

UG2 Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting 21st November 2022

Present:

Rik Sarker (UG2 Year Organiser)
Kerry Fernie (UG2 Course secretary)
Heather Yorston (DMP Course organiser)
Ian Stark (DMP Lecturer)
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:

Vijay Nagarajan (INF2C - CS Course Organiser)
Michel Steuwer (INF2C - CS Lecturer)
Tobias Grosser (INF2C - CS Lecturer)
Kobi Gal (INF2-FDS Lecturer)

Introduction:

The year organiser welcomed all to the first 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-IADS:

The reps firstly commented that most students seem to be enjoying the course, and the in-person lectures were appreciated. The coursework so far has been challenging, but manageable. They think the coursework reflected the common marking scheme really well, where you have to put in more hours to achieve a higher grade. The reps also commented on the feedback they had received on the first 2 quizzes, where students found the overall difficulty fine but it was challenging to complete within the time-limit. The course organisers responded saying that they would look into either increasing the time-limit or reducing the amount of questions.

A query was raised by the course organisers regarding whether students were getting use of last year's lecture material. The reps commented that they had not looked too much into it, but it may come to be useful later when preparing for the examination.

DMP:

The main feedback the reps got was positive. Students that had taken proofs and problem solving found the course interesting as a continuation, reinforcing foundations from UG1. The reps commented that they liked the assessment structure, with the weekly quizzes helping students to keep engaged. However, they found that if you fell behind it was hard to keep up.

The reps stated that there had been some feedback from students regarding the inconsistent marking for the class test. The course organisers explain that it's difficult to mark perfectly due to the large size of the class, difficulty reading writing and human error. They turned on the re-grade facility within Gradescope which allowed students to challenge any marking, however it rarely resulted in any significant changes to grades. The feedback from the reps on the content of the class test was good, most people completed it within the time limit and the overall average was as they expected.

The course organisers asked the reps if there was too many sources of learning material. The reps found the variety of sources to be useful, as everyone learns differently and it allowed students to choose how they wanted to learn.

INF2-FDS:

Again, the reps have highly positive feedback on FDS. They thought the course was well organised and the lectures were enjoyable, particularly the data ethics lecture. The reps said they had got good feedback on the labs and workshops, which have been helpful in keeping up with lecture material and going through the coursework. They thought the marking of the first coursework had been fair, and there was not many complaints.

David raised a query regarding reducing the number of labs per week due to low attendance, however the reps felt that reducing the number of labs would cause scheduling issues with students not being able to attend due to timetable clashes. He also raised a question regarding the assessment structure, with the possibility of splitting coursework 1 into smaller assessments. The reps like the current structure as there may be issues with multiple deadlines causing students to feel under pressure.

INF2C-CS:

The overall feedback for INF2C-CS was positive. The reps thought the lectures had been well attended and have been enjoyable. They feel it is a big learning curve, with some concepts hard to grasp at first, but not overly difficult. The reps add that the coursework was tough, but accessible. There had been some issues with errors in the coursework, but the questions on piazza were answered quickly. They feel the coursework load has been okay, with not many overlaps with other courses. The reps would like more information regarding exam revision material and preparation.

Any other business:

The reps feel like the scheduling of coursework this semester has been good, with at least a week in between each major coursework meaning they rarely overlapped.

There was no significant comments to be made on INFBASE, computer facilities, study spaces or computer support, and it was indicated that students generally find infbase to be helpful.