Year Organiser Reports

UG1

- The School-managed blog server has been ideal as a host for all the INF1-DA course material.
- Piazza has worked well as an INF1-DA discussion platform, with significant interaction by students. The factthat it's used by all the other required Maths and Informatics courses is probably an important aspect of this.
- Video recording of lectures has been a complete failure for INF1-DA, with repeated attention from IS still giving no lecture recordings at all. This is a distinct loss to the student experience. The year organiser will contact IS to find out the what is happening about a replacement system.
- Balancing students across 20 different INF1-DA tutorial groups has been challenging, with over 80 students needing individual adjustments for timetable or other reasons. The ITO have provided excellent support through this, keeping all group sizes manageable for the students and tutors, but it's been a significant administrative load. We are in discussion with computing staff about how to better support this, in particular with student self-selection of groups. It's not simple, though: most groups are at full capacity most of the time, so there only a few spare slots; and many students find their timetables change through semester in unpredictable ways. There may be a general demand for this type of scheduling across other courses and it may be worth a co-ordinated investigation.
- INF1-OP has been generally smooth. Many students have been making use of the new automarking web service to do past papers - 138 submissions to date (though the number of distinct students submitting will be much less).
- INF1-OP Tutorial attendance was still patchy, although clearly some students and some tutors did combine to add a lot of value. This is probably something for next year's lecturer to think about: possibly tutorials are not actually the best way to support such a wide range of students, and something like examples classes plus dropins would work better?
- The option for students to take material into INF1-FP exams on a USB stick has been dropped.
- INF1-CG had a big year (120 students), but the essay this year was broken down into a carefully annotated series of subtasks (writing the title, writing the abstract …) and was considerably easier to negotiate (and mark) compared with last year.

    Paul Anderson

UG2

Nothing to report.

- *Sharon Goldwater*

UG3

No major issues. There were a bunch of deadlines in the last week, which led to a large number of extension requests.

- *Vijay Nagarajan*

UG4

The second half of semester 2 ran very smoothly this year, with fewer extension requests than usual, and hardly any requests for extensions on the project (this may be because I'd discussed the lack of pre-arranged extensions for projects with my own supervisees).
We had the SSLC meeting at the end of semester and will be passing the feedback to lecturers and the projects organiser. There were some comments from the Class rep about the stress of too much coursework (which of course is being addressed by the workload model and the re-calculation of course points). There was also a request made that the School would support the "Better Informatics" site to appoint an undergraduate to spend some hours maintaining the site each year.

- *Mary Cryan*

UG5

Nothing major to report

- *Mahesh Marina*

MSc

Nothing major to report.

At the SSLC in March, there was a request that Theon record coursework release times as well as deadlines. Most lecturers put this info on their course web pages already, but it would be good to have all these times officially recorded on the Informatics course descriptor pages. This would help MSc students (and I assume all UG students too) in planning when they are going to work on their courseworks through each semester. Could we do this for next year?

- *Paul Jackson*