Milestone 1.1

**University of Regina Engineering Website**

Utility:

The website is very useful. For example, on the homepage, there is a section that shows the upcoming events and dates. If you click on any of the events, you are able to see further information on that event. On the homepage, you can see the contact information, office hours and location of the faculty. There is also a search bar and a “Quick Links” section that makes it easier to find frequently accessed features, important and popular content. These information are not only useful to current students, but are also useful to future students and parents. The navigation on the left of the homepage also has tabs entitled “For parents and family” and “For faculty and staff”. When these tabs are clicked, they show some information that are more specific. There is also a navigation tab on the top of the homepage entitled “students”. The students section provides information that are more specific to students(current, future, graduate, international, aboriginal, etc.) such as academic advising, course scheduling, registration issues, etc.

Usability:

The usability of this website could be better. There’s too many links on the homepage and users could feel overwhelmed by this. The quick links section makes things easy to find, but users shouldn’t have to use it every time. The homepage is not responsive, not really organized, and there are links that are not working/updated (e.g . the “News and Events” link isn’t working, Monthly Newsletter link isn’t updated)

Desirability:

The desirability of the website is okay, but there is not enough color. There is little to no pictures on the website, except the one at the top of every page.

Controls:

There are navigation options on the top of the homepage, and quick links on the right. Most of the buttons makes it clear as to what they do. However, the navigation options on the left side seems redundant. I would prefer the navigation options at the top to show a drop down menu when they are clicked.

Layout:

The layout of the website could be better. There is wasted space on the right and left side. There is lots of information on every page, but they all look clustered. There is not even a need to scroll up or down. On the homepage, I would prefer if there were different sections laid out horizontally with highlighted information and pictures.

**University of Calgary Engineering Website**

Utility:

The usefulness for future students is very good. At the top left of the page is where the eyes would to draw to almost immediately. Here there is a navigation tab entitled “future students”. When it is clicked there is drop down menu which appears that is divided into “graduate” and “undergraduate” sections. Under the undergraduate section there is all the top questions that a prospective student would have. These include programs offered, admission grade averages and tuition costs. For graduate students there is information on research as well as information on how to apply. There is another drop down menu in the navigation bar for current students. This includes links to various support systems for students, links regarding co-op and their career centre. There is also specific information for students at the beginning or end of their degree such as a first year guide and links to iron ring and convocation ceremonies. There is also a general about tab in the navigation bar regarding some background on the college of engineering and info about the faculty.

Usability:

The usability is very good with this website, there is a navigation bar at the top with very useful information that is easily and logically accessible. When scrolling through the page it does exactly what is expected which is scroll through the main information and pictures while still keeping the navigation bar at the top of the user’s screen.

Desirability:

The design of this site is very desirable with a three tone burgundy, gray and white color scheme. It is very natural to look at. With variation in the font size, type, and color it is very easy on the eyes. There is a good mix of images and solid colored background so that neither is too overwhelming. I feel as if the navigation bar at the top of the site is a bit bland but the main content of the page is well laid out.

Controls:

Most of the buttons and links are very obvious as to what they do, some of them their function is even labelled right on them. At the top of the page there is an ambiguous red button which i did not know the purpose of, upon clicking it it brought out another navigation bar which had links to external things outside of the engineering website. I think this could be a bit more clearly stated. In the main content of the page there is a summary of upcoming events, when clicking on the text for one of the events I expected to be brought to a page which had a more detailed description of the event. Instead, i was taken to some sort of internal ticket retailing service. I think i'd like to know more about an event before I would purchase tickets.

Layout:

Things on this site are laid out very logically, there is lots of common information at the top in the navigation bar and then more highlighted information that is laid out as the user scrolls through the page.

**University of Saskatchewan Engineering Website**

Utility

* The overall website is very useful. It has a clear use for current and future students. It lays out all current or upcoming events in a vertical fashion on the home page with a menu on the top for navigation.
* Links to U of S social media at the bottom of the page.

Usability

* The U of S website is very usable for anyone that would need to use the page. It has pages for the facilities, community events, program guide, an about page and a page dedicated solely for students.

Desirability

* The website is overall easy to look at with its green and (off) white color scheme
* Sorted in a nice vertical layout, with all the controls near the top of the page
* No wasted space
* Clean view

Control

* The U of S has most of their navigation options located on a horizontal bar on top of their home page
* Buttons and links labelled clearly

Layout

* U of S has a very clean and clear layout on their engineering home page, with very clear indicators and an easy to navigate menu bar
* Nice vertical design
* Menu sorted into clear and concise categories
* Easy to see where new students would go first, or to where more information on the offered programs might be