENG1000 will be appointed in time. This would involve CSE academic(s) being seconded to UNSW Bengaluru for the August 2026 semester.

4.5. UNSW LLL (Sonit, Rahat)

Wayne emphasized the need to ensure that school and faculty governance processes are followed in online programs, particularly regarding academic integrity and invigilated exams. A meeting is planned with LLL to discuss a range of issues in the delivery and funding of online courses.

5. REPORTS

5.1. School Assessment Review Group (SARG)

As in previous SARGs for online courses, a high number of HD and DN grades were returned in one Cyber Security Masters course. Assessment in that course will be reviewed.

5.2. Faculty Education Committee (FEC)

ECLIPS Deadlines. The deadline for handbook/prerequisite changes for 2027 is July 3, 2026. For course amendments/revisions in 2026, deadlines are May 1 (Term 2) and August 7 (Term 3). **Notify Ashesh/Wayne in advance of the deadlines if you are intending to propose changes.**



Curriculum Transformation Workshops for Program Authorities. A series of workshops will be held in Weeks 6 and 7 of Term 1.

5.3. Faculty Redesign of Engineers Australia Accredited Programs (Ashesh)

No update as there have been no meetings since the last Education Committee meeting.

5.4. Workload Committee

New members are needed as the term of the current members has expired. The Terms of Reference, revised to reflect the new committee composition, were voted on and accepted. One significant topic of discussion in the Term 1 meeting was about workload implications for plagiarism detection and prosecution.

Teaching gaps for 2026 T3 include COMP1531 Software Engineering Fundamentals, COMP2511 Software Design and Architecture, and COMP9820 Software Project Management. Gaps for 2027 include COMP2521 Data Structures and Algorithms, COMP2041/9044 Software Construction, COMP6771 Advanced C++ Programming, COMP9321 Data Services Engineering and COMP9820 Software Project Management. Gaps for 2028 are still being worked out.

5.5. Accreditation (Sara, Ashesh)

Changes to the National Competency Standards for Engineering graduate capabilities have been proposed around the notion of Engineering “mindsets”. Feedback from the school is due on March 26. Sara reported that the accreditation report has been completed and handed over to copy editors. The next step is to nominate students and staff for interview panels.

5.6. Other School/University Committees

Humanitarian Engineering: There was some discussion on the proposed new division of functions between the HE and SDG committees. Anyone interested in the SDG Committee please contact Wayne.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alan suggested the idea of introducing a minor in Computer Science, and the potential for AI, Cyber Security, and Bioinformatics minors was also considered. It was suggested that an AI minor might be more appealing and relevant, with potential for a similar minor in Cyber Security.

Meeting closed 1.55pm.

