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Goals and Expectations

My undergraduate degree is almost over. Completion of Senior Design II coincides with my graduation date. As expected, by the time I finish Senior Design, I expect to be able to enter the workforce and bring skills that I have learned so that I can contribute to and assimilate with an already formed team. In Senior Design, I expect to be able to apply concepts learned throughout the course of my undergraduate career. This is where it should all come together. I will hopefully be able to create bridges between separate courses and see their points of intersection.

However, I want more from Senior Design than just the educational aspect of it. I also want to be part of a team that creates something impressive. At the end of Senior Design, I would like to present a product that not only meets the requirements, but has high reliability and is aesthetically pleasing. I want something that I can put on my resume website and be proud of. I want future prospective employers to be wowed.

I am very open to the types of projects as long as they meet the above criterion. Software is a large field in itself, but inclusion of a hardware component opens the field to include virtually any electronic device imaginable, scaled down of course to meet our timeline.

I am excited to see the suggested projects. I have several ideas, but am not sure about scalability to two semesters and four people. Once we see the list of proposed ideas, I may submit something for consideration. Another concern that I have with submitting ideas relates to ownership. If I do submit an idea for a new product or product improvement, I believe that UTA would own the idea. I’m still not sure if I would like to relinquish rights that quickly. I appreciate what UTA has done for me with regards to education, but it wasn’t free and I don’t believe the school is entitled to money from an original idea from me.

Once we see the project list, I will be able to speak more intelligently about it, however as some general guidelines, if I had a choice, I would like to work on something significant. I believe that people have a social responsibility to contribute to society when necessary. If a person has the ability to do something that improves the life of many, I think that is an exceptional use of their time. For example, I would rather work on something that has a social purpose than something that does not. I realize that industry is not always concerned about the environment or less fortunate people. However in a college environment where profit is not a motivating force, a project that benefited others would be a worthy enterprise.

Regardless of the team project, I expect to contribute as much as possible. I don’t expect to change the world in two semesters, but think some degree of social focus would be nice. I suppose at this point, the important thing is just finishing my degree, right? So I guess if we can do that, I’ll be happy!