

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING
QUALITY ASSURANCE OF UNITS**

Report by Unit Co-ordinator

Unit code: ELE2ELE	Year: 2008	Campus: Bundoora
Unit coordinator: Jim Royston		
Teaching staff:	Lecturer: Jim Royston, Tutor: Jim Royston, Laboratory Co-ordinator: Jim Royston, Demonstrator: Sylvia Shan	

SECTION A: NUMERICAL INFORMATION

Number enrolled: 27

Number completing the QAU questionnaire: 23

Grade distribution : A: 2 B: 7 C: 6 D:10 E: N: 2 NS:

Other (Please list):

SECTION B: STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

(a) Please complete the following table (with previous year's results if available)

Core Questions	Current mean	Last year's mean
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		2008	2007
a.	The unit helped me develop my ability to work as a team member.	4.2	4.3
b.	Work in this unit enhanced my analytic skills.	3.8	4.0
c.	Learning in this unit helped me develop my problem-solving skills.	3.7	3.9
d.	I have developed my skills in written communication in this unit.	3.5	3.7
e.	The unit has helped enhance my confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems.	3.5	3.8
f.	The unit helped me develop my capacity to plan my work.	3.3	3.7
g.	I have improved my oral communication skills.	3.0	3.5
1.	The aims of the unit were made clear at the start.	3.6	4.2
2.	The teaching staff put a lot of time into commenting on my work.	3.8	4.2
3.	I was generally given enough time to	3.8	4.0

	understand the things I had to learn.		
4.	The staff made a real effort to understand difficulties I might be having with my work.	3.7	4.1
5.	Appropriate forms of assessment were used in this unit.	3.8	4.3
6.	The teaching staff gave me helpful feedback.	3.6	4.1
7.	My teaching staff were extremely good at explaining things.	3.4	4.4
8.	The workload was manageable.	3.7	4.3
9.	The teaching staff worked hard to make this unit interesting.	3.7	4.2
10.	I was able to access the learning resources.	3.8	4.0
11.	The teaching staff motivated me to do my best work.	3.7	4.1
12.	Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of this unit.	3.5	4.2

(b) Summary of student comments on best aspects

The labs, the tour of the Co-Generation Plant at La Trobe University.

(c) Summary of student comments on needed improvements

“More demonstrators needed in labs”

“Lectures & tutes need more preparation and lecture notes must have more information”

“Lab instructions need to be written more simply”

“Proper planning before teaching. Organising lecture notes in a way that (allows) students to understand the unit”

“Textbook is crap”

“Handouts were lacking in information. Not always sure on assessable material we need to study for. Cheaper textbook. Simpler text book with less pages of crap that you need to sort through”

“More problems for us to work through”

“Lecture notes are not so helpful. Maybe PowerPoint would make it easier. Try to finish all the notes for each lecture, not just half of the lecture. Sylvia needs to revise all the labs, she is not a great help. Sorry!!”

“WebCT is slow & stupid”

SECTION C: UNIT COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

(d) Last year's suggested improvements

“Maybe fortnightly tute”	<i>Weekly tute implemented.</i>
“Extra demonstrators”	<i>Depends on Departmental budget.</i>
“Assignments”	<i>Not changed greatly.</i>
“More examples in the text book”	<i>Covered in tutes.</i>
“Lab procedure detail - too much is expected with such little explanation - and on top of that, it takes <u>much</u> too long to get a demonstrator to help as there aren't enough of them”	<i>Labs are being updated. More money for demonstrators would help.</i>
“I think the unit text notes can be more detailed, with a few more examples”	<i>More examples were worked through in tutes in 2008, hopefully the notes will reflect this in 2009.</i>
“Some more examples of questions in the notes”	<i>Tutorials were used for this in 2008.</i>
“More example questions (of different difficulty) in lecture notes. A bit more detail in explaining stuff in the lecture notes. (However the lecture notes were very good). Labs are a bit out of date.”	<i>Noted.</i>
“Demonstrators”	<i>It's difficult to develop and retain good demonstrators. We seem constantly to be starting from scratch.</i>
“Make it 3 hour labs not 2 hours”	<i>Done.</i>
“More comments on assignments & lab reports”	<i>Need to encourage and develop demonstrator marking skills.</i>
“Maybe notes need a little updating”	<i>In progress.</i>
“Need some tutes”	<i>Done.</i>
“Lab demonstrators attitude towards students from sub-continent”	<i>New demonstrator in 2008.</i>
“Need more lab demonstrators”	<i>Need more time & money!!!</i>
“More demonstrators”	<i>Need more time & money!!!</i>
“The course being electronic, I find a course about electrical motors & such useless. Testament to it being phased out”	<i>A question of policy. I often get one or two comments like this each year. It depends on the requirements of the Institution of Engineers, Australia and our Departmental priorities.</i>

(e) Unit coordinator's comments on the unit this year

A major change this year was the move from printed bound notes to WebCT downloads. This seems to have triggered much concern about the notes, which has been noted. It is taking time to adjust to the WebCT method – it is hoped that over a

period of time, it will be possible to answer students concerns with more clearly written stand-alone notes, illustrated with more worked examples.

(f) Unit coordinator's suggestions for improvements next year

The most common theme in this year's QA comments was regarding the clarity and organisation of the notes. These have been due for updating for a while, and it is intended to continue to revise & update them, now that a basic WebCT format has been set.

There always has been an appreciation of the real-world nature of this unit, exemplified by the site visits. It is a major hope to continue these either with a visit to the Co-Generation Plant or possibly a visit to Newport Power Station.

Signed

(Unit Co-ordinator)

Date

SECTION D: COMMENTS BY HEAD OF SCHOOL OR NOMINEE

The notes will be partially rewritten for next year to improve the material (physically rather than intellectually). A full rewrite will occur over two years. The lecturer will now be more able to cope with LMS in what has been a unit rated well by students till now.

Signed

(Head of School)

Date