**CSC 238 – Human Computer Interface Design**

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS)

Computer Science Department

Spring – 2024.

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**Assignment** – Design Research Review

**Task Analysis Questions:**

1. **Who is going to use the design?**

**Answer:** The primary users will be Master's students who are undertaking academic projects or thesis work across various departments. Secondary users include faculty advisors who guide, support, and evaluate these projects, as well as university administrative staff involved in overseeing academic programs and project evaluations.

1. **What tasks do they now perform?**

**Answer**: Students draft project proposals based on their interests. Students seek approval by reaching out to professors via email. Professors review proposals, provide feedback, request modifications, or approve. Administrative staff oversee program compliance and academic standards and register the appropriate courses for their academics.

1. **What tasks are desired?**

**Answer**: Submitting and tracking project proposals in real time. Receiving immediate feedback, modifications requests, or approval from professors. Managing project documentation digitally. Facilitating communication between students and faculty advisors efficiently. Monitoring student progress and outcomes by faculty advisors.

1. **How are the tasks learned?**

**Answer**: Tasks are primarily learned through academic guidelines provided by the university, direct instructions from faculty advisors, and the use of the proposed digital platform, which would include tutorials or guidance on its functionalities.

1. **Where are the tasks performed?**

**Answer**: Tasks are performed in a combination of physical and digital environments: at university facilities, in digital workspaces like the application we develop, and in any location where students and faculty advisors access the platform remotely.

1. **What is the relationship between the person and data?**

**Answer**: Students and faculty advisors are both data creators and consumers. Students submit project proposals and updates, while faculty advisors provide feedback and evaluations. Administrative staff use data for oversight and ensuring compliance with academic standards.

1. **What other tools does the person have?**

**Answer**: Currently, they rely on email for communication, word processors for drafting proposals, and various digital tools for project management and data analysis, depending on the nature of the project.

1. **How do people communicate with each other?**

**Answer**: Communication currently happens via email, face-to-face meetings, and potentially through existing digital platforms that are not specifically designed for managing Master's projects.

1. **How often are the tasks performed?**

**Answer**: These tasks are performed throughout the academic year, with peak times aligning with project proposal deadlines, mid-term evaluations, and final project submissions.

1. **What are the time constraints on the tasks?**

**Answer**: The main constraint is the academic calendar, with specific deadlines for proposal submission, project course registration, and final project submission to meet graduation requirements.

1. **What happens when things go wrong?**

**Answer**: When things go wrong, such as missed deadlines or rejected proposals, it can delay a student's academic progress, potentially affecting their graduation timeline. The proposed platform aims to minimize these risks by improving the efficiency and transparency of the process.

**High-Level Themes and Problems Identified:**

**Inefficiency and Delays:** The current process is time-consuming, causing delays in project approval and registration.

**Lack of Transparency:** Students and professors lack a centralized platform for tracking proposal status and feedback.

**Communication Gaps:** Existing communication methods (primarily email) are inefficient for managing project proposals and feedback.

**Suggested Tasks for Design:**

Designing an intuitive interface for proposal submission and tracking. Implementing a real-time notification system for proposal status updates and feedback. Creating detailed profiles for professors to help students find relevant advisors easily. Developing a system for digital document management and communication between students and faculty advisors.