

# Inf1 Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Appleton Tower, Room 4.03

**Attendees:** Ewan Klein (Course Organiser), Dave Robertson (Lecturer, CL), Philip Wadler (Lecturer, FP), Tom French (TA, CL), Zoë Leiper (TA, FP), Phil Scott (TA, FP), Thea Koutsoukis (Class Rep), Radu Oprescu (Class Rep), Tamise Totterdell (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Catalina Predoi (Class Rep)

The meeting opened with a brief introduction on the format and purpose of the SSLC.

## 1. INF1-CL (Robertson, French)

There was some concern that the examples presented in the lectures were very different from the ones in the tutorials and students were sometimes lost in the lectures. Students wanted to know whether the exam would involve material like the examples in the lectures, or the easier ones in the tutorials. Tom French suggested that the students looked at the past papers available on the Informatics web pages. Dave Robertson said that there would be a lecture on the exam nearer the end of term which would give an overview of examinable topics.

The class reps also suggested that it would be useful to have more exercises with solutions on some of the topics – in particular FSMs. Dave said that the tutorial exercises on FSMs should be made more difficult, but that it was hard to get the balance correct.

WebCT was not being heavily used, but it was predicted that usage would go up closer to the exams.

**ACTION:** Tom French to add a link from the CL page to the Informatics past papers.

**ACTION:** Dave Robertson to make the FSM tutorials harder for next year.

## 2. INF1-FP (Wadler, Leiper, Scott)

Students were enjoying FP so far. Some of the course was difficult, but there was help available. The reps felt it was useful to have the tutorial solutions on the web – though there had been some initial delay with getting these up. Phil Scott explained that the aim was for the tutorial solutions to go up one week after the tutorial. This delay was to ensure all students had a chance to complete the exercises before the solutions were made available.

## 3. Tutorials

Tutorials were fine in general, although there were some scheduling issues with the FP additional tutorials. Attendance at these tutorials was low, and it was suggested that the times might be a contributing factor. Students did seem to be aware that the tutorials were available.

**ACTION:** Zoë Leiper and Phil Scott to consider rescheduling the additional FP tutorials.

## **4. Labs**

The labs were being well used by the First Years, but they were not always making full use of the lab demonstrators. Some of the demonstrators, in particular those on Tuesday, were very good: they made themselves known to the students and were very approachable. However, some of the other demonstrators were not as visible. Phil Scott mentioned that since the lab was often used by students from other years, it was not always easy to go round the room asking people if they needed help. It was confirmed that during the scheduled INF1 lab slots, demonstrators were entitled to ask other students to leave the room.

**ACTION:** Ewan Klein to encourage all demonstrators to be more proactive during the labs.

## **5. Communications**

There were no problems with the mailing lists. Some students were using IRC and this seemed to be useful for getting help, since some of the better students were answering queries from their classmates. IRC was seen as being something more appropriate for people involved with CompSoc and was not particularly well publicised.

**ACTION:** IRC channel to be linked from the INF1 web page.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Students were concerned about shortage of printer paper on AT level 5. It was confirmed that students should either go to Computing Support or the ITO to get more paper.

There was some concern that not all of the reps were engaged and it was suggested that new reps could be appointed for semester 2.