25-10 – Tutor in charge of Ethics

**Role Description:**

* Looks after the ethics in the computing department
* Students go through the ethics process for projects
* When anyone is doing research ethics clearance is required-
  + Both students and staff need ethics clearance
  + Not always a straight forward issue
* Have to look at anonymity and confidentiality
  + If there is a conflict of interest
  + Is there anything that will potentially make participants uncomfortable

**Conflicts of interest:**

* Hard when students are participating in research projects
* Have to give a good reason as to why students are involved
* Ethics committee has the final say
* Students can be biased when providing information to students
* Research should be able to be replicated – participants should not be biased
* When interviewing people they will have a bias depending on what you ask them
  + For example if a department is going through a leadership change and the staff are asked opinions on leadership

**Ethics process:**

* As a student had to clear four ethics applications
* Became good at it, so took on the role in the department
* Applications:
  + Have to fill out a form with aim and objectives
  + Does it involve participants?
  + When involving people, have to include any risks to the participants, and lay out anonymity and confidentiality
    - Anonymity:
      * Can the participant be identified
      * Can what is said be traced back to one individual
      * Can’t identify individuals in a report
    - Confidentiality:
      * Interview notes/recordings should not be publically available
      * Can what the participants of the study say be traced back to the,?
      * Can people access and look at the raw data?
  + Data needs to be kept stores, but securely

**Outside of Ethics:**

* Teach courses
  + Mainly grad Dip and level 6-7 students
* Serve on the Human ethics committee
* Co-chair on the research committee
* Supervises industry projects

**Questions:**

**How are ethics applications processed?**

* It is a paper based system
  + Physical form
* Sometimes the form is not filled out properly
* That then means that information needs to be chased
* All parts of the form are important
  + Make sure that there is no deception in the research
  + Not as simple as members of the public think to do programming
  + Need to protect participants
* Electronic versions of the completed form are sent to the committee
  + All the information needs to be complete before the committee can consider the application

**How do you control plagiarism?**

* Turn-it-in – online tool
* Used to check if a student has plagiarised work
* Will know if an assignment is a repeat
* Report is made to the operations manager and head of department if there is any suspected plagiarism
* If severely compromised (two students in a class), the head of department will make a call as o who has copied what
* Students will be interviewed prior to making conclusions
* This process is separate to the Ethics committee

**How else do you use Technology in your role?**

* Email
* TRIBAL
  + To track students attendance/progress
  + To look after level 7 students enrolment
* MOODLE