

Software Engineering Fall 2023-2024

Proposal

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1. Project Description

VALUNI is a platform where students have the opportunity to share their experiences and exchange knowledge and feedback regarding both professors and courses. It would play a vital role in helping students hold sufficient knowledge that could ease up the process of choosing classes and preparing for exams. Our objective is to create a safe, dependable and organized environment that allows students to express their opinions in an honest and respectful way. We aim to motivate students when rating or writing their reviews through anonymity, and at the same time having certain guidelines that must be followed when using VALUNI. This will not only assist students, but also the overall University community including diverse facilities and professors.

2. Usage

- Search for professors and course feedback.
- Rate professors on a variety of criteria which are explanation, fairness, organization, leniency, and accessibility.
- Rate courses based on difficulty level, workload, and learning outcomes.
- Course Evaluations per semester for universities to measure the educational quality.

3. Risks

3.1. Community Risks

- Defamation: Students may post false or misleading reviews of professors, which could damage the professor's reputation and career.
- Bias: Student ratings of professors may be biased. For example, distinct students may go through different experiences such as receiving undesired grades, influencing the integrity of their ratings.

- Increased Reliance on student feedback: Professors may rely too heavily on student feedback for validation, which could negatively impact their teaching style. In addition, students may depend on the review itself without actually giving the professor a chance.

3.2. Development Risks

- The website is not liked by its main target audience as well as not being used by the student body which will defeat the whole purpose of the website.
- The website is not perfectly secured which can lead to privacy issues and data breaches.
- The cost of developing and maintaining the website could be high which could result in problems with financial sustainability.
- The website may not be well-received by professors which can make the website unsuccessful.

4. Motivation

Nowadays, the majority of students find it difficult to navigate the right path when it comes to making decisions during their registration periods. It is a well known hustle amongst students as continuously trying to find the suitable courses and professors that fits their best interest is a challenge. In fact, some students initiated solving this problem by creating RateAUCProfessors, a FaceBook group, to provide reviews about Professors and pass on evaluations to next colleagues. Eventually, some of the group members started posting content that is out of context which made it lose its academic focus. Not to mention, the data keeps increasing each semester which makes it difficult for students to search in an efficient way. Therefore, we came up with VALUNI where our main purpose is to constantly and effectively serve the educational community. This is because it would incorporate not only accessible reviews on courses and professors but also help collect evaluations at the end of each semester; aiding the university to adopt rightful and recent evaluations regarding each aspect of the overall educational level.

5. Features To Be Implemented

- Ability to log in
- Redirecting to homepage where user's required major courses and courses previously taken are viewed

- Choosing a course to access its feedback
- Redirecting to course review page
- Choosing an instructor to access their feedback
- Redirecting to instructor review page
- Searching from a menu for either a course or instructor
- Writing reviews and posting them
- Displaying reviews along with the major and anonymity of the user who posted it

6. Conclusion

Deriving new alternatives ensures the continuous improvement of educational systems to ease up difficulties presented by choosing courses or professors. We will achieve this by implementing standard moderation procedures and easiness in frontend navigation. Additionally, VALUNI is a new platform that integrates RateAUCProfessors on a higher technological and beneficial level; however, it comes with new risks that need to be rightfully tackled to ensure the integrity and privacy of its users.