1. Introduction and Overview

The meeting opened with a brief reminder of the format and purpose of the meeting, which is to review both the year as a whole and specific courses. Notes of the Semester 1 meeting in November were unfortunately not recorded, but MC will write a brief note of what was discussed. Last year’s External Examiners comments will be made available to view following the meeting.

2. Comments on 4th/5th Year Project

At a previous meeting with Don Sannella, Projects Coordinator, some students expressed dislike of the group meetings – MC pointed out that group meetings have a role in raising and identifying potential issues early.

Concerns were raised about presentations during the first week of exams -- MC noted that students should be preparing for the presentations during the vacation period.

A suggestion had been raised previously about providing info earlier to third years, and MC noted that information about project proposals was sent out earlier this year than in previous years.

3. Comments on Courses

Advanced Vision (AV): The lecturer uses an ‘inverted classroom’ style – lectures are posted online as videos ahead of time, and the lecture slots are used as Q&A. Students generally found this worked well, but felt that they were not able to make full use of the Q&A sessions, since they were dependent on having questions. It was noted that it was useful to have the lecture videos for students to go over difficult concepts at their own pace.

Data Integration and Exchange (DIE): Issues raised previously in meetings with DoT regarding coursework have been passed on to the course lecturer.

Embedded Software (ES): This course has two pieces of coursework, weighted 12.5% each. The first coursework is done in pairs, and took most students around 10 hours work to complete. It was felt that the second piece of coursework, which was completed individually, was much more difficult and required additional research. Students felt it would be better if the second coursework was weighted heavier, or done in pairs. MC to check feedback from previous years to see if this has been raised previously.

Machine Translation (MT): This course has a mixture of students. Students with linguistics backgrounds seemed to have difficulty with the programming components of the course, while Informatics students had difficulty with the linguistics parts of the course.

Parallel Programming Languages and Systems (PPLS): Feedback from students was that they were happy with the lecturer’s teaching methods.
Software Architecture, Process and Management (SAPM): Four lectures were cancelled, and while slides have been posted, the lecture log on the course webpage has not been updated since 9 Feb.

Probabilistic Modelling and Reasoning (PMR): Feedback from this course noted that it was very difficult, but this was as students expected.

4. Comments on Facilities and Support

No specific issues were raised.

5. Comments on Admin Support

Feedback on the ITO was positive.

6. AOB

Students expressed concerns over clustering of exams in a short space of time in the April/May diet. This was one of the issues looked at by the Teaching Programme Review, where it was noted that a change to having Semester 1 exams in the December diet would require a restructuring of the entire year, especially affecting the Honours Project.

Other issues looked at by the TPR included how programming is taught, to ensure that students have the necessary programming skills required by the time they enter Honours.