

19 October 2011

NEWSLETTER FROM DQAC

Dear Colleagues

Starting from 2010/11 Semester 1, the Departmental Quality Assurance Committee (DQAC) has tried to identify good learning and teaching practices for sharing among colleagues with an aim to promote excellence in learning and teaching in the Department. This semester, the DQAC invited Dr Y.L. Chan and Dr Bruce Sham to shed some light on their good teaching and learning practices. After listening to their sharing, we believed that their experience could be shared with our colleagues and so we are sending this newsletter to you.

Y.L. taught "EIE380 Web-based Multimedia", "EIE415 Multimedia Technology" and "EIE431 Digital Video Production and Broadcasting" in 2010/11 Semester 2. He shared his experience in teaching EIE431 in 2010/11 Semester 2 with us. The class size of EIE431 was small with around 20 students registered for the class. 3 laboratory sessions were arranged for the students to provide them guidance for completing a movie project which required the students to make a DVD containing a video programme produced by the students. The students found the laboratory sessions useful and felt a sense of achievement for being able to complete the movie project. Also, daily examples of video production and broadcasting system were used in the teaching materials to explain basic concepts to students which the students found easier to understand.



Bruce taught "EIE305 Integrated Analogue and Digital Circuits" and "EIE344 Fundamentals of Embedded Systems" in 2010/11 Semester 2. He shared his experience in teaching EIE344 in 2010/11 Semester 2 with us. The class size of EIE344 was small with around 15 BSc in IMT students registered for the class. Students were given timely feedback to their coursework on WebCT, usually within one week after their handing in of the assignments. This arrangement enabled the students to know their progress of studies and directions for improving their areas of weaknesses. Moreover, a simulation tool was provided for the BSc in IMT students so that they could learn the subject matter without the need to handle hardware.

From Y.L.'s and Bruce's experience, we found that the following might have led to the positive feedback from students:

- (i) coursework of the subject was designed in a way which instilled in the students a sense of achievement and avoided creating frustration to students;
- (ii) students had the chance to realize the usefulness of the things they learnt and did in the subject;
- (iii) students were given timely feedback on the work they had done and so they knew their progress of studies and the directions for improvement; and
- (iv) daily examples were used to explain basic concepts which the students found easier to understand.

The DQAC will continue to identify good learning and teaching practices for sharing. If you have any teaching practices and experience that you want to share with colleagues, you are welcome to send us your views anytime.

Departmental Quality Assurance Committee
Department of Electronic and Information Engineering