

## **UG2 Staff Student Liaison Meeting - Thursday 3rd December 2020**

**In attendance:** Rik Sarkar UG2 Course Organiser, Heather Yorston DMP Lecturer, Mary Cryan INF2-IADS Lecturer, John Longley INF2-IADS Lecturer, David Sterratt INF2-FDS Lecturer, Callum McWilliam UG2 Rep, Wenxuan Li UG2 Rep, Irinia Gubaciova UG2 Lecturer, Kendal Reid ITO

**Apologies:** Kobi Gal INF2-FDS Lecturer, Vesselin Velichkov DMP Lecturer, Boris Grot INF2C-CS Lecturer

Rik welcomes the staff and Reps to the meeting.

### **INF2-IADS**

The students are overall really enjoying the course and Mary and John done really well turning the course to being online, everything from lectures to tutorials, they are also enjoying John's piano playing.

The engagement blog some students really like it or they don't like it. They feel it is artificial, the ones who do it like find it is helpful with the course and are more active on Piazza.

Mary says that they were asked to put something in their course to show that students are engaging and that is why we have the blogs and quizzes, they felt that if they didn't that many more students would have been detached if it wasn't for the engagement blog. Mary is going to go through the Learn page and alert the students who have not added to their Blog so they have a chance to do something about it.

John and Mary are happy with the how active Piazza are really engaged on the course.

Quiz 2 many students found it hard to complete it received a lower score than the previous quiz, could there be more weekly exercises to practice? Mary and John will try and add a couple of exercises at the end of each lectures for people to attempt.

### **INF2FDS**

The students really enjoyed the course from the beginning to the end. Some students felt in the very beginning they didn't have a lot of calculations and they felt you don't need to have a lot of mathematical knowledge to apply to the concepts and some people struggled to switch to the mathematical knowledge of statistics, they felt it was very abrupt.

In terms of background knowledge the lecturers introduced concepts like the medium and standard deviation and they assumed that most students would know this, the lectures in linear models where building on stuff that they would have learned in Linear Algebra in first year. In terms of the workshop's the first two were successful but the last two weren't they could have used the last two for more exercises.

Heather says that there is about 30 students who do not calculus, low calculus knowledge in DMP.

Rik suggested doing a student survey or do a direct discussion in one of the S2 lectures of how it could be improved.

The course was well structured and the different aspects of Data Science were good. The notes are really made, they have been modified from previous course but most of them have been written from scratch, trying to keep it all consistent. The lab sheets and questions are very good. The first weeks they didn't get lecture notes can they have lecture notes for the data aspects and visualisation. David says he would like to do that, it is the first time for this course.

The course also motivated the students to get back into Computer Science and covered interests.

The collaboration groups work really well when they work but there were cases where they don't work, it isn't great for a student who wants to work and the others don't, some tutors have been trying to reorganise them if they aren't working and attendance is quite low now. What can we do to make it better next semester?

In Maths they pair the students based on their collaboration level for tutorials and workshops before you are put into a tutorial you choose your collaboration level, this works really well in the School of Maths, worth considering for next semester!

The class have a test next week Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December and this wasn't announced to them it was only advertised in Learn, it states that there is only a ten minute window, the test will be released at 13:00 it will be available to start until 13:10 this will need to be completed within an hour, the students feel that they would rather have an hour window, not ten minutes. The test is worth 10%. Courses for example INF2C-CS have quizzes but they are open for 24 hours, which means you have 24 hours to do the quiz, but within an hour in that 24 hour window. They would like to know why this decision was made to one hour only.

David replied that they had modelled the test around how exams were, by default an exam would be 2 hours long, realised at 13:00 and you are meant to spend 2 hours doing the exam and an hour to upload by 16:00. There could be open to a wider window due to people may have technical issues, maybe open the window from 12:00 – 13:00. It is set up as a Learn Quiz, set up as a timed quiz. If this was done as a class test in a lecture which would have been the plan at the start of the semester you would have had to do it in that hour with no choice or in an exam hall with an invigilator.

Mary commented for INF2-IADS they have a very broad range, they have nearly a week to do it and start at any time, they can't share it with the rest of the class but every so often there is a glitch in the system if their connection weakens or a slip of the pen the quiz will just submit even if they are four questions in and then you have to delete that first attempt and give them the opportunity to start from scratch. The last two quizzes all the questions were on the one page, which caused less errors. Mary suggested leaving an hour after the quiz to allow students to fix any errors that may have occurred. David says that he does say in the instructions to email the lecturers and they would help fix anything that came up.

## **DMP**

Confusion about most felt up until a month ago, the material was quite easy and mostly what they knew there was some new concepts but very few of them, they felt there were going to learn something new, is this course designed for people who didn't have as much experience in Maths. Afterwards the material became quite new, the quizzes are not very difficult but the last one the probability quiz took more than an hour and a half to do 3 questions. The material is not difficult but it requires a lot of calculations. Heather said that the quizzes will be re-done for next year using Stack.

Heather says that if you have done Proof and Problem Solving you have done quite a bit but it isn't the same way as Informatics does it as it is different to the way Maths does it. If you plan to go on to do Research and write papers Informatics style of writing proofs. The range of knowledge in the class is quite different which is visible in the tutorials. Getting people to write and understand in a Mathematical style.

The videos will have to be remade in the way they were presented next year as the students were not happy with them, the lecturer had to do them under personal circumstances, and apologised for the quality, there was 72 videos.

### **INF2-CS**

The students are really enjoyed the course, although they feel that the workload is ongoing through all the semester. They would like more Programming on C and the lecture recording the students can't see the pointer on the board in the lecture recordings.

### **General**

There was an issue in Semester one with over lapping deadlines, and the students were over whelmed by the amount of deadlines, quizzes etc. What will be done to stop this happening again in Semester two? Rik has since had a meeting with UG2 Sem2 lecturers they have made their best possible effort that deadlines are not too close.

Rik will discuss this with the lecturers and the School of Maths, this year we will be restricted to do a lot of evaluation on coursework, with no exams, it was difficult for the School to estimate how much it was going to turn out to be!

The worry was due to the over lapping coursework's, the students felt that they had to choose a coursework to do over another one, which could cause people to fall behind in a certain course.

Callum asked David if it was possible to plug the google forms at the start of the Q & A sessions for feedback and he was happy for that.

Rik said if there are any further issues for the Reps to get in touch and the School was happy that the ways things ran under exceptional circumstances and hopefully Semester two will be the same.