Use Case Description: Register

Use Case Name: Register

Use Case ID: UC-1

Description:
The "Register" use case describes the process by which a user, such as a college student, faculty member, creates a new account on the educational networking website. This use case is essential for onboarding new users and granting them access to the platform's features and resources.

Primary Actor:
- New User (College Student, Faculty Member)

Preconditions:
- The user has not registered an account on the platform before.

Main Flow of Events:

1. The user navigates to the website's homepage.
2. The user selects the "Sign Up" option, typically found prominently on the homepage.
3. The system presents the registration form, which includes fields for essential user information. Common fields may include:
    - Name
    - Email address
    - Password
    - Confirm password
    - College affiliation (for students and faculty)
    - Role (e.g., student, faculty, administrator)
4. The user enters their information into the required fields.

5. The system performs validation checks on the entered information, ensuring that the email address is unique, the password meets security criteria, and other necessary criteria are met.
6. If the validation checks pass, the system proceeds to create a new user account, generating a unique user ID.
7. The system sends a confirmation email to the user's provided email address with a verification link.
8. The user clicks on the verification link to confirm their email address and activate their account.
9. After email verification, the system activates the user account, granting access to the educational networking platform.
10. The user is redirected to the login page and can now log in using their registered email address and password.

Alternative Flows:

1.1. Invalid Registration Information:
   - If the user provides invalid or incomplete information during registration, the system displays error messages indicating the issues and prompts the user to correct them.
2.1. Email Address Already Registered:
   - If the user attempts to register with an email address that is already associated with an existing account, the system displays an error message and prompts the user to use a different email address.
3.1. Verification Email Not Received:
   - If the user does not receive the verification email within a reasonable timeframe, the system provides an option to resend the email or check the spam folder.
4.1. Email Verification Link Expired:
   - If the user clicks on an expired verification link, the system informs them and provides an option to request a new verification email.

Postconditions:

- The user has successfully registered an account on the educational networking website.
- The user can access the platform's features and resources.