RESEARCH SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE 
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 1/2016 of the Research School of Computer Science Curriculum Development Committee was held on Thursday 25 January 2016 at 12pm in Room B123, RSISE Building (115).


In Attendance: Mrs Elizabeth Nunrom, Jochen Trumpf.

Absent: Alexander Richardson

PART 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

ITEM 1 WELCOMES, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Welcomes and Apologies
The Chair welcomed all members to the first meeting for 2016. He welcomed Tony Hosking who was replacing Mark Reid.

1.2 Announcements
There were no announcements

ITEM 2 MINUTES

The Committee resolved to confirm the minutes of meeting 4/2016 of the RSCS Curriculum Development Committee held on 24 September 2015.

ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

The Chair noted the Matters arising and updated the status of each item as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<td>3/2015 - 3.1</td>
<td>Director to consolidate feedback gathered on the “why, How, What” Discussion of the Grounding Principles and Graduate Attributes and appoint a group to review the efficacy of the current educational programs against the identified mission/values.</td>
<td>Alistair Rendell</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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The Chair briefed the Committee on the following items:

**CAAC Item 7: International Coursework Admission Turnaround times** – Target turnaround times would be proposed, and it would be considered whether deferral requests could be managed by International Admissions. Paul Melloy was part of the working party and would keep the Committee updated. There is also a proposal to automate credit as far as possible via means of a database.

**CAAC Item 8: Review of Admission Requirements for Graduate Coursework Programs** – The proposal to set a default entry requirement of 5.0 for Masters and Graduate Diploma programs, with a default entry of a Bachelor pass degree for Graduate Certificates. Any deviation from this default would need to be justified on an annual basis. There was opposition to the GPA of 5.0, with the GPA of 5.5 being preferred by most Colleges. The paper would be amended for further discussion at CAAC.

**Accreditation** – the Engineers Australia report is now complete. This would be circulated and the Chair requested that members read it. The Australian Computer Society draft report was completed but feedback had to be given as there were a number of factual errors that needed to be corrected for the final report.

**Resolution:**
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the report.
ITEM 6  REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN (EDUCATION)

The Associate Dean (Education) proposed a new more coordinated process for implementing major curriculum amendments. He noted that the external review process took place every 5 years, and that these reports could now be used to satisfy ANU’s internal review requirements. He proposed that major curriculum amendments should be driven by these reviews, with changes made in response to review requirements/recommendations being implemented at the half-way point in the review cycle. He noted that this would allow sufficient time to plan and implement any necessary changes, and also to evaluate the result of said changes after implementation. This would also make the formulation of review submissions a much easier process.

He noted that as RSCS had just completed an external and internal review process, it should be planned that curriculum changes should be implemented approximately 2 years from now.

It was noted that the program review due date was the CDC Agenda deadline date of 15 March and that PPM were currently in the process of providing the statistics.

Resolution:
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the report.

ITEM 7  REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM CONVENORS

The Chair noted that this would be a regular item on the agenda and that Convenors were requested to have their written reports in by the agenda deadline.

7.1 Eric McCreath – BAC (HONS) and BAC R&D
   • There would be a welcome for BAC R&D students
   • There appeared to be 40 students currently in the BAC R&D program, with 15 commencing students

Action: Jochen Trumpf to show Eric McCreath how to obtain student numbers through ANU Insight

7.2 John Slaney – Honours convenor
   • Normal numbers
   • A number of problems with students enrolling late and only finding out about them now
   • Plans to set up a new application, similar to the one used in Science, where students apply quite some time in advance.
   • It was noted that Science had a system for both internal and external Honours students

Action: John Slaney to obtain more information regarding the Science Honours application process

7.3 Lynette Johns-Boast – Postgraduate Coursework Convenor
   • It would be beneficial for students to have access to similar facilities as the Honours students
   • As a ‘transfer only’ entry program, the program can be somewhat invisible to students.
   • The ‘transfer only’ entry process should be maintained as the easiest way to be sure of the quality of students entering the program.
   • How do we identify students who are capable and/or interested in undertaking this degree?

Action:
   • Lynette Johns-Boast to speak to Janette Rawlinson regarding the possibility of facilities for MComp (Adv) students.
• Paul Melloy to run report to identify students with 24 units remaining in the Master of Computing and a high GPA

7.4 Tom Gedeon – BIT and DipComp

• ANU College had a new lecturer for COMP1710, a former MPhil student, so a good working relationship has been formed
• There has been an issue where Computer Science convenors for courses which are also in the Diploma are not aware of the ANU College course. Communication in this area should be improved
• There is confusion regarding oversight/ responsibilities of ANU College and ANU within the Diploma of Computing e.g. Should ANU College be using CECS labs?
• The Associate Dean (Education) noted that ANU responsibilities were:
  o To share all course materials with ANU College e.g. giving access to last year’s Wattle site
  o To assist with benchmarking by setting standards and looking over a few examples of marking
• ANU College should not be given access to College resources or help in setting up computing systems
• It was noted that the requests for ANU College to be given access to the labs came from CECS IT, and so this information has not yet been passed on to them.
• It was requested that further discussion be taken offline, and also to remember that, although taught and managed by ANU College, the students in this degree were CECS students.

Actions:
• Jochen Trumpf and Alistair Rendell to discuss this issue further

Resolution:
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the reports and associated actions

PART 3 CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

ITEM 8 RESEARCH SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

8.1 Master of Innovation and Professional Practice – This program is currently under development. Committee members were encouraged to review the proposal.

Action: Any feedback to be sent to Shayne.Flint@anu.edu.au by 10 March 2016

8.2 Bachelor of Data, Statistics and Society Honours Plan – This program has been developed as part of the accreditation requirements for the Bachelor of Data, Statistics and Society program. It follows the same model as the existing Bachelor of Philosophy, Politics and Statistics.

Action:
• Any feedback to be sent to Elizabeth.Nunrom@anu.edu.au by 10 March 2016
• John Slaney to review Bachelor of Data, Statistics and Society to ensure that the entry requirements for the Honours plan were satisfied
• John Slaney to review all Honours plan Admission requirements in order to ensure that all meeting the Honours Working Party requirements and report back to RSCS CDC 2/2016.

8.3 Master of Applied Data Analytics – This program was endorsed at the University Education Committee and will now go to Academic Board for approval.
8.4 Bachelor of Data, Statistics and Society – This program was endorsed at the University Education Committee, subject to conditions, and will now go to Academic Board for approval. The conditions are that third-party market research be provided and an Honours plan be proposed by UEC 6/2016.

Resolution:  
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the reports and associated actions

PART 4 EDUCATION POLICY AND RELATED ISSUES

ITEM 9 UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION WORKING PARTY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

The Committee discussed the new undergraduate model, with discussion including the following points:

- Clarification that the diagrams on page 69 of the agenda show an alternative pathway for students with no background, rather than 5 courses in a semester
- That each degree would have different Graduate Outcomes but a common core which cover all of the ACM IEEE Tier 1 requirements plus many of the Tier 2 requirements
- Additional courses in the core for the 4 year programs will mean that it will cover all of the Tier 2 requirements as well for these programs
- Concerns that the optional major/specialisation may produce confusion amongst international students, causing them to miss out on accreditation
- Engineers Australia and the Australian Computer Society need to be consulted to ensure the new model meets accreditation requirements
- Are students able to undertake these degrees as a flexible double and still meet accreditation requirements?
- Pre-requisite pathway mapping needs to be done for specialisations
- Proposals, including programs, all new/amended subplans and/or courses, need to be submitted by 4 April, if the changes are to be implemented for 2017. Changes should be made at one time, not by increments.
- Transition and Compatibility arrangements should be developed for current students.

Resolution:

The Curriculum Development Committee resolved that:

1. Jochen Trumpf and Alistair Rendell discuss the proposal approval process
2. Any feedback be sent to Ramesh.Sankaranarayana@anu.edu.au as soon as possible.
3. Student Services would be requested to assist in providing proposal templates

ITEM 10 PRE-REQUISITES ON PROGRAMS & COURSES

The Committee discussed pre-requisites in the Masters program, with discussion including the following points:

- the difficulty of having a program which tried to cater to two very different cohorts
- the problem of ‘odds and evens’ where courses necessary to a specialisation were not offered when needed
- That a pre-requisite should be put on a course when, if the student doesn’t do the pre-requisite, the student will fail the subsequent course
That pre-requisites may be necessary for one cohort of students and not for another depending on background, and that the design of the program should take this into account.

The responsibility to offer at least one specialisation that the student can complete, even if it isn’t the student’s chosen specialisation. However, it should be endeavoured to enable the completion of most specialisations.

**Resolution:**
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved that:
1. A review would be undertaken of Postgraduate programs
2. Enrolment data (timeline series) should be obtained for all postgraduate specialisations

**ITEM 11 HONOURS COURSES: EMBEDDED AND 3+1**
The Committee discussed Honours courses in embedded and 3+1 honours program, with discussion including the following points:

- That the same course, taught at the same AQF level 8, can be treated as a single cohort even if they have different codes for administrative reasons
- All course information for both courses must reflect the AQF level 8 status
- It was necessary to have the 4000-level code as students in a 3+1 Honours program must enrol in a 4000-level course
- The possibility of have an R&D student enrolling in a 4000-level course in their second or third year
- The possibility of just having 4000-level honours courses paired with 8000-level Masters courses, with the inactivation of the 2000-level honours courses.

**Resolution:**
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved that Elizabeth Nunrom would check with ASQO regarding the possibility of students taking 4000-level courses in their second or third years.

**ITEM 12 SELS – COURSES UNDER 50% FOR THE SECOND TIME**
The Committee noted the courses which had an overall satisfaction rate (OSR) of under 60% in Semester 2, 2015, and that the courses COMP4500 and COMP3100 received an OSR of under 50%, COMP4500 for the second time. It was noted that:

- COMP4500 and COMP3100 were co-badged courses along with COMP3500 and COMP3550, which received better results and that, if averaged across all four courses, the OSR would be above 50%.
- It was also noted that a new approach had been taken for these courses, which may have had an effect on the SELS results
- An internal survey conducted by the convenor, which had a higher response rate than the SELS survey, indicated a higher satisfaction rate

**Resolution:**
The Committee resolved that an internal review would be conducted of COMP4500/ COMP3100/ COMP3500 and COMP3550
ITEM 13 UEC SCOPING ITEM
The Chair noted that the list of ‘internationalisation’ topics to be discussed at UEC were in the agenda. Any comments or feedback could be directed to Jochen Trumpf.

Resolution:
That the Committee note the UEC discussion topics and any feedback be sent to Jochen.Trumpf@anu.edu.au before the relevant UEC meeting.

ITEM 14 REPORT OF THE INTERNSHIPS PROJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP
The Chair noted that this report was just for information and that a College-specific report was currently being developed and would be tabled at a later CDC meeting. Dr Shayne Flint, the CECS representative on the Internships Project Management Group, noted that the report would support the current CECS approach to Internships, with the benefit of added University Resources.

Resolution:
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the report

ITEM 15 ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2017, 2018, 2019
The Committee noted the new academic calendar dates for 2017 onwards.

Resolution:
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the report

ITEM 16 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
The Committee noted that the new 12-week academic calendar may require some revision to workload statements and other course information. The Associate Dean (Education) noted that Byron Vickers was working on a new course system which would make reviewing course information easier and push information into Programs and Courses and course outlines.

Resolution:
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the report and that Byron Vickers would talk to all Program Convenors.

PART 6 ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 17 MEETING DATES
The Committee noted the Meeting dates for 2016, especially:
- April 4 – Deadline for Program Amendments, including any associated changes to courses or subplans
- 29 August – Deadline for changes to courses scheduled in Semester 1, 2017

Resolution:
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the dates of the 2016 Curriculum Development and College Education Committee meetings
ITEM 18  OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME

18.1 Honours Calculation
The Committee discussed the calculation of the final Honour mark, noting:
  * The Computer Science method of calculation had been brought in line with that of Engineering
  * That for students receiving credit in first and second years, the weighting would be changed to reflect this
  * The grade/mark calculation spreadsheet would be maintained by CECS Student Services and provided to convenors
  * That there was a need for the method to be transparent to both students and markers

Shayne Flint registered his objection to the change. Further feedback can be directed to Paul.Melloy@anu.edu.au

Resolution:
The Curriculum Development Committee resolved to note the discussion

The meeting closed at 2.01pm

EJN 29/02/2016