

SoCS & SoE Merger

Student Questionnaire Response*

Presented by:

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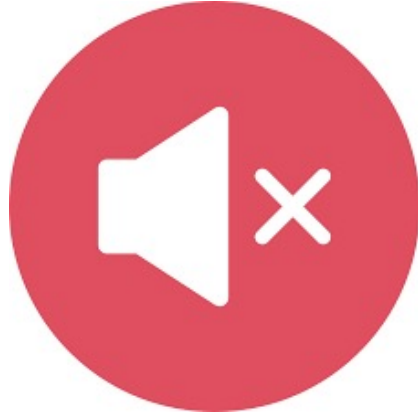
Date:

11th June 2021



* Full responses as well as these slides can be found on the SoCS reps blog at: https://socsreps.github.io/posts/blogs/MergerResponse_BLOG.html

Setting the Context so far



Communication:

Significant lack of formal communication from the school to students. This questionnaire has been put to students who are effectively 'in the dark'*



Getting the Facts:

Responses to questions are vague with little detail (if we get a response). High level commitments shared but no clear plan to deliver them. Adhoc process with no clear timelines.



Merger Aims:

No justification details have been shared. No details of any tangible benefits that should form any proposal document have been shared. We would love to see this.

* First found out about this on 23rd March

5 Questions*

- SWOT + 1

42 Responses**

- 3% of SoCS
- 5% of SoE

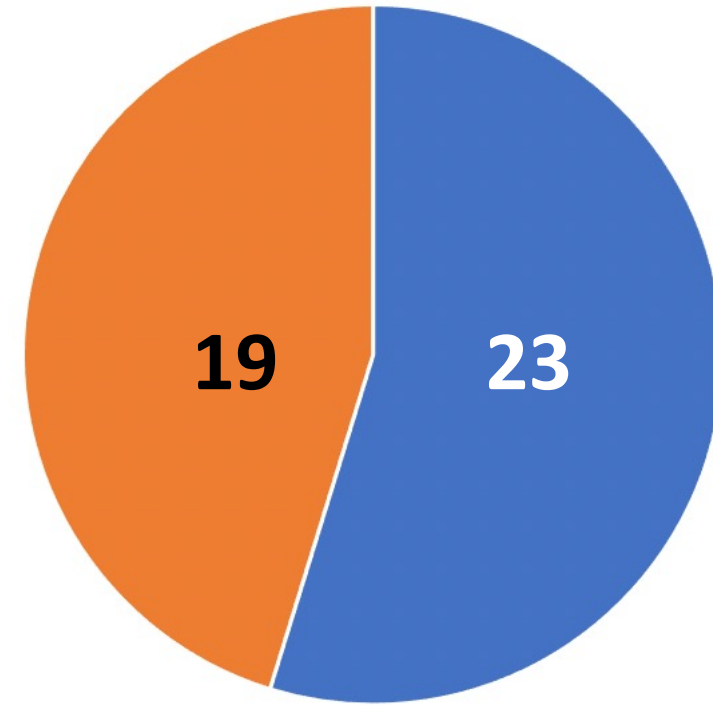
* Available from 19th May to 5th June

**Est' Survey Population:

> SoCS = ~760

> SoE = ~400

Questionnaire Responses



■ School of Computer Science

■ School of Engineering

Question 1: Opportunities

What advantages / opportunities would you expect from a merger between SoCS and SoE?

Increased Cross-Curricular Opportunities:

- New modules which involve aspects of both professions
- More coding/programming for engineers
- Electronics engineering/Robotics
- Inter-disciplinary projects
- Exposure to working practices of different disciplines

More Resources:

- Improved access to resources
 - *labs, computers, software, hardware etc...*
- Access to wider range of academics

No articulated advantage (8/42)

- Are there some - shouldn't you be telling us what they are?

In what areas could you see any potential issues / problems / concerns arising from such a merger of schools?

Question 2: Threats

Reduced Focus:

- Loss of school identity
- Shift of employability focus (*to where?*)
- Lack of ability to attract good staff/students
- Stronger focus on one discipline at expense of the other
- Inconsistency in standards and procedures – confusion

Reduction in Student Support:

- Reduced local support for individual students
- More students falling through the cracks
- Sharing facilities, loss of resources (compromises)
- Increased anxiety for those with mental health issues
- Reduced accountability > harder to raise complaints

Constrained Resources

- Games Computing programme particularly has nothing to gain from this (minority programs?)
- Concern that money is a main motivator

Do you feel there are aspects of the schools that may improve because of the merger?

Question 3: Strength

Course Breadth:

- Shared modules
- More robotics
- Access to more facilities
- Stronger focus on one discipline at expense of the other

Student Engagement:

- Improved tech' literacy for engineers
- Better teaching across the program
- "Joined up thinking"

School:

- Schools are already very similar so this would cement that
Vs Schools have nothing in common other than being in the same building
- "Staff setting it up will have more to boast about at the pub?"

Do you have any suggestions that should be considered moving forward?

Question 4: Weakness

Buy In:

- Don't do it (7) vs Do it (1)

Confidence in leadership:

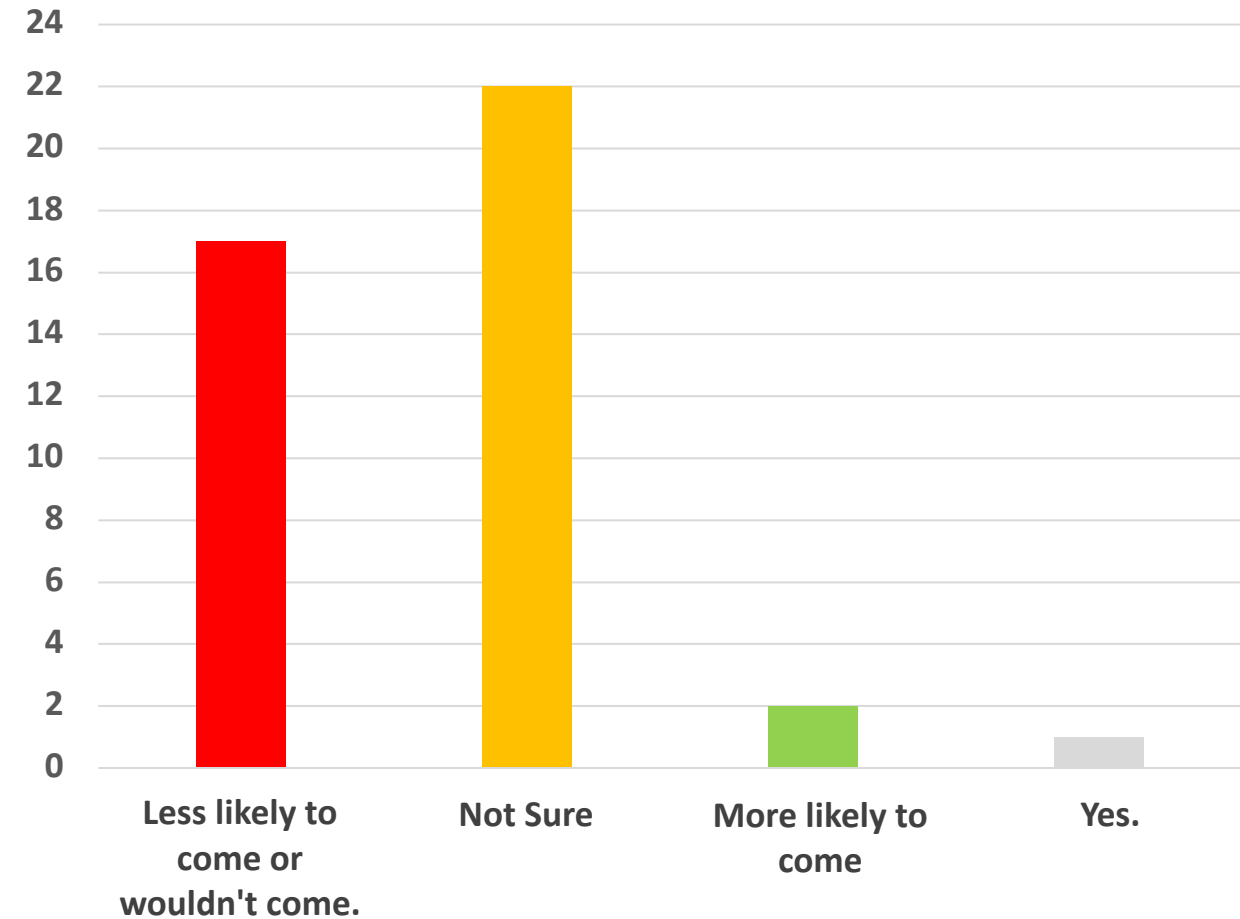
- Should have new leadership team – not merge existing team
- Should have new name, not one school over the other
- Better communication (previously and going forwards)
- Knowing how to actively take advantage of the merger

Bringing students along on the journey:

- Activities that bring together student bodies
- Better mental health support
- Ensure quality of education does not suffer
 - *Or go to lowest common denominator*

**If the merger had
happened before you
came to Lincoln, would
it have made a
significant impact on
your decision to
apply/come to Lincoln?
In what way?**

Question 5: Impact



- Share the justification
>> So we can buy into it
- Clear communication
>> So our expectations are managed
- Measuring the benefits
>> So we get what we are promised
- Keep the students involved
>> So we know it was worth it

