Group Project Overview

On September 8, I will divide the class into groups of 3-4 people for the group project. Each group will design and implement a DSS for a problem of their choice. In the Blackboard project examples folder, there is a list of projects past class teams have completed, and two examples of a project final report. The requirement is that you develop a functional prototype that you will demonstrate on the last day of class. Groups may select any implementation environment they judge appropriate for their respective problem.

The prototype must have the main DSS architectural elements, and must provide decision support information. As a prototype, it will not have all the functionality and polish of a final system. The project final report will describe what needs to be done to build out the functionality of the final system.

In the past, most DSS prototypes were based on an Excel model implementing some of the techniques learned in the course to solve the problem chosen by the group. There have been groups in the past using more sophisticated approaches, such as a Python or a Java-based front end to an Excel model. Although polished and sophisticated prototypes are welcomed, the minimum requirement is only an Excel-based implementation of a DSS.

Progress reports. At two-week intervals during the course, each group will prepare a 1-2 page summary of the design status of a specific DSS element, and then present this summary in class. The intent of these reports is to provide me with an update on each group's progress, and to provide each group support in succeeding with their goals. The progress reports and their presentation account for 25% of the Group's final project grade. Blackboard has all five report assignments available for you.

Group Project Oral presentations. On the last day of class (Dec 1), each group will have 30 minutes to present their work, including at least 5 minutes for questions. One member of the group must submit slides via Blackboard no later than 5 PM on November 30. You may make changes to your presentation after submitting it, although you should submit a reasonably "close-to-final" version of the actual presentation.

Per current GMU planning, this will be an on-line only class day. All group members are expected *to present* and *to be available for questioning*. The final presentation must include a live demonstration of a DSS prototype and will count towards your final grade.

Each student will also evaluate the presentations made by other teams.

Group Project Final report. A 10-15 page written report is due by midnight, November 30. Any appendices do not count towards the page limit. A suggested report outline is in the class Blackboard Project section. You may adopt your own outline, but adhere to the formatting requirements in the suggested outline. One group member will submit the report via the Blackboard system. The Blackboard project examples folder has two reports from previous classes

Grading. The Group Project grading is structured as follows:

- Progress reports (25%);
- Oral presentation and demo (40%); and
- Final report (35%).

Peer Review. *Your grade on this project will be strongly affected by your peer evaluations and my own observations on your level of participation and performance*

You are expected to rate each person of your team – including yourself – using an evaluation form provided below. Areas that will be evaluated on a ten-point scale include:

- Responded quickly to group members' communications
- Contributed positively to group discussions
- Contributed useful ideas
- Willingly accepted assigned tasks
- Worked well with other group members; helped others when needed
- Completed work on time or made adequate arrangements
- Quality of contributed work did not require others to edit too much
- Work was accurate and complete
- Contributed his/her fair share to the project
- Overall was a valuable member of the group