

# **Project Management System: Existing Solutions Review**

The ecosystem of digital solutions aimed at addressing the inefficiencies in academic management is already mature enough to justify their widespread adoption among colleges and universities around the globe. The extent of their integration with existing IT infrastructure vary significantly from one institution to another. For instance, some institutions use standard tools like Learning Management Systems for basic communication and deliverable handling. Others, however, adopt centralized full-fledged platforms to manage the entire supervision process from smart meeting scheduling to document management with progress tracking. The following are five such solutions, derived from both commercial software and academic research.

## **1) Creatrix Campus**

Creatrix Campus (Creatrix Campus, 2025.-a) is a comprehensive, cloud-based software platform that functions as an Enterprise Resource Planning software (see Appendix) for higher education institutions, aiming to automate the entire student lifecycle from admission to graduation. The platform is modular, with its functionalities separated into components that are billed separately, allowing an institution to assemble a custom system to suit their specific needs. For example, the centralized platform proposed necessitates at least 2 modules as prerequisites – Thesis Management System and Meeting Management Software.

The Thesis Management System (Creatrix Campus, 2025.-b) manages dissertation processes by minimizing challenges faced by scholars. For example, document submission and re-submission is handled through a centralized repository for change tracking and version management. Furthermore, each submission is subject to configurable review and approval workflows that can potentially accommodate an institution's custom AI-powered feedback compliance checker through API (see Appendix) requests. The system also provides progress tracking for both students and supervisors to monitor the status of the project. On the other hand, the Meeting Management Software (Creatrix Campus, 2025.-c) provides the necessary utilities for meeting scheduling. These include scheduling conflict avoidance, automated meeting reminders and metrics such as attendance tracking. It also offers extensive support with 3<sup>rd</sup> party calendar apps.

While Creatrix Campus can provide a solution to the problem of academic supervision overhead, it has some critical limitations. Firstly, the extent to which workflows can be customized is limited (Creatrix Campus, 2025.-b) and can be a point of contention during integration with a custom-built feedback compliance checker. More importantly however, its enterprise-level pricing model presents a significant financial barrier. Coupled with the platform's customization limits, this forces institutions to evaluate whether the value provided is justifiable, especially when more viable and budget-friendly alternatives exist.

## **2) Project Supervision System (Beekhy, 2013)**

The Project Supervision System (PSS), as proposed by the Beekhy (2013), is a web-based, multi-user system that aims to address the inefficiencies in ad-hoc supervisory processes by standardizing the way supervisors interact with their students. It comprises of an Appointment Scheduling subsystem that plans meetings on the basis of the supervisor's calendar to reduce conflicts with other plans, a Document Management subsystem whereby supervisors can set tasks for deliverable submission/re-submission and track changes between documents, and lastly a Progress Tracker with Gantt chart visualization to provide a holistic picture for ensuring transparency in the project's progress (Beekhy, 2013).

Nonetheless, the primary limitation of the PSS is that it lacks a feedback checking automation feature in order to have a significant reduction in the supervisor's workload. Another glaring weakness is its inability to send automated push notifications and reminders to users about appointments (Beekhy, 2013, sec 8.2.2) and hence does not truly provide a solution to lower meeting absences.

## **3) Google Workspace for Education**

Google Workspace for education is a suite for Google tools that empower schools and universities to streamline their learning environments (Google, 2025.-a). The pertinent tools for developing a project management system for supervisors are Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Calendar and Google Assignment. Google Classroom (Google, 2025.-b) acts as the core of the system where supervisors can make classes for project students and create assignments with deadlines. Its interoperability with Google Calendar (Google, 2025.-c) may also provide a basis for meeting scheduling. More importantly, as an attempt to reduce overhead in the submission and feedback loop, supervisors can create a Google Docs

(Google, 2025.-d) file that natively supports versioning in each assignment and integrate it with the Google Assignment plugin (Google, 2025.-e) to prevent students from editing or re-submitting their work while feedback is provided.

The advantage of leveraging Google Workspace for Education is that it can seamlessly integrate with tools commonly used by institutions, including the University of Mauritius which currently uses Gmail and Google Classroom. Nonetheless, its primary disadvantage lies in its inflexibility in customizing the submission feedback workflow for automation. Furthermore, it also lacks a sophisticated meeting scheduling system and an adequate progress tracking feature to monitor the project's lifecycle.

#### **4) Moodle as a Final Year Project Management System (Khamaruddin et al., 2018)**

Khamaruddin et al. (2018) proposes leveraging Moodle (Moodle, 2025.-a) - an open-source Learning Management System (LMS) – for streamlining the processes of student-supervisor assignment, automated reminders, deliverable submission and feedback, and standardized online assessments. Similar to other commercial solutions, Moodle separates its functionalities into activity modules, each developed for a specific task. Although the system lacks an appointment scheduling component, it attempts to provide a reminder system through the forum activity module (Moodle, 2025.-b). Moreover, the core submission and feedback loop is implemented via the Assignment activity module (Moodle, 2025.-c) and tracking of progress updates via the Course administration module (Moodle, 2025.-d)

While this final year project management system remains a budget-friendly option and provides a functional workflow, it lacks the flexibility for accommodating specialized features of a dedicated system such as Gantt chart visualization for progress monitoring or versioning for document submissions. Its other obvious limitations include the absence of a meeting planning and feedback checking system.

#### **5) Final Year Project Management System for Information Technology Programmes (Leung et al., 2018)**

The Final Year Project Management System by Leung et al. (2018), is a web platform designed around a group-based workflow for students and supervisors. It distinguishes itself

from other solutions by providing a File Sharing and Repository module that manages documents as well as source code. Furthermore, its Project Management module provides students with a shared workspace and a scheduler for them to create tasks and set deadlines. It also consists of a basic progress tracking feature for each student.

However, this group-based architecture makes it unsuitable for one-on-one supervision, especially when its only advantages over other solutions in this aspect is handling the student's work alongside his/her source code, and the possibility of adapting the scheduler component for individual use. It also lacks other key features such as meeting scheduling and feedback compliance checking automation.

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