

UG4/5 Staff-Student Liaison Committee
11am 2nd December, 2020
Via Teams

Present: Walid Magdy - UG4 Year Organiser
Matt Shostak – UG4 Student Representative
Clara Fraser – Teaching Administrator

1. Introduction

The Year Organiser welcomed the attendees and outlined the purpose of the SSLC.

2. Comments on UG4 Courses

Bioinformatics 1 – Ian Simpson

The course had no issues.

Block chains and Distributed Ledgers – Aggelos Kiayias

Positive feedback overall, most students like that the course is now 100% coursework, but others would like the exam back. There was an issue with the CW2 marking, and how students were supposed to interpret the questions. A lot of students didn't get marks for the question they had issues with, and they would appreciate more detailed feedback in general to point out where the student went right or wrong.

Computational Complexity – Heng Guo

No comments

Computing in the Classroom – Judy Robertson

Great course, and Judy is a great lecturer. The material is good, but it's a shame that the students can't do the activities in the schools. It's a very organised course, every week the students get good instructions. Judy cares about the students and is open to ideas. The students were glad one of the coursework's was extended by 12 days, they appreciated this.

Honours Project/MInf Part 1

Students had said more support should be given and a way to address more questions. Piazza should be advertised more in every email that is sent also rather than one alert about it at the start of the semester.

Human-Computer Interaction – Kami Vaniea

This is a well-received course; the content is interesting and taught well. The only comment to make is late coursework feedback. It would have been good to have CW2 feedback way ahead of starting CW3.

Introduction to Quantum Computing – Petros Wallden

No comments

Machine Learning Practical - Pavlos Andreadis / Hakan Bilen

The marking for this course seems better this year. Students noted that the cw1 time taken should be adjusted. In person activities and labs have been good in general. It would be good to show code/go through it with a demonstrator in person, to help try and emulate a live experience, and it would encourage students to go.

Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition - Iain Murray/ Arno Onken

This course is very well organised. The weekly questions are good for the students and should be continued as a main stay in the course, as it's a good way of checking knowledge. One comment had mentioned issues with grading but there was nothing elaborated on.

Natural Computing – Michael Herrmann

There have been a couple issues picked up on from this course, video issues, audio issues, piazza issues. One student voiced concern about feedback and that it doesn't help the students. The students wanted this raised with the ITO for quality assurance.

Principles and Design of IoT systems – D K Arvind

This is a unique course and the project to build something was directly relevant to the course. There was one issue on piazza that was resolved very quickly.

Text Technologies for Data Science – Walid Magdy

This course has improved from last year, it is a good course, the coursework is good and taught well overall.

3. Comments on MInf Project (Part 2) – Year 5

No comments.

4. Comments on other courses

DBS – Students wanted to note they were happy with how the issue was resolved for this course; all students were happy with Paolo's resolution. Paolo has been actively trying and has demonstrated care and effort.

5. General issues about the year and specific courses

Students have felt this Semester it's been a heavy coursework load, and semester 2 needs looked at to avoid this again. Adjustments to material and guidance for new Course Organisers should be in place for next term.

6. Comments on Computer Facilities, labs, study spaces and social spaces

Some students don't like having to wear masks. Students feel discouraged to go to the Appleton Tower space, due to the risk involved and it's not the same atmosphere with no one being there. Having group chats such as Comp Soc has been beneficial.

Guidance for coping with stress and job guidance should be made more available and more information should be sent round more frequently.

7. Comments on Computing Support

Computer Support have been trying their best to keep systems going. More options for remote access would be good.

8. Comments on ITO Support

The issue was addressed where some student's emails had been missed due to being in the wrong ticket list. ITO should advertise their mailing lists better.

9. AOB

The school has a list of related societies which needs reviewed for the current student body. Revise the list on infweb. Would be good to have mini events bi-weekly for society's and more information sent out about them.