**IT 328 Milestone Three: Project Risk and Mitigation**

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IT 328

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With the given risk matrix for Regatta University’s student degree tracker project and concurrent GUI project there is a list of possible risks and likelihoods of each risk to analyze for possible mitigation strategies. Today we will be looking at a high likelihood risk revolving around the projects scope, the exact words being: “There is a risk that the ambiguity in the project scope (it only defines ‘graphical element’ but not what type) will lead to requirement changes by the stakeholder during development, affecting both the budget and schedule.” This ambiguity as stated will cause the scope to inflate causing the triple constraints of budget and time to be negatively affected. With this in mind it is imperative that the scope for the GUI is narrowed down to a more concrete and reasonable list of tasks that can be completed in the roughly 30 day period given to both projects. Doing so will prevent the expenditure of needed resources for development, keep the developers on task by giving set goals for each milestone, and overall having a structured breakdown of the project work.

As of now the project scope is not defined with regards to the GUI. To remedy this we must look at the goals of the project as described in the project scenario: a user-friendly interface connecting to a flexible, powerful, information structure that allows students to access an accurate, and instantaneous informational degree tracking tool showing progress towards their degree completion. The given description gives the team a rough layout of a scope by defining some key features: easy to use, fast loading, and flexible degree tracking tool. Despite this foundation it is still not enough to resolve the scope risk as it only gives us a rough outline and not fine detail. For this we will need to look at what information should be displayed to the student when using the program. There is no formal document given for what information should be displayed so a list of objects will need to be brainstormed and approved by management before proceeding with this resolution. Such UI elements can be the courses required for the degree and their status: unregistered, registered with a given start and end date, active, and completed with a completion date. For courses that have been completed a final grade can be displayed with the credits earned for that completed course. An overview page of the students GPA, sum of earned credits, progress bar to graduation, and estimated graduation period. Links on unregistered and required courses to the registration sites could be helpful. Additional ‘what-if’ scenarios can be added to allow a student to calculate if a given course is taken during a given timeframe when they could graduate. This was a quick list of ideas to further narrow down the scope and as previously mentioned all ideas listed have not been approved as of yet but will give a discussion started with the stakeholders, team, and management.

It is imperative that the scope is defined in great detail so that work can progress on schedule without the excessive burn of resources and time working on unnecessary features. Defining this scope will reduce the risk's likelihood in proportion to the amount of detail placed in the scope, and thus reduce the risk of scope creep. While scope creep will still remain an issue as long as the team sticks to the established plan and stakeholders understand the constraints of the project then little issue should arise from the two projects development in regards to scope.