Project:

Our project is to create a crowdfunding application specifically for students and other university community members who are in need of financial assistance.

Purpose:

Sometimes students require financial assistance in cases where applications for support through the university or public funding programs would be too timely or logistically burdensome. Examples would be the individual need for a laptop or textbooks, or the funding requirement of small university clubs.

Users:

The application’s end user would be the students or clubs requiring the crowdfunding services. The administrator would be the university. Because the university will be administrating the app, we must develop a clean and easy to use interface for both user and admin.

Technical:

The project would be built as a web application. The first iteration should include a way for a user to create a funding request, a way for administrators to approve and deny requests, and integration of *one* digital wallet service.

Once the working build is complete, we will add more features with further updates. We plan to decide which features to include with meetings and then setting a goal, depending on feedback on the current build and remaining development time. This is our implementation of an Agile development process, where we plan, we build, we review feedback, and repeat.

Examples of possible features are a secondhand textbook market, textbook/software drives for specific classes, and an accompanying mobile app.

Assumptions and Risks:

One big assumption we are making is that this application is something that universities will adopt. There might be legal stipulations about this sort of thing, as it deals with money and we have a public university as the administrator for this. We plan to deal with this by throwing up our collective hands and asserting, “Fuck it, let ‘em sue.”

Always risk with crowdfunding is the funders’ worry that their money isn’t going towards the intended purpose. Our project pre-remedies this by having the university be the one to approve and deny requests, giving them the responsibility; the Pontius Pilate approach to problem solving.