Marking Projects

Alistair D N Edwards
email: alistair
http://www-users.cs.york.ac.uk/~alistair/

Motivation
To help new members of staff
To reduce variability in project marking

Programme
Briefing
Today
Practice marking
Today to 3 September
Resolution and discussion of the marking
On-line marking

Used for the first time Spring 2006
http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/projects/marking/

The marking process

Presentation
First- and second-marking

Presentations
A chance to give some credit for the work done
And to reassure who did the work!
Mini conferences
Marked by a marking panel plus one other
Contributes 5% to the mark
Supervisors (and others) welcome to attend
But not to participate!
Marking panels

Markers see and can compare similar projects
Undergraduate IT projects are aimed at the ‘average’
Computer Science lecturer
MSc projects can be advanced
Assignment within a panel is random

Review:

Project specification documents
http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/projects/Setting.html

Mark characterizations
http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/staff/procedures/projectmarking.html

First- and second-marking

Markers mark independently
Agreements
Disagreements
Resolutions
Adjudications
Rankings
External examiners
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervision Report Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marking Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjudication form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feedback form</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Supervision Report Form                    |
| Context for the second marker              |

| Marking Form                               |
| Overall mark is not necessarily the mean of the section marks |
| Although gross deviations will be highlighted |
| Ethics                                     |
| If there are ethical implications are they handled correctly? |
| If there are none, saying so is sufficient.  |
Resolution form

Resolution invoked if markers disagree by more than 8 marks
…or if the marks straddle a boundary
   Distinction/pass (70%)
   Pass/fail (50%)

The markers may agree on the mark
   if not, send for adjudication (third marking)
   In either case they must explain

Model resolution
http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/projects/marking/modelResolution.html

Adjudication form

Model adjudication form
http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/projects/marking/modelAdjudicationForm.html

The adjudicator’s mark will stand

Rankings

A list of all projects you have marked, ranked by final mark
Point out any apparent anomalies
   These will be brought to the attention of the external examiners

*NOT* an invitation to re-open the marking
External examiners

Sent a selection of reports
   Highest mark
   Lowest mark (failures)
   Contentious reports

May express an opinion in borderline cases
   e.g. ‘a bit harsh’ or ‘a bit generous’

May adjust

Feedback

Automatically generated from marking forms
   Excluding BoE-only section

Revealed to students as soon as all marking complete

Feedback

Markers should check and edit
   – remove anything personal
   – remove any identifying references
   – remove references to marks
     (e.g. ‘Feels like a 2-1 project’)
   – modify in the light of resolutions
   – adjust to address the student?

Do it as soon as possible
   http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/projects/marking/modelFeedbackForm.html
Beware

Anything you have written on any of the forms (including the BoE-only section) may have to be shown to the student
⇒ Only write objective comments which you can support with evidence

Marking practice

Two real projects from previous years
Supervision Report and Presentation marks provided
First and second markers
  No conferring
  No looking at existing marks

At the next meeting

Consultation between 1st & 2nd markers
Resolution as necessary
Comparison with original markers
Discussion of all the projects and marking experiences
Questions?