**B. Requirements Definition & Approach**

**Step 11**:

**One-sentence problem statement:**

Design a group oriented project management tool for fast group and project deployment with an emphasis of ease of communication for one or more participants.

**Step 9**:

**Major Requirements for interface revision:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Absolute Must:** | - Refinement of test creation framework - Professors  - Knowledge base/Previous course transfer between professors - Professors  - Streamlined group management protocols for students - Students |
| **Should Include:** | - IRC style live-chat - Students  - Statistical analysis for online tests available for professors - Professors  - Access to previous course pages/notes – Students |
| **Could Include:** | - Integrated file sharing system – Students/Professors  - Live collaborative file editing with direct Handin - Students  - View or skin customization - Students |
| **Exclude** | - Homepage Widgets - students  - Several sidebar options -Students/Professors |

**Specified Users:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Absolute Must:** | - Students - Beginner  - Professors – Beginner |
| **Should Include:** |  |
| **Could Include:** | - Students – Advanced  - Professors – Advanced |
| **Exclude** |  |

Because Connect is newly introduced to UBC, we do not really have a pool base for advance users. Thus we put advanced user in to “could include” category and will focus on beginners.

**Retention of Current Interface:**

Although overall layout of the current interface is cluttered and disorganized, there exist many individual widgets which when viewed alone perform very well at their specified tasks (such as user lists for classes, button styles, and header/sidebar layout). We will try to retain as much as the overall layout as possible by minimizing major changes and emphasize the minimization of the current (by grouping options together, hiding certain features, completely removing widgets, etc...).

**Step 10**:

**Design Approaches:**

Minimization of current UI

Instead of a complete redesign of the UI, we will try to fix the current one by implementing a minimalist reimplementation of the current one. This would be a mix between a complete redesign and a reorganization of current UI.

Complete Redesign

As almost all students specified the liking of the idea of a redesign based on 'groups', the current UI will probably not be fit for such a paradigm shift. As such, a complete redesign from head to toe may be necessary.

Reorganization of the current UI

It might be possible to fix many problems had by users simply by a reorganization of the currently displayed information without disrupting that many users personal experience with adapting to a new UI. However this would prove difficult if the reimplementation is too large for the current UI to support.

**Chosen Approach:**

Minimization of current UI

The current UI proves to be very powerful, but at the same time very cluttered. With a few major changes and a heavy emphasis on implementing a minimalist version of the current UI, we should be able to deliver a product which current users will be comfortable with as well as enjoy more so because of the added functionality and usability. Not only do we satisfied the user need, we also pleased the developers buy the relatively easy design approach. With minimization of current UI, the developers do not have to completely revamp the whole application and the management level people will be satisfied with the minimal cost required to accomplish the design.