**CSC 238 – Human Computer Interface Design**

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS)

Computer Science Department

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**Assignment** – Design Research Plan

**Target Participants and Stakeholders using our design:**

The primary users of our design and system are Master’s students across various departments engaged in academic project-based learning or thesis projects. Our main focus is on Undergraduate or graduate students who work on diverse academic projects ranging from experimental research to creative and theoretical work at their colleges/universities to achieve degree in their respective field of study. Our secondary users are the faculty advisors and project supervisors across different disciplines. Their role involves guiding, supporting, accessing academic projects, and they require tools to facilitate communication, monitor students progress, and evaluate outcomes effectively. The rest of the stakeholders include University administrative staff involved in overseeing academic programs and project evaluations, and providing approvals if needed and to provide educational experience and meet academic standards.

**Design Research Methods and Participants:**

We conduct contextual inquiries with a group of Master’s students across various departments or disciplines. The aim is to observe their project management practices and approaches to faculty advisors in their natural work environments. Next, we will conduct some interviews with faculty advisors from different departments, which will provide more insights into a wide range of expectations and experiences, and also requirements for a project management system to adverse academic projects. We plan to reach out different university students, faculty advisors and administrative staff to find out how their approach/behavior is to complete their Master’s project. Incase of access difficulties, our alternative strategies include partnering with student organizations and leveraging academic events to bring the change. Though, we assume it’s a time taking process, but we believe this is best approach to deal with such situations across various departments and universities.

**Primary Proposed Method Detail:**

Our primary proposed method is doing the contextual inquiries. Our inquiry will focus on observing project planning, execution and review sessions with students and faculty advisors across disciplines but not limited to digital tool usage, physical and digital documentation management, communication strategies, and adaptability to project changes. Building a rapport between students and faculty advisors is crucial because it will emphasize the study’s aim to improve academic project management experience. Though, this adjusted plan aims to embrace the diversity of Master’s programs, ensuring the design and research encompasses a wide range of needs and practices. This approach will contribute to developing a Project management system that is adaptable, user-friendly, and capable of supporting Master’s students and faculty advisors across various disciplines in managing academic project efficiently.