

CHAPTER I

Introduction

The short message service (SMS) technology is one of the most stable and most widely used mobile communication methods after phone calls. Most students of tertiary institutions carry mobile phones which is capable of receiving short messages as a means of event notification. In principle, text message can be used either as a one-way communication to provide the user information such as reminder, alert, etc. or as a two-way communication that enables the user to send and receive information (such as question and answer). Event notification (through SMS) is a well-known way of notifying users about an event scheduled to take effect within a particular period in an institution. Moreover, Mobile text messages are an excellent aid for communication when there is a need to submit information also at long distances or without well working communication system or infrastructure, or when the people cannot physically meet the staff that is concerned, provided that the cost of the text message is very low and it is available to practically everyone. It has been found useful to employ the text messaging in many routine-like academic environment applications (Johnson, A. 2013).

In 2013, the rate of mobile-cellular subscription is almost as many as people in the world with 6.8 billion total subscriptions with more than half in the Asia-Pacific Region which corresponds to 3.5 billion. Mobile devices are becoming popular in use nowadays and Philippines is considered as the texting capital of the world with over 1 billion text messages sent per day. SMS have been developed with different demands and create a new approach for interaction and communication. As we know, SMS alert system is useful in some cases for delivering alerts in emergency and there are some applications are developed as pre-disaster warning devices (Lumauag, R. G. 2016).

Mindanao State University (MSU) Main Campus as a higher education institute, hold and organize numerous events throughout the academic year. These events are very important for the students of MSU Main Campus. One of the reasons is that due to unfavorable weather in the Philippines, a sudden suspension of class can occur, but the problem is students are not immediately informed of the said suspension of class. On the other hand, there are so many holidays in the Philippines but sometimes a particular holiday can be classified as either non-working holiday or working holiday, and so students are not so sure about that particular holiday.

Important announcements including the students and MSU employees often made in MSU Main Campus but not all of them were aware in this important matter such as events that the students of MSU Main Campus must participate in that particular event and sometimes there is a memorandum that is specific only for the staffs. The current procedure followed by the MSU Main Campus is they assigned a certain office which is the MSU-OIPP also known as the Mindanao State University – Office of Information, Press and Publication is to disseminate the information by publishing it on their Facebook page group so that the students will know the important matters in the MSU Main Campus and at the same time the OIPP will make multiple copy of the documents about the memorandum and will distribute it to university colleges and to the offices. The problem is that not all of the students who are enrolled in MSU Main Campus especially the MSU employees has a Facebook account or some cannot access the internet because they don't own a smart phone.

1.1 Project Context

This capstone project entitled “SMS-Based Notification System for Events and Announcements in Mindanao State University – Main Campus” is a SMS-based information

system where the admin can disseminate the information such as the upcoming events, changes in schedule of events, suspension of class due to some circumstances (e.g. bad weather, holidays) and other important announcements. This project started last February 2020 and is expected to be finished until the end of December 2020.

This project is intended to help the students and employees of MSU Main Campus by letting them receive first-hand information about the important upcoming events and important announcements. Through this project, the researchers aim to eliminate problem about the students receiving false or delayed information about important matters in MSU Main Campus.

1.2 Purpose and Description

This project is intended to develop a SMS-based notification system that will help the university's current way of managing and disseminating important announcements within the campus.

This project aims to help students and employees of MSU Main Campus to know and receive first-hand information about upcoming events and important announcements.

The proceeding section will discuss all the benefactors of the project and these gives the details to those individuals that will be pointed out.

1.2.1 The Office of Information, Press and Publication

This office is the one who disseminate the important announcements. They will only disseminate the information such as memorandum, events approved by the Office of the President. Instead of posting the upcoming events and important announcement in Social Media certainly the Facebook app or instead of making a multiple copy and distribute it to the

offices, they will just use the SMS-based system so that the students and the employees of MSU Main Campus will be notified immediately on the important announcements.

1.2.2 The Students

The system will send notification to the students about the upcoming events and important announcements through SMS. They will receive, for example, information on sudden suspension of classes due to the bad weather or changes of the schedules in the upcoming events. The students receive that information first-hand through SMS.

1.2.3 The MSU Main Campus Employees

The system will also send notification to the employees of MSU Main Campus because sometimes the memorandum is only for the them and doesn't include the students.

1.3 Objectives

This capstone project entitled “SMS-Based Notification System for Events and Announcements in Mindanao State University – Main Campus” aims to develop SMS-Based notification system for the Office of Information, Press and Publication to easily disseminate the information to the students of Mindanao State University.

Specifically, this project aims to:

- Study the existing process of disseminating the information
- Gather data for system requirements or system specification based on the rules, roles and activities.
- Design a SMS-Based notification System database
- Develop the designed system based on the given system requirements
- Test and Evaluate the system

1.4 Scope and Limitations

The following scope and limitations are categorized into People, Process and Technology:

- **People**

- The proposed system will be managed by the Office of the Information, Press and Publication and the one who will benefit in this system will be the students and employees of Mindanao State University Marawi.

- **Process**

- The proposed system will disseminate information such as events, memorandums, special orders and other important announcements through SMS to the beneficiaries of this system which is the students and employees of MSU Marawi.

- **Technology**

- [illegible]