

Deliverable #4: Sprint Planning - Talent-Link

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Executive Summary

To: Katherine Syvanych, Director - Center for Student Involvement

Prepared By: Talent-Link

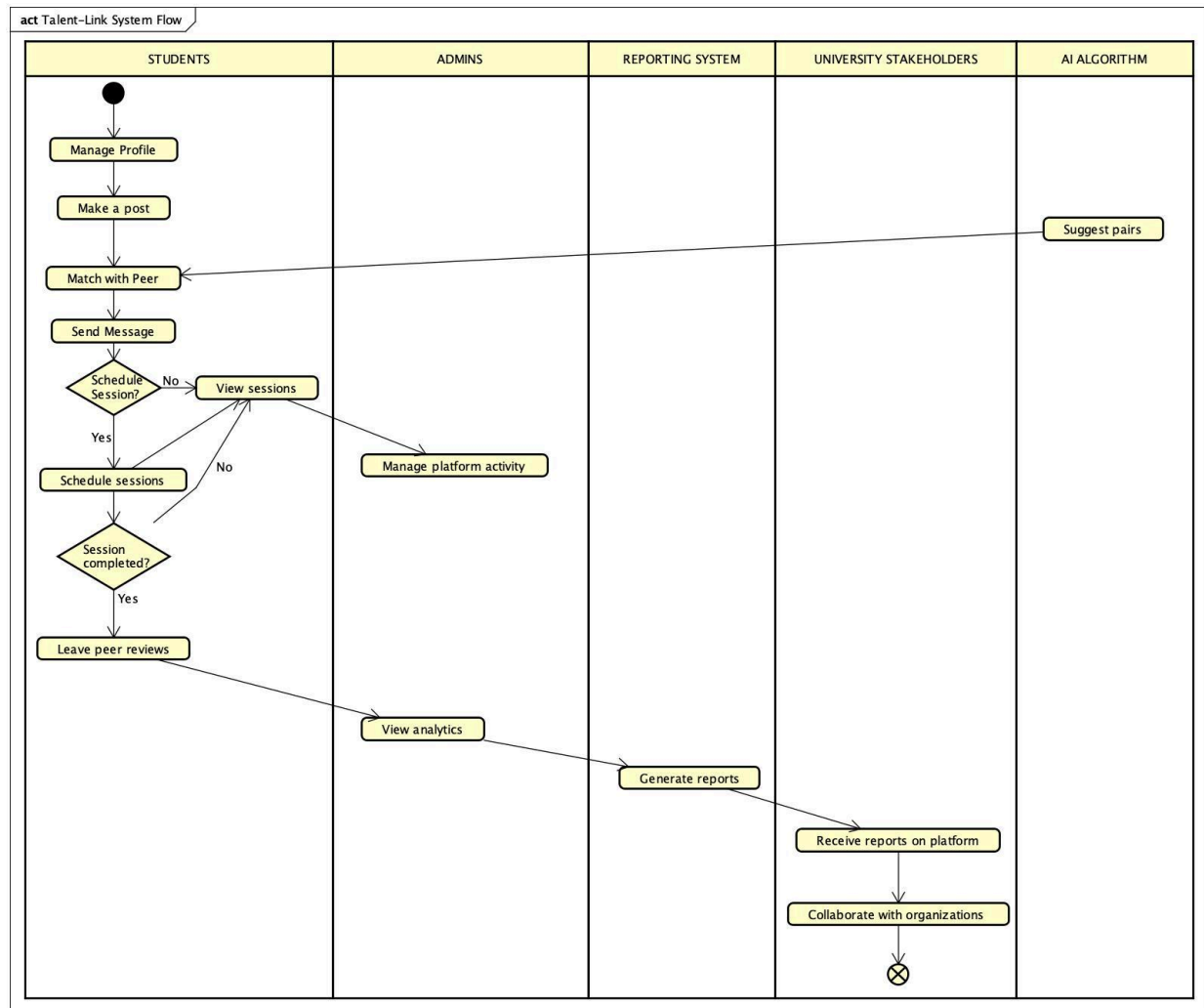
Date: October 28, 2025

This deliverable moves our project forward from system modeling into development planning while also incorporating final refinements of our System-Level Activity Diagram. It includes four components: the Product Backlog, the Focal Use Case, the Sprint Goals and Backlog, and the revised Activity Diagram that helps clarify system flow. Together, these artifacts show how the Talent-Link system will be implemented in sprints that directly support the Center for Student Involvement's (CSI) mission to strengthen student engagement, skill-sharing, and connection in the community.

- Our Product Backlog organizes all system functionalities using the MoSCoW prioritization method. Core actions such as managing a profile, making posts, matching, scheduling meetings, and monitoring platform activity are classified as “Must Have” as they ensure the system’s safety and usability from launch. “Should Have” features such as messaging, viewing sessions, analytics, reviews, and AI pairing enhance student experience and engagement on the platform. “Could Have” items, such as generating reports, will provide long-term insight for CSI.
- The Focal Use Case, “Match with Peer,” is the central functionality of the new system, and the area most in need of improvement. Currently, there is no efficient or organized way for students to find and connect with peers who have skills they want to learn. Most students rely on word of mouth, friends, or outside tutoring and classes. Talent-Link’s proposed matching system will allow students to list both the skills they have and the skills they want to develop. They can either connect with peers directly, or receive an AI-generated match based on shared interests. This new process will give students a safe, verified way to collaborate and exchange skills while helping Kent State University increase involvement, satisfaction, and retention amongst the student body.
- The Sprint Goals and Backlog sort all of our prototyping and other tasks into two separate sprints based on the product backlog. We chose to put all use cases that are in our “Must Have” category into sprint one, since they will build the base of our website. All other tasks in either “Should Have” or “Could Have” will go into sprint two, which is more of the admin and system clock functionality. This will allow us to have a good, concrete place to start when going into our last deliverable.
- Finally, the System-Level Activity Diagram was updated to improve clarity. In the earlier version, some of the administrative and reporting actions appeared alongside the student actions, therefore implying that these actions occurred simultaneously. The diagram now presents a more logical, time-based flow. Student actions occur first, followed by administrative monitoring, reporting, and finally stakeholder contributions. This change better communicates how the system operates in sequence and strengthens the business understanding of how CSI will interact with Talent-Link once it is deployed.

Overall, these updates and planning artifacts demonstrate how the Talent-Link platform will be built in a structured, iterative way that ensures functionality, clarity, and measurable value for the Center for Student Involvement. We welcome any feedback that you may have towards our diagram or artifacts. Please let us know of any changes we should make prior to moving forward.

Revised Diagram



Product Backlog

1. **Manage profile**
2. **Make a post**
3. **Match with Peer**
4. **Send Message**
5. **Schedule Session**
6. **View Sessions**
7. **Leave Peer Review**
8. **Moderate Platform Activity**
9. **View Analytics**
10. **Generate Reports**
11. **Suggest Pairs (AI)**

<p style="text-align: center;">Must Have</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage Profile 2. Make a post 3. Match with Peer 5. Schedule Session 8. Moderate Platform Activity (Unsafe w/o it) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Should Have</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Send Message 6. View Sessions 7. Leave Peer Review 9. View Analytics 11. Suggest Pairs
<p style="text-align: center;">Could Have</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Generate Reports 	<p style="text-align: center;">Won't Have</p>

Discussion of Focal Use Case

We have chosen our *Match with Peer* use case as our focal use case for this deliverable. We chose this use case because it is the core of our new system and there is no good system currently in place to do this. Currently, the only way that students are able to “match” with other peers in order to exchange skills is by either personally knowing and reaching out to someone with that skill, asking friends if they know anyone that is able to do what you are looking for, scheduling a tutoring session (if it is an academic skill), or paying for a class to learn the specified skill. Students could be hesitant to reach out to their peers because they can't be sure whether someone has the skill or talent they're hoping to learn, or if that person is even open to teaching it. Talent-Link would simplify the system, showing students what skills are out there and connecting them with peers willing to help them learn.

We are proposing to have a mobile application where the student could create a profile, listing skills or talents they want to learn, as well as those they are willing to teach. Students would then be able to search through other profiles to view what their peers are interested in or offering and could hit “connect” in order to match with their peers. Alternatively, through the skills the users list on their profiles, the AI algorithm takes a student who is looking for specific skills and populates recommended matches that the student can either approve or ignore.

This will benefit both students as well as Kent State University (specifically the Center for Student Involvement and Career Services offices). Students will benefit by having a safe, verified way to learn from their peers and develop themselves into more rounded individuals. It will also help make their college experience a more enjoyable one. They will get out of their usual social circle and meet people they might not have met otherwise. This will help Kent State University's Center for Student Involvement by improving retention numbers. Students who get involved tend to stay at Kent State and complete their degrees. Through this use case of matching with peers, students will meet others, who might already be involved in campus activities or organizations. This will create a multiplier effect, increasing involvement on the Kent State campus.

Sprint 1 Backlog

Goal: Prototype essential student-focused use cases and the moderate platform activity use case for safety.			
Name of Task to be Completed	Team Member(s) Assigned Primary Responsibility	Estimated Effort for the Task (XXS-XXL)	Actual Completion Time
Match with Peer prototype	Grace	M	
Match with Peer UC Descriptions	Grace	L	
Match with Peer Activity diagram	Lucy	L	
User Manual Video (student use cases)	Jordan	L	
User Manual Video (Admin)	Lucy	M	
Manage Profile Prototype	Akaiya	M	
Make a Post Prototype	Jordan	M	
Schedule Session Prototype	Yusur	M	
Moderate Platform Activity Prototype	Lucy	M	
D5 Executive Summary	Yusur	S	
Window Navigation Diagram	Akaiya	XL	
D5 Appendix of Team Member Contributions	All	XXS	
Update Sprint Backlog with actual completion times	All	XXS	
Compile and finalize deliverable for submission	All	XS	

Sprint 2 Backlog

Goal: Prototype "Should Have" use cases and finalize design of overall prototype.			
Name of Task to be Completed	Team Member(s) Assigned Primary Responsibility	Estimated Effort for the Task (XXS-XXL)	Actual Completion Time
Send Message Prototype	Grace	M	
View Sessions Prototype	Akaiya	M	
Leave Peer Review Prototype	Yusur	M	
View Analytics Prototype	Jordan	M	
Suggest Pairs Prototype	Lucy	M	
Video User Manual (student)	Yusur	L	
Video User Manual (admin)	Jordan	M	
Video User Manual (Suggest Peers)	Lucy	M	
Network/Deployment Diagram	Yusur	L	
Cybersecurity Discussion	Grace	M	
Cost/Benefit Analysis	Akaiya	L	
Presentation Slides	All	XL	
D6 Executive Summary	Jordan	S	
D6 Appendix of Team Member Contributions	All	XXS	
Update Sprint Backlog with actual completion times	All	XS	
Compile and finalize deliverable for submission	All	M	

Appendix of Team Member Contributions

Team Member	Percentage of Overall Work	Contributions
Grace Karpinski	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corrected Class Diagram - Contributed to sprint backlogs
Yusur Alrawi	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verified that all necessary tasks are included in sprint backlogs and added missing ones - Contributed to estimating efforts for sprint backlog
Lucy Hennessy	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrote executive summary - Made corrections to activity diagram - Contributed to sprint backlogs
Akaiya Abdullah	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made and completed product backlog - Contributed to sprint backlog by helping to delegate tasks
Jordan Jenkins	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrote focal use case discussion - Drafted Sprint 1 Backlog - Worked with team to assign tasks and estimate effort for tasks

1. **What collaboration approaches worked well for this relatively small deliverable, & why?**
 - a. Working in class and staying after helped to get everything done quickly. We also all collaborated on each part to make sure everything was aligned and that everyone was on the same page.
2. **How challenging did you find it to accurately estimate the effort for each sprint task? What approach did you follow, and would you do it differently in the future?**
 - a. It was somewhat challenging, especially for tasks that we haven't worked on before. We collectively went through the list of tasks and discussed what we each think the size should be. This helped get everyone's opinions and we'd likely do the same in the future.
3. **How did your team ensure that ALL team members contributed to, and took accountability for, each part of the deliverable (and not just to those pieces assigned primarily to them)? How difficult was it to ensure everyone's work was in sync with that of others?**
 - a. This wasn't difficult as this deliverable was relatively small and heavily dependent on all team members' opinions. Therefore, everyone contributed to all parts of the deliverable, whether that was in sharing ideas or documenting them.
4. **Were there any extenuating circumstances that led to an uneven distribution of the workload? If so, how do you plan to compensate for this in the future?**
 - a. There were no extenuating circumstances that led to an uneven distribution of work as we mostly worked on this deliverable in person together rather than on our own.
5. **Did you use any AI tools or other external resources to generate or proofread any part of your final draft? If so, explain here (e.g., tell me what software or resources you used, & precisely what they were used for).**
 - a. No AI was used for this Deliverable.