

NKUNet - Vision Statement  
Team ToDo

Version	Date	Description
Inception draft	2-14-17	First draft. To be refined later.

## **Introduction**

We envision a website meant to facilitate communications between students, faculty, and past students regardless of class, class section, or status at the university based on certain topics that are posted into the forum.

## **Positioning**

### **Problem Statement**

Blackboard is a useful tool for communication between professors and students. While it does feature a forum for each individual section, it is very seldom used. We propose to create a standalone website that not only allows students and faculty to interact with each other, but also to communicate with members of other sections of the same course and students that have already taken the course during previous semesters. This allows much more interaction and would make it easier for assistance to be given to those that need it, by allowing those with more experience to be able to respond to questions and upload educational material, such as tutorials or diagrams.

### **Product Position Statements**

NKUNet is for connecting students who need help with others who can assist them. It uses a forum/subforum structure to separate out the different majors and then the different courses within those majors. It will automatically pin the most active topics to the top of the forum so people can see what most people are looking at and will sort topics within subforums by the most recently commented on. It will then choose which comments on the forum that are the most/least helpful based on up or downvotes by other users. We are different from services like Blackboard because we don't just have forums for individual sections of individual courses, where the potential participants are highly restricted, which is hardly ever utilized. We, however, provide forums for individual courses, where people who were in any section of that course, past or present, can answer questions about the topics it covers.

### **Alternative and Competition**

Blackboard, Moodle, Quora, Stack Exchange and other things like it.

## **Stakeholder Descriptions**

- Northern Kentucky University - Implementing Business

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- Tim McCord - Project Overseer
- Amanda Henderson - Developer
- Bryan Werth - Developer
- Bryan Boeing - Developer
- Daniel Kirtman - Developer

### **User Summary**

There must be four types of users: students, faculty, registrars, and administrators. As all users are created by administrators, registrars, or by the initial database setup NKUNet does not need a user registration page.

- Students - Creating and Viewing questions, answers, and forums. Viewing other students or faculty reputation. Can upvote and downvote questions and answers.
- Faculty - Creating and Viewing questions, answers, and forums. Viewing other faculty and students reputation. Can upvote and downvote questions and answers.
- Registrars - Responsible for adding student users and their schedules each semester. Can do this by using a web form or by uploading a CSV format file with the required information.
- Administrators - have full access to all system facilities, including user add, edit, and delete forms, which is the method for administrators, faculty, and registrars to be added to the system. Have privileges of faculty and student users. Must have the ability to edit and delete all questions and answers. Have access to registrar's functions.

### **User Level Goals**

The users need a system to fulfill these goals:

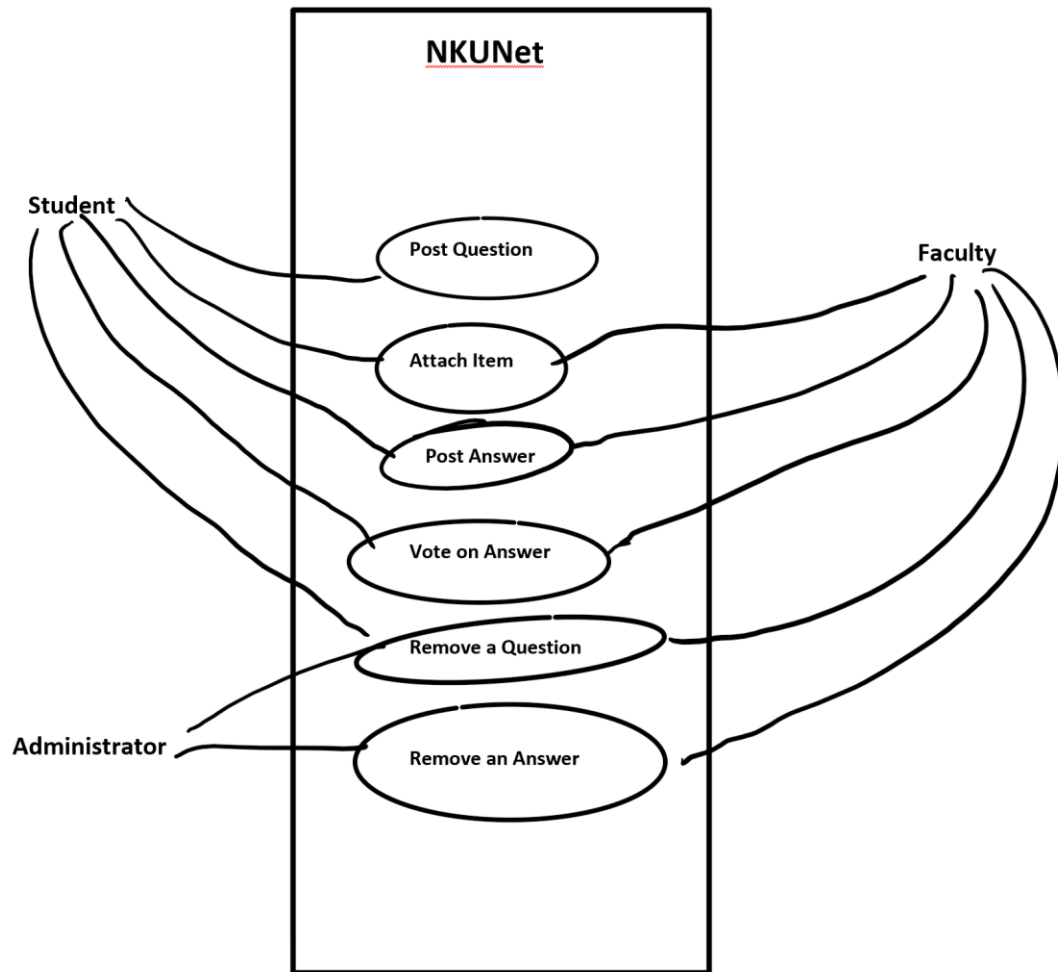
- Students: Create post, comment, upvote, downvote
- Faculty: Create post, comment, upvote, downvote
- Administrators: User add, edit, and delete. Must have the ability to edit and delete all questions and answers
- Registrars: Verify that students are in the appropriate classes. Cannot ask/answer questions

### **Product Overview**

#### **Product Perspective**

NKUNet is accessible from any web browser and provides service to users.

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### Summary of Benefits

Supporting Feature	Stakeholder Benefits
Functionally, the system will provide all common services a educator and student requires, including adding a question, removing a question, voting on an responses, and uploading material.	Ease of accessing advice, answering questions, and supplying educational material.

### Assumptions and Dependencies

We assume that the client is okay with using Rails, SQLite, and Heroku until we can set up a more permanent onsite solution for them.

### Licensing and Installation

GPL version 2 compliant

## **Summary of System Features**

- Allow students and faculty to enter forums
- Allow students and faculty to post/answer questions
- Allow students and faculty to upload resource material
- Create timestamps for posts
- Weigh comments and upvotes/downvotes
- Move comments and posts according to votes

## **Other Requirements and Constraints**

- Must be deployed with Heroku.
- Github Classroom must be used as a repository.
- Must be written using Ruby on Rails