# **Preliminary Summary**

## **Overview**

Talks@UBC is an interactive discussion platform designed for the UBC community. It serves as a centralized hub for students, faculty, and alumni to engage in meaningful conversations, share insights, and disseminate information on a wide array of topics. This document outlines the currently implemented functionalities of the Talks@UBC platform, highlighting the features that users can interact with.

## **Implemented Functionalities**

### **UX Design**

* Responsive Design: Enhancing the platform's design to be fully responsive for an optimal viewing experience across various devices and screen sizes.

### **User Authentication System**

* User Registration: New users can sign up by providing basic information such as name, email, username, and password. The system ensures userID, email and username uniqueness to prevent duplicate accounts.
* User Login: Users can log in to the platform using their username and password. Upon successful login, users gain access to the platform's features based on their role (e.g., regular user, admin).
* User Logout: Logged-in users can securely log out from the platform.

### **Profile Management**

* Profile Viewing: Users can view their own profile, showcasing their username and a profile picture.
* Profile Picture Upload: Users can upload and update their profile picture. The system supports various image formats (JPEG, PNG, GIF, BMP, WEBP) and ensures that each user's picture is uniquely named based on their userID.

### **Discussion Posts**

* Creating Posts: Users can create new posts under various categories (e.g., Education & Careers, Lifestyle & Health) with a title and content.
* Viewing Posts: Users can view all posts on the homepage, sorted by the latest posts first. Each post displays the title, content, category, author's username, and the post date.
* Searching Posts: Users can search for posts based on keywords found in the title or content. Search results are displayed similarly to regular posts, sorted by the latest.
* Deleting Posts: Users can delete their own posts. A delete button appears next to each of the user's posts, allowing for easy removal.
* Comments System: Implementation of a comments section under each post for users to engage in discussions.

### **Administration**

* Category Management: Admin users can add or remove post categories to organize content better.
* Can delete posts regardless of the user ID associated with the post.

### **Security and Data Management**

* Data Validation: The platform validates user input during registration, login, and post creation to prevent SQL injection and ensure data integrity.
* Session Management: User sessions are managed securely, ensuring that sensitive actions like profile updates or post deletions are performed by authenticated users.

### **Upcoming Enhancements**

* Comment Deletion Functionality : We acknowledge the current limitations of delete\_comment function, which is not operating as intended. We are working on refining this feature. It will allow users exclusive control to delete their own comments, ensuring a streamlined and user-centric interface where this option is only visible to comment authors.
* Navigation Styling: Recognizing the importance of intuitive navigation within Talks@UBC, efforts are underway to improve the aesthetic and functional design of our breadcrumb navigation system. This upgrade aims to enhance user experience by providing a visually appealing and coherent pathway, facilitating seamless transitions between pages and helping users understand their location within the platform with greater clarity.