Amber Dolezal

***Sponsor Interactions:***

Communication with the sponsor should be addressed. This includes information on the team’s communication frequency, type (email, in-person, video conferencing, etc.), and dynamic (formal or informal) with the sponsor. Any issues with communicating with the sponsor should also be discussed.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

In the beginning, our team did struggle with getting in contact with our sponsor Dr. Omid Semiari. It was difficult to get a response from him by email and we only had one video conference meeting with him. In the team’s video meeting we asked as many questions that we could think of and got as much information as possible in order to not have to worry about the limited contact that we were receiving. After getting our new sponsor Dr. Dana Wortman we did not experience any difficulties with contact and not being able to meet. We remained in regular contact via email and when we started running into issues with our Object Detection integration. To resolve this issue we met through Teams to troubleshoot software bugs as a team. Dr. Wortman has been extremely helpful. Her background as a software developer in Unity has really enabled the team’s efforts by providing a confidence to engage and resolve unknown issues in Unity. Her knowledge and involvement were well received and her dedication to the team demonstrated leadership that was thoughtful and caring. The team benefited from these qualities because it uplifted morale. A shift with sponsor relations was accomplished with Dr. Wortman’s involvement. It changed from one that lacked effective communication and general assumption of the sponsor role to one that filled the need in the most effective way possible.