SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

UNIT REPORT 2008-2009

Unit Code:	Unit Name:
SWD301	Advanced and Distributed Databases

Faculty:	Unit Leader:
TEC	AL MONGER

Key strengths and issues arising from student performance. Including any actions taken from last year;
Student performance generally was very good by those who engaged with the unit throughout the year as clearly described in the UIG and myCourse. This included 5 (out of 46) first class marks above 70. However, the mean of 48 and standard deviation of 20 was adversely affected by a number of students who generally did not engage with the unit and the courses as a whole.

Key strengths and issues arising from student feedback. Please indicate how feedback was obtained during the year;
The survey shows satisfaction with the unit with scores around 4. The slightly lower score of 3.3 for feedback is surprising in the light of the feedback opportunities and provision that is explicitly laid out in myCourse and the UIG. Informal feedback was obtained by talking to the students in the tutorials throughout the year about their learning experience.

Actions for improvement next year;
Three key improvements have been implemented in time for next year: 1. "XML and databases" in the context of Oracle has been introduced in the first theme. This is a new technology, and considerable time has been spent over the summer researching this technology and developing appropriate teaching and learning resources.   2. The key requirement to evaluate technologies, tools and methods is now better supported with explicit guidance, examples and time allocated in the tutorials.   3. The work involved in producing the final report has been reduced and simplified (as part of an initiative to reduce the workload across some other units on the courses).

Analysis of Student Performance as of									
	No	Mean	SD	0 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 69	70 - 100
Report 1	46	47.54	19.57	6	5	11	12	7	5
Overall	46	47.65	19.51	6	4	12	12	7	5

Student Survey Results	
No Registered	46
No Completed	12
Rate	26.09

Analysis of Unit Feedback Survey	
I was clear about what I was meant to be learning on this unit	4.08
The teaching in this unit helped me to learn effectively	3.92
I have developed new or existing skills on this unit	4.33
I found the balance of overall workload was manageable	3.92
The assessment in this unit allowed me to demonstrate what I had understood	4
I have been given the opportunity to share my views on this unit with the tutor	3.92
I can see the relevance of this unit to my course	4.17
I received useful feedback on my course work	3.33
Overall I was satisfied with the quality of the unit	4

Tell us about the strengths of this unit;
- tutorials   - topics

Cant think of any.

Comprehensive unit covers a variety of relevant and interesting technologies   Great deal of effort has gone into constructing this unit.   Resources to support all concepts were made available.   This unit was thought to a high standard reflecting the quality of the unit tutor.

The workload was very nicely spread over the term, there were tasks to do every week that contributed towards our final assignment. This is something other units should do as well! Several relevant themes were covered in detail, I feel I know a lot more now.

This Unit has been very well structured doing a little pieces of work each 3 weeks or so which then all combines together to be part of the final assignment.

Tell us about how this unit can be improved;

better teaching, less pressure on deadlines. Always under stress learning new skills quickly to apply them to the scenarios.

Maybe the assignment could be split up into two, one of them to be handed in around Christmas. That would reflect how the workload was spread even better. And it's better not to have lots of assignments on the same dates at the end of the course. It'd be nice if the theme "data integration with semantic technologies" would be covered in the future as I see this as very relevant. But it's quite a complicated one and it is in constant movement. Probably not suitable for this course/university.

It took a while to see have the whole unit combined together as stated above. This came mostly from confusion in the write up of the assignment explanations

It should not be optional to upload the deliveralbes it would be better to require the students to upload them.

more feedback by tutor   more one to one help with tutor