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SoCS & SoE Merger

Student Questionnaire Response*

Presented by:

SoCS School Rep: Garry Clawson (3rd Year)
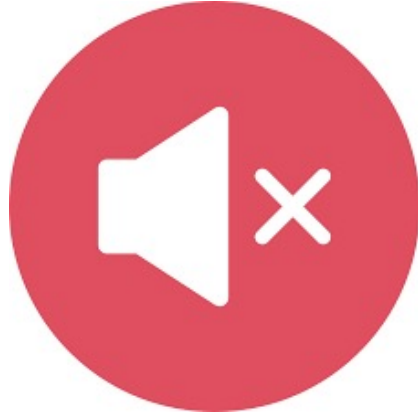SoE School Rep: Patrick Carty (3rd Year)

Date:

11th June 2021

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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

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5 Questions*

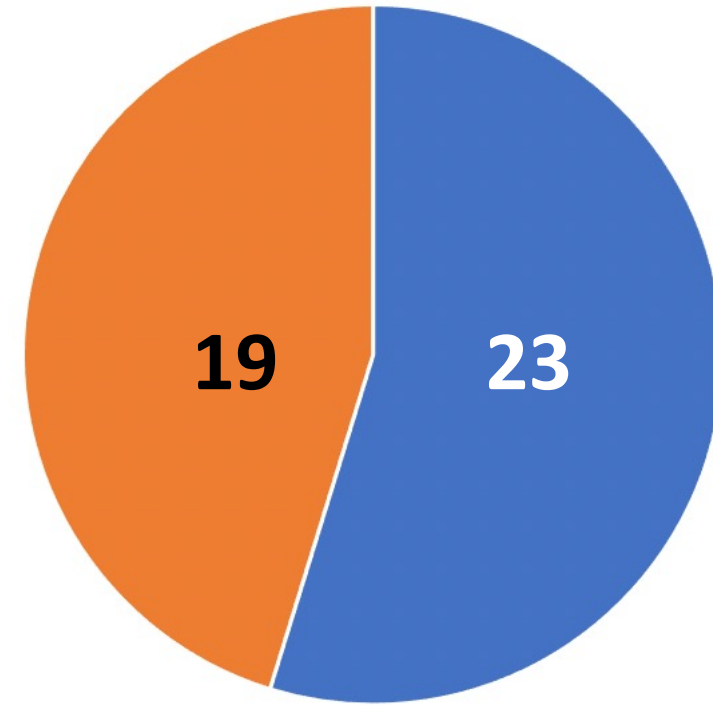- SWOT + 1

42 Responses**

- 3% of SoCS
- 5% of SoE

■ School of Computer Science

■ School of Engineering

* Available from 19th May to 5th June

**Est' Survey Population:

   > SoCS = ~760

   > SoE = ~400

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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?

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

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

Course Breadth:
- Shared modules
- More robotics
- Access to more facilities

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?"

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

Buy In:
- Don't do it (7) vs Do it (1)
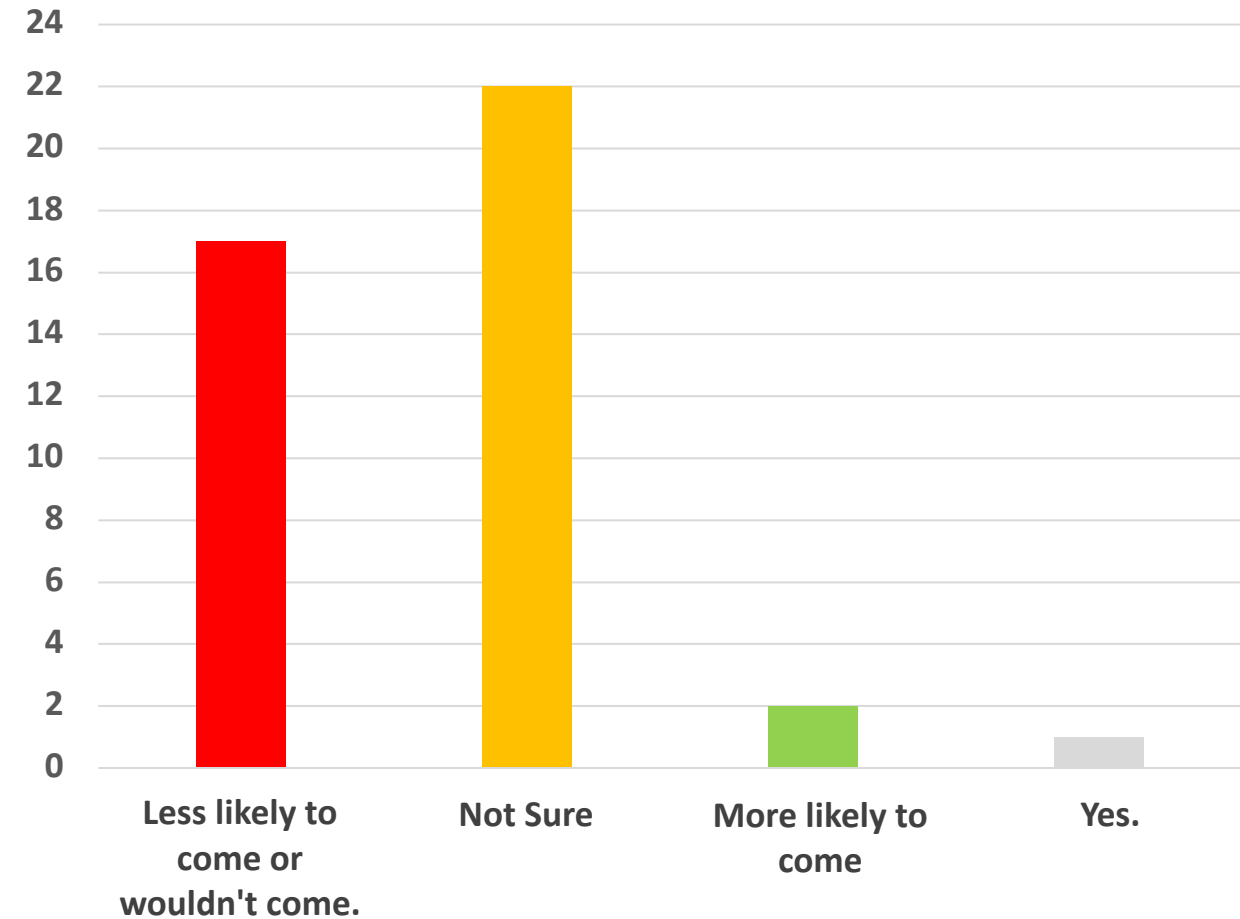
Confidence in leadership:
- Should have new leadership team – not merge existing team
- Should have new name, not one school over the other
- Better communication (previously and going forwards)
- Knowing how to actively take advantage of the merger

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*

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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?

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- ## 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*