

## **Feedback for EEE6207 Session: 2014-2015**

### **General Comments:**

The major problem with this paper was that the equation in Q4 was mangled beyond recognition on the exam paper. The funny thing was that it must have been obvious to students because very few people attempted it but nobody raised the matter during the exam!

To counter this problem, the answers from students who attempted question 4 were marked sympathetically. Additionally, all students received a small pedestal on their exam mark in recognition that they had a more limited choice on the paper.

### **Question 1:**

Generally, quite well answered. Some students could distinguish between deadlock prevention and avoidance and gave incomplete answers. A few students mistook the topic of this question for something completely different. A number of students did not distinguish properly between a solid arc, representing a request to gain a resource, and a dotted arc, representing a potential claim. As a consequence, the answers to part e (where a dotted arc is added) were less good. A good answer would have said that if the claim were to become a request before R3 and R4 were relinquished by P3 then deadlock could occur.

### **Question 2:**

Well answered although some people made a few silly mistakes or did not provide sufficient detail in there answers (mainly in part c and d) to gain full marks.

### **Question 3:**

Given that there was a lot of bookwork in this question the attempts were less good than I would have hoped. In part b, a number of people did not provide the simple fact that a blocking call suspends a process if a resource being requested could not be allocated whereas a non-blocking call returns with the information that a resource could not be allocated without suspending the process. In part c few people bothered identifying that the flag, and two functions wait() and signal() are what makes up a semaphore. Nor, in part d did many people identify atomicity, fair access, and performance as issues and describe the basic method of practically constructing wait() and signal().

### **Question 4:**

Students could technically answer part b (where the mangled equation appeared) because all the terms were there (N, M, R, Tacc, and Pa) although the people who answered this section made a poor attempt at this. The equation would need to be employed in part d and the answers to this section were generally very poor with students failing to make any real headway – perhaps this was inevitable.