UG1 Staff Student Liaison Meeting - Wednesday 5th April 2023
Room 7.14, Appleton Tower

In attendance Michel Steuwar UG1 Year Organiser, Frank Mollica INF1-CG Course Organiser, Fiona McNeill INF1B Course Organiser, Brian Mitchell Lecturer, Boyao Song, Euan Lough and Annie Loi, UG1 Student Representatives

INF1-CG
Frank explained that the course ran well, and the students had missed most of the Chris Lucas lectures, due to strike action so therefore quiz 4 was cancelled. Quiz 5 went ahead as normal, the quizzes were reweighted, they are only worth a small amount. There was also delays with marking due to the staff striking.

The students are happy with the way the course is ran and the lecture content is good. There are labs running every day for 2 hours, although they are not well attended. Last year's lectures are available which the students find helpful. There is a lot of coding in the coursework which can be an issue for some students who don't know how to code!

INF1B
Fiona explained there was 2 lectures the students missed due to strike action, assignment 3 was based around the missed lectures, so Brian had to fully re-write the assignment, there are 2 parts to this assignment part one and part two. In week 8 there are no lectures or tutorials to give the students a chance to catch up, but some students feel they would like to have this as a choice, also a Q&A lecture would have been useful to go over any assignment 3 questions. There has been various issues with assignment 3 and a lot of changes being made regularly with the students finding this frustrating! Brian has been keeping up to date with Piazza and replying but some of the students can't seem to find the thread relating to specific questions, he also ran two live sessions on Teams to assist. There are lots up updates on the course Learn page. Part one of the assignment the instructions were two long and unclear, part two was better organised and clearer. The deadline has been extended to Wednesday 12th April.

Assignment 1 the students felt the instructions were clear and the material was designed to be beginner friendly.

Assignment 2 the beginner students found it helpful, but for more experienced students, not so much! As a response to students' feedback, the lecturers decided to readjust the marking of assessment 2.

There are 5 labs a week which are varied in days and times, but not always well attended. The tutorials are large maybe about 40/50 students in a group, each group has their own individual tutor, some tutors are reported to be very good and well prepared and some are unsure about answering any questions that students may have.
Fiona explained that next year they are going to try and super tutors, to assist with tutors that are unsure, due to the size of the class, it can be problematic trying to staff all the tutorials with tutors that are capable.

There are weekly quizzes on the course to keep the students engaged and also provide feedback to the teaching staff.

The live coding is not helpful for students who are beginners, there is a slot of flipping screens in the lectures and errors.