

# Comments for proposed course changes to Advanced Databases

## Sharon Goldwater Comments

I made similar comments to Mary's to Milos and Kartic re ADBS and the two versions of CG.

Milos has actually already modified his proposal and it looks like the new version is posted but somehow you saw the old version(?) - the new version is still not quite in line with the policy but much better than the old version (and no worse than the course as it stands). You may of course still disagree with this but have a look at the new one anyway.

## Mary Cryan Comments

"Milos has actually already modified his proposal and it looks like the new version is posted but somehow you saw the old version(?) - the new version is still not quite in line with the policy but much better than the old version (and no worse than the course as it stands)." – Sharon Goldwater

Ok. I can't see it so I can't comment.

But I question what "no worse than the course as it stands" means?

- Does it mean an extra formative cwk, but just a single summative cwk (2+1 and it's ok because only one is summative)?

- Does it mean both of the current cwks becoming summative at lower "worth", this having the advantage of spreading the risk for a student (if so I could see the point, but remember all the rest of us were forced to \*undo\* such a setup because of the policy)

It is hard to judge what I think without seeing the file, but there was so much of a fuss about insisting we adopt the rules, even for those of us who thought we had good reasons not to (eg, if not summative, students won't attempt it; they need the practice of problem-solving to help them with exam-prep, etc).

We had to stick to our single summative cwk (I reduced its contribution to overall course mark because of concern for students who missed/poorly-submitted it).

In summary;

- if there's a policy, don't we all need to follow it?

- If Milos's regime is deemed acceptable to the workload model after BoS discussion, then we need to tell Ian Stark and TC, and add that "coursework schedule" to the allowable options for mainly-exam courses ... so that the rest of us can go and adopt it for our own courses and update our own DPTs.

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## Milos Nikolic Response

I have recently found out about the workload and assessment policy (thanks Sharon). The updated version of my proposal is online since Monday afternoon (11/03/2019).

In my opinion, this proposal does not violate the policy:

- A 10-credit course may have two summative assignments if assessed wholly through coursework.

The current course description for Advanced Databases, which has not been updated at least 3-4 years, also has two summative assignments (programming + homework), each worth 15%. I am now proposing to have them both as programming assignments.

- Every course must have at least one piece of formative assessment with feedback. The policy does not specify an upper bound on the number of formative assessments (and I don't see a good reason for doing that as these are optional anyway).