FACULTY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING
QUALITY ASSURANCE OF UNITS

Report by Unit Co-ordinator

Unit code:ELE5PRA	Year: 2nd Sem 2008	Campus: Bundoora
Unit coordinator: Jim Royston		
Teaching staff: **Lecturer:** Jim Royston, Arun Borgio, Cong Van Nguyen, Andrew Martchenko **Laboratory Co-ordinator:** Jim Royston, Arun Borgio, Cong Van Nguyen, Andrew Martchenko **Demonstrator:** Tony De Souza-Daw		

SECTION A: NUMERICAL INFORMATION

Number enrolled: 35

Number completing the QAU questionnaire: 11

Grade distribution : A: 12 B: 18 C: 3 D: 0 E: N: 2 NS: 0

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 mean

		2nd sem 2008	1st sem 2008
a.	The unit helped me develop my ability to work as a team member.	4.1	4.3
b.	Work in this unit enhanced my analytic skills.	3.9	4.2
c.	Learning in this unit helped me develop my problem-solving skills.	4.1	4.0
d.	I have developed my skills in written communication in this unit.	4.0	4.0
e.	The unit has helped enhance my confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems.	4.2	4.1
f.	The unit helped me develop my capacity to plan my work.	4.1	4.1
g.	I have improved my oral communication skills.	3.4	4.1
1.	The aims of the unit were made clear at the start.	4.2	4.3

2.	The teaching staff put a lot of time into commenting on my work.	4.2	4.3
3.	I was generally given enough time to understand the things I had to learn.	4.3	4.4
4.	The staff made a real effort to understand difficulties I might be having with my work.	4.5	4.3
5.	Appropriate forms of assessment were used in this unit.	4.4	4.1
6.	The teaching staff gave me helpful feedback.	4.4	4.3
7.	My teaching staff were extremely good at explaining things.	4.5	4.3
8.	The workload was manageable.	3.8	4.2
9.	The teaching staff worked hard to make this unit interesting.	4.5	4.4
10.	I was able to access the learning resources.	4.2	4.5
11.	The teaching staff motivated me to do my best work.	4.4	4.3
12.	Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of this unit.	4.4	4.3

(b) Summary of student comments on best aspects

"Its inclusion of all the aspects of engineering like PCB layout, MATLAB and C programming."
"The unit was practical."
"Putting required concepts like Matlab, C programming required for a basic engineer."
"Everything was perfect; but need to explain good at starting."

(c) Summary of student comments on needed improvements

"Students should provide much extra time to complete their work."
"Some more time for each module."

Summary of comments from separate SET survey.

(d) What is the best thing about this unit (or section)?

"C Programming."
"Very easy to learn."
"More exposure to practically based simulations, and good help from all the staff."
"Was a very basic unit & hence easy to score."
"I already covered all that in my Bachelor's. Didn't find anything new. Though Jim is a nice teacher and tries his best every time."
"Jim really puts in his best and tries to derive the same from his students. Good job!"
"He dealt with the concepts."
"Hardware lab is very interesting and PCB design is one of the new features."
"We guys got a change to know more about the practical aspects of Altium, hardware lab, Matlab and C. It was good in all sense."

"It gave basics of circuit making and working in laboratory."
"The unit focuses on the circuit designing and gives an idea of the devices in electronics."

(e) How can this unit (or section) be improved?

"To give more weeks to Matlab and C programming."
"Introduction of new things, not all of them but should have point to one this, but this semester 2 labs of PCB, 2 labs of C programming, 2 labs of Matlab, 2 labs of hardware gives too much confusion to students."
"Make lecture time for 2 hours, so that each topic can be discussed in detail."
"Time period for last two sections was less & hence completion of the practicals was difficult."
"For PCB design if hardware is there it will be more exposure to electronics, rather than simply doing it in software."
"Add more practicals which are close to professional work. This unit was way too basic for a Masters student & all this was already done in my first year of B.E. This unit needs a lot of improvement. Apart from that lecturer was good."
"More designs should be given for students."

<u>SECTION C: UNIT COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS</u>

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

A major revision has been undertaken starting 2nd semester 2008, with the introduction of teaching segments on Altium, MATLAB and C programming. Only two hardware labs have been retained, Switching Regulators and Operational Amplifiers. These changes have greatly eased the load on the unit co-ordinator as the lecturing and lab co-ordination duties are now shared. This in turn seems to have helped the students, as the overall workload is now more manageable.

If necessary, extra hardware labs could be implemented, on such topics as Applications of Digital Logic or on Microcontrollers.

Most of the enrolment is of students who are overseas nationals, who may be reluctant to be too critical in survey responses for cultural reasons or because they do not wish to jeopardise an application for PR status.

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

There will be a new unit co-ordinator in 1st & 2nd semesters 2009 as I am resigning to return to my studies. My main suggestion is to "screen" students who wish to enrol in ELE5PRA as there is an on going problem with students who have already covered the material in their Bachelor's degree, and hence are wasting their time, although on the other hand there always seem to be a majority who greatly value the opportunity to cover the material in the syllabus.

Signed **(Unit Co-ordinator)**
Date

SECTION D: COMMENTS BY HEAD OF SCHOOL OR NOMINEE

Has always had an excellent record. Content substantially revised this year due to Student requests to include matlab, C and altium experience.

Signed **(Head of School)**

Date: 6 March 2009