



# **Syllabus Management System (SMS)**

## **Problem Statement**

### **Revision 1**

*2/3/2017*

Michael Francesconi, Andrew Sutton, Kevin Novak, Edward Brown, Nick Chirico, Harsh Patel

## **Problem Description**

The current syllabus system used by Kent State University lacks many abilities that prohibit it from reaching a desired effectiveness. The current system does not allow students to view syllabi prior to registering for a course. In turn, students cannot receive information about what is expected during a course, or what textbook may be required. Additionally, faculty members cannot easily view the contents of existing courses, which presents a challenge when trying to create new courses. An instructor's process of submitting a class syllabus is currently an inflexible way of handling syllabus management. Syllabi must be emailed to the Administrative Assistant and saved to the assistant's computer.

## **Project Objective**

We envision a system that will allow instructors and students to easily access and review syllabi. Our system will allow instructors to create syllabi, as well as modify contents. This system will be more convenient for instructors and the Administrative Assistant, and will help students in deciding which classes to register for.

## **Customer**

Kent State University has requested the system in hopes of improving employee efficiency by allowing professors to review other syllabi from other classes and not forcing the Administrative Assistant to organize the syllabi manually. It is also hoped that student retention in the first week of class will be higher by allowing the students to review the syllabi before registering for classes. The university finds that its employees and students are its major stakeholders.

## **Customer Constraints**

The customer's minimum requirements are as follows:

- Allow faculty/students to review syllabi
- Allow faculty to add, modify, and delete syllabi/contents for their own courses
- Allow administrators to add, modify, and delete syllabi/contents for any course

Additionally, the customer would like:

- The system should be accessible online, regardless of the device the instructors' and students' use to access it.
- The interface should be intuitive and lack clutter.

## **End Users**

- The department's instructors will be able to upload to the system. As the university already uses Google services, they will be able to authenticate using their university email address.
- Students of the university will be able to view, but not modify, the syllabi. Unless the customer later requests otherwise, this does not need authentication so that potential new students who are considering the university will be able to see what the department's classes are like.

- The system will be administered by at least the department's Administrative Assistant.
- All access should eventually be open to the internet so that students and professors can access syllabi from anywhere. However, should the customer want access limited to on-campus, the university already has a VPN setup to allow off-campus access.

## Assumptions

The following are assumed to be true during the development of the SMS.

- We assume users should be able to access the system with their university accounts.
- We assume that deployment operating system and software will be decided by the developers.

## Risk Areas

The following are identified as potential development risks, and their apparent risk levels.

- Creating a universal syllabi standard based on existing syllabi - **Medium**
- Integrating a text formatting library, for the creation of syllabi - **Medium**
- OAuth Authentication - **Low**
- Obtaining access to existing university course/faculty IDs - **Low**
- Obtaining access to a database - **Low**