

# QuickSource Focus Group Survey Report

Participants: 3 Students 2 Professors (participants are either involved or interested in research.)

## Hypotheses

1. Users wants a user-friendly and easy-to-navigate platform to find research opportunities.
2. There is no universal procedure and profile format for people seeking academic research opportunities.
3. Professor will be interested to find an alternative way to recruit for students who are interested in doing research or independent projects with them.
4. Students would like to have a more information-centric platform that they can browse large number of project at once and to have more option in research topics.

## Survey Questions

### *Student focused*

1. If you are interested in doing research, where would you look for opportunities?  
(Regards to hypothesis 4)
2. How do you like Eagle Ops? What aspect of it you do like specifically?  
(Regards to hypothesis 1 & 4)
3. What form of contact would you prefer or use to contact your professor regarding research?  
(Regards to hypothesis 1)
4. What kind of information about the research opportunity would you like to know before expressing interest?  
(Regards to hypothesis 1 & 4)
5. Do you have LinkedIn? Github? or any online profile of yourself? Is it well-maintained? Do you think it is enough for academic purpose?  
(Regards to hypothesis 2)

### *Professor focused*

1. Often professors receive more grants or project opportunities than they can take on alone. What is your opinion on recruiting and guiding non Phd students on working on such projects? Are you interested in students from other schools?  
(Regards to hypothesis 3)
2. Where and how would you find students who would be interested in your research? How do you like Eagle Ops and what aspects do you like or not like about it specifically?  
(Regards to hypothesis 1)
3. What should a student display on his/her academic profile? What do you look for or want to know about a potential candidate that wants to do research with you?  
(Regards to hypothesis 2)

4. Are you interested in collaborating with other institutions or researchers outside of Emory in research?. How do you usually find these collaborators?  
(Regards to hypothesis 3)
5. How likely or often would you be looking for students for your research or projects?  
(Regards to hypothesis 3)

## Survey Result

### *Student-focused Questions*

1. Question 1
  - a. Email and talk to the professor in person. Student thinks this demonstrates respect and cultivate better connection with the professor.
  - b. Look for the department with the most resource. Student does not come in with a specific field that he/she wants to research in, but rather the student find the field with the most resource in the institution. Potentially it means more opportunity.
  - c. Eagles Ops and reference from the student's advisor or professor. Eventually, the student would like to talk to the professor in person.
2. Question 2
  - a. Student does not like it since it does not provide much opportunities.
  - b. Student has not look at it yet.
  - c. Student does not like it since it is hard to find project that is customized to the preference of the user
3. Question 3
  - a. Email or meet in person.
  - b. Text message if possible otherwise email.
  - c. Email.
4. Question 4
  - a. Demonstration of the project, previous publication, and the current paper.
  - b. Expected hours per week and prerequisite for prior course/research knowledge.
  - c. Position or job description of the project, goals of the project, and preferred skill sets.
5. Question 5
  - a. Yes, but only LinkedIn is well-maintained. However, the platform is not enough for academic purpose. For example, it does not include fields of personal interests.
  - b. Only GitHub. Yet, GitHub is extremely Computer Science focused, so it does not include the student's interest outside the scope of Computer Science.
  - c. Have both and a personal website. They are somewhat maintained, but the student does not think they are enough for academic purpose

### *Professor-focused Questions*

1. Question 1
  - a. Current professors surveyed believe that it is the student who expresses interest or approaches them initially that demonstrates that they care about doing research.

- b. Current professors surveyed are open to all students even undergraduates, but do prefer to have students from their school.
- 2. Question 2
  - a. Current professors surveyed do not use eagle ops and have been contacted in person or found through web search.
  - b. Current professors surveyed prefer in person contact.
- 3. Question 3
  - a. Current professors surveyed look for the standard professional background (experience and skills) and motivation.
  - b. Current professors surveyed look for demonstration that a student can take on and complete their own project.
- 4. Question 4
  - a. Current professors surveyed are interested in collaboration with people outside of their current school.
  - b. Current professors surveyed do not want a one sided project.
- 5. Question 5
  - a. Current professors surveyed are not as frequent or more so formal when taking on students (think once a year or if there is interest that is expressed)

### **Additional Observation**

- 1. Users are sometimes confused with the flow/navigation of the website. For example, there are no error prompts but only redirection. It is hard for user to tell what they did wrong.
- 2. Users do not think the project profile page has sufficient information that will either intrigue or be enough for them to fully understand the purpose of the project. By the same token, there is no existing personal profile pages to demonstrate a academic profile.
- 3. Our results from the survey give us insight, but we probably need more participants to our survey to further validate our hypothesis regarding professors' procedures to finding students.

### **Conclusions**

#### *Regards to Hypothesis 1*

Eagle Ops is not user friendly and there is no known universal platform to find research opportunities.

-> QuickSource has a chance to create a user friendly platform that is better than Eagle Ops. However the strive to become universal will be a challenge.

#### *Regards to Hypothesis 2*

The procedure of seeking students is not formalized and depends on the student interest to do research on top of their qualifications.

-> QuickSource can provide professors their own choice of qualifications and allow professors to see students who are interested that are not in their classes.

#### *Regards to Hypothesis 3*

Professors are open to having students participate in research with them and seem to be open to procedures in recruiting students. However it is unclear that they will prefer this procedure of recruiting as oppose to their traditional methods.

-> QuickSource will have to find a way to not just have appealing features, create universal adaptation, but to be the go-to platform as opposed to traditional methods

#### *Regards to Hypothesis 4*

Students mainly relies on face-to-face interaction with the professor. This has two causes: 1. students think this approach is already efficient and demonstrate respect for the professor and devotion in research. This partially contradict with our hypothesis. Student would like to have the option of browsing large amount of project at once, but they rather have closer connection with the professor through the whole research process.

-> Quick Source might have to seek or create features that will preserve the professionalism of the current approach while providing more information and options to research opportunity seeking students.