

UG2 Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting

Monday 3rd April 2023, Appleton Tower 8.02

Present:

Rik Sarker (UG2 Year Organiser)
Kerry Fernie (UG2 Course secretary)
Alex Lascarides (INF2D Course Organiser)
Nadin Kokciyan (INF2D Course lecturer)
Cristina Alexandru (INF2-SEPP Course Organiser)
David Sterratt (INF2-FDS Course Organiser)
Mary Cryan (INF2-IADS Course Organiser)
John Longley (INF2-IADS Lecturer)
Chloe Zhang (UG2 Rep)
Dorna Hamed Barghi (UG2 Rep)
Gilleasbuig Peterson (UG2 Rep)
Uma Shah (UG2 Rep)

Apologies:

Kobi Gal (INF2-FDS Lecturer)
Michael Glienecke (INF2-SEPP Course Organiser)

Introduction:

The year organiser welcomed all to the second SSLC meeting of the 22/23 academic year. For any new members of staff/ reps the year organiser confirmed the format of the meeting in line with the agenda provided. Apologies were confirmed.

INF2-SEPP:

The reps start by commenting on how engaging the lectures were. The attendance at lectures, however, seemed to drop closer to the end of the semester, after the coursework 3 was released. This was most likely due to students having multiple deadlines and prioritised their coursework workload over their lectures.

A comment was made on the group declaration which students were required to sign to show their contribution to their group work. Some students felt pressured to sign this, for example if one student was not aiming for a similar mark so therefore not putting in the same effort as other students. Cristina explained that it is difficult to equally moderate students in groups.

There was also a concerns raised about some groups having difficulties with their members and having to switch groups. It was suggested that each group have a project leader, to try mitigate any problems with team members clashing, and that any group changes would be dealt with by Cristina.

The reps added that the CW3 advice document that Cristina made was really helpful, and saved student's time having to constantly check piazza.

INF2D:

The overall feedback from the reps was that students have really enjoyed the course. The students liked how engaging the lectures have been, which fed back as an extension to the logic that they learnt in first year. They also found the topics covered very interesting, but also challenging.

The main feedback received was regarding coursework 1. Alex commented that this was the first time they had set this coursework so it acted as an experiment. She confirmed that this coursework will be adjusted and restructured for next year based on the feedback received.

The reps queried whether there would be any exam preparation added to Learn. Alex confirmed that she will send an announcement via Learn with hints and tips.

INF2-FDS:

The reps commented that the overall feedback for FDS was positive. The students are currently working on the group project for Coursework 3, which they are enjoying. The students appreciated that they had the freedom to choose from 3 different datasets, and also that they had the freedom to choose their own team mates.

There was some mixed feedback from coursework 2, which was released at the beginning of semester 2 to balance out the workload of other courses throughout the semester. The students had access to the marking rubric which they found useful, along with the workshop where they marked a paper from last year. They also liked the detailed feedback they received from the markers. However, some of the workshops relating to this coursework took place in week 8 of semester 1, which some students found difficult to reflect back on. The reps stated that further support on coursework 2 would have been appreciated. David confirmed that he would take this advice on board, with the possibility of creating a formative piece of coursework to better prepare the students for coursework 2.

David commented that the lectures were not as detailed as last year due to having to translate video lectures back to being in-person/talking, which meant the same content could not be covered in the same time-slot.

INF2-IADS:

The feedback from the reps was mostly positive, with students really enjoying the second half of the course, engaging in the lectures and finding the coursework interesting.

The strikes this semester had a big impact on the teaching delivery, which meant quiz 4 had to be skipped and the release of coursework 2 was pushed back by 2 weeks. Mary confirmed that the content from quiz 4 would be put into quiz 5. Mary hopes to get the coursework 2 feedback on time, however there may be a marking boycott that could delay this.

Mary also encouraged the students to complete the feedback survey which is now available on Learn.

AOB

The reps commented that the spread of the coursework deadlines had been good, however the pushback of IADS coursework 2 caused the last few weeks to be really busy for students.

The students seemed to really enjoy second year as a whole, which built well on the foundations they made in first year.

Rick queried to the Reps if they thought their courses made good links to the other second year informatics courses in the year cohort, which they agreed was acted on well by the teaching staff.

The timing of the SSLC meeting is good, around week 10 – before revision week.