Proposal

Date: October 20, 2018

TO: Student body

FROM: Daniel Crawford

SUBJ: Make reservations available to conference rooms to

encourage cooperation and increase productivity

**Problem**

The Engineering and Computer Science (ECSW) building expands the campus and is a fantastic place for students to focus on their work. In these buildings, there are conference rooms which come with televisions which is great for working within groups for classes that require them. Besides classes, this can also influence the success of students outside their academics, such as at hackathons or competitions in groups.

This proposal to request a proper method of reserving spaces within the new building, and possibly for the entire campus as well. However, this is not for all spaces like these, there should be a sufficient amount of study spaces available to the students at once. The reservation system should be focused on the conference room areas that are better suited for groups than they are for single people.

A system where a student can made a reservation via online or a front desk would help this situation in several ways. First of all, and most generally, it would allow students to stay within these rooms within time intervals. There are two benefits to this, the first being that they can sit within a quiet room and work together in a group undistracted. The other benefit being that if people can reserve time intervals, then no one will overstay their welcome within the room. Overall, it would be a much more fair system then making a first-come, first-serve system for the place.

The most important part to the reservation system for conference rooms is that it allows groups within the school, both academic and non-academic, to work together in a place with a television everyone can see so that they can communicate better. The increased utilization of the conference rooms would allow for increased productivity, which means better grades and better accomplishments for UTD students. Both of these things are great for the Universities reputation.

Another note to take is that many students may prefer work within the comfort of their own homes to avoid the noise of a college campus, or just because they generally feel more comfortable at home. UTD is different from most universities because many of its students commute to school instead of living on campus. This ultimately means that students will be spending most of their time during the day on campus, and need places to work. The conference rooms offered at UTD offers these liberties, and it has shown that students studying with partners is very beneficial to the learning process. Students can work in groups within these places and can use the television to study together, in a focussed environment that isolates sound.

Normally, the more resources a college gives to its students to succeed, the more they will succeed. Every contribution helps, and by providing these rooms to the students they will be better able to accomplish things on their own. The conference rooms are a resource, and they can be used for the benefit of the students and overall increase the resume, reputation and quality of UTD by showing willingness to fairly give access to proper study rooms.

**Solution**

The easiest solution that requires no extra employment is to create an automated online system which allocates times allowed within the conference rooms. This can be done via web application and/or a phone application, and this system should be made known publicly to the students.

A web application will hold a couple of things for the students to observe. First of all, a student can make a selection of time that they want to access a room. A list should be shown following this decision which gives a list of all the room that are not reserved at the moment. The student should apply with their comet card online and then it should register to that room. A system could also be implemented to make sure that only multiple students are allowed within a conference room. Either way, this system makes sure a student only spends a specified amount of time within the room. Similar to the web application, the phone application can work exactly the same way but may be more difficult make which could increase cost, which will be considered later in the proposal.

This solution works well for multiple reasons that can be all considered beneficial to the university. To start, this system allows the university to more closely decide how the conference rooms should be handled so that everyone can have access to it. It may also encourage students to meet up with their groups more often, due to the rooms having a quiet and focusses appeal to them. This reiterates back to the fact that it can improve student performance and achievements. A new concern that this system handles is that it can track down where vandalisms within the room occur. If the system is made well so that people are locked out of the room unless they have built in access, it further increases the chances of catching the person who caused the accident. Each time a group comes into a room, they could report vandalisms with a quick survey. Data can be used efficiently to find the perpetrator and charge him accordingly.

**Cost**

The cost of this solution should be relatively small, but being conservative and still lead to a profit. First of all, a web application will be cheaper to develop than a mobile application since web applications all work within one client. For a mobile application, there would need to be an iOS developer and an android developer.

Conference rooms costs can be negated because they have already been built, so it is just a resource waiting to be used on campus. However, there may still need to be an employee that manages the conference rooms and makes sure that things are unlocked, and that no people are breaking any of the rules.

Here is an estimate of the costs of mobile applications vs. web applications

Costs:

Web-application

Front-End developer $ 750.00

Data-base developer $1000.00

Conference Rooms $ 0.00

Employee $ 300.00

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$2250.00, $300 per month afterwards

Mobile application

Android developer $ 750.00

iOS developer $ 750.00

Data-base developer $1000.00

Employee $ 300.00

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$2800.00, $300 per month afterwards

For the mobile application, the price could become cheaper because some of the tasks undertaken by the mobile developers can be trivial to implement onto the other phone.

**Conclusion**

The conference room presents many benefits to the students academic performance and help assists the ability to innovate and achieve. By opening a web application to the students, they will be able to reserve these rooms to communicate with students, focus better or to use for extra curriculars.

An application will help fulfill the issue of the utilization of the conference rooms. It can focus to reserving the rooms to students who want to arrange group meetings, extra-curricular meetings and so-on which ultimately helps the students in the end. The easier the students have access to useful resources for academic and group purposes, the more successful the students of UTD will be.

While the system is pricey to implement, the prestige of the academics in UTD is very important to the university. By presenting the students with areas to study or work, students will be able to develop team related skills, learn more effectively which will help the students achieve more. This will reflect on the reputation of UTD.