



Post-Doctoral Application Management System

Vision and scope document

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Iteration 1

Prepared for Ms. Cathy Sandis (UP Research Office)
by SoftServe Group

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Change log			
Date	Version	Description	Person
10/02/2014	v 0.0	Original SRS document created	Mathys Ellis
02/03/2014	v 0.1	Added to glossary	Mathys Ellis
05/03/2014	v 0.3	Added Introduction, Vision, Background	Carlo Machaba
06/03/2014	v 0.4	Added open issues. Modified some sections	Alfred Ngako
06/03/2014	v 0.5	Added methodology, scope and limitations	Mathys Ellis
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16/03/2014	v 0.8	Did some restructuring and document formatting	Mathys Ellis
17/03/2014	v 0.8	Also added to the glossary	Mathys Ellis
12/05/2014	v 0.9	Created new vision and scope document. Transferred necessary content from old SRS document. Performed editing and restructuring of document. Added exclusions	Mathys Ellis

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1 Document description:

1.1 Document purpose:

This vision and scope document serves the purpose of providing a detailed overview of the project's scope and its vision as well the goals that SoftServe's Post-Doctoral application management system wishes to satisfy. Further it defines the abstract interaction of stakeholders with the proposed software system. Thus this document serves as a contract between SoftServe and the client, Mrs Cathy Sandis of the DRIS of the University of Pretoria in terms of project scope.

1.2 Documentation methodology

The documentation and software development methodology used by the project adhere to the guidelines set out by the agile method. Thus this document has undergone and will undergo various iterations that may extend or reduce the contents of the document. This document was created using the requirement elicitation techniques and requirement definitions as specified by Klaus Pohl's book Requirements Engineering: Fundamentals, Principles, and Techniques [Dr.Pohl, K., 2010]. The requirements, vision and scope were elicited from the following sources:

- Numerous interviews with the client.
- On-line research into UP Post doctoral applications.
- Correspondence with the UP IT department.
- Collecting and analysing various documents such as:
 - The initial project request document
 - Application forms
 - Renewal forms
 - CV templates
 - Approval and recommendation forms

1.3 Document conventions:

- Documentation formulation tool: LaTeX
- ERD Crow-Foot notation
- UML 2.0

1.4 References:

- Dr.Phil, K., 2010, *Requirements Engineering: Fundamentals, Principles, and Techniques*, Springer, Heidelberg.

2 Project introduction

A Post-Doctoral fellow is a person who conducts research after they have completed their PhD, with the aim of deepening their knowledge in a specific field. The University of Pretoria supports such research opportunities in order to increase research output of the University. Post-Doctoral fellows who conduct their research at the University of Pretoria do so under the supervision of a staff member of the University and their research may be privately or internally funded. This is a growing field in Universities around South Africa. A lack in the software solutions for the application management of Post-Doctoral fellow has been identified by the SoftServe group. To exploit the opportunity the SoftServe group has proposed the following project.

3 Project background

The current Post-Doctoral application and renewal processes are paper based thus there are a number of drawbacks, mainly due to human error. One such drawback is that there is no audit trail when it comes to the different stakeholders input involved in approving or declining the applications. Another involves the minutes of Post-Doctoral committee meetings which are often misplaced or typed in an inconsistent manner making it hard to recall what has been discussed in the meetings that evaluate prospective applications and renewal applications. Access to documents is also a problem since they are usually hard copies that change hands constantly thus the process of getting hold of the documents is long and often tedious if not made impossible, since they can be lost. Reporting on the information of fellows, renewals and even communication with already approved fellows is also problematic, because the current system is not centralised. Therefore gathering all the information required to generate accurate reports is difficult or even impossible. This is where the client Mrs Cathy Sandis saw a potential area that could be optimised by the implementation of a digitalised system. This is where the SoftServe group was brought into the picture.

4 Project vision

The client needs a system which can make the management of the application and renewal processes of Post-Doctoral fellowships more effective, reliable, secure and audit-able. Together the client and SoftServe have envisioned a system that will make use of a centralised user friendly web interface that will be used by the prospective fellows and all the stakeholders involved in the application and renewal processes. The system will have various sections that handle the different stages in the process. The system will need to automate the transitions between phases by forwarding the required information to the next stakeholder in the process and notifying them via a email notification or equivalent. The system will also need to provide reporting facilities for the information stored by the system. As well as progress tracking with regards to any application or renewal. The system data needs to be centralised to ensure that any information used by system is cohesive and valid for any stakeholder who accesses it. Another key feature the system should host is that of archival support so that old data can be retrieved if needed. By introducing a digital system that is not paper based, the client hopes that the application and renewal processes will be easier to track and manage.

5 Stakeholders

The stakeholders that will engage or be engaged by the system are listed below:

There are three categories under which stockholders can fall:

- **External:** These are stakeholders that do not have a PeopleSoft account or are fellows.
 - **Prospective fellow** - A person who wishes to renew or apply for a research position/fellowship.
 - **Referee** - A person who is identified by a Prospective fellow as a referral.
- **Internal individuals:** These are stakeholders that do have a PeopleSoft account and are individual members of staff.
 - **Grant holder** - The person who is a fellow's supervisor and a member of staff at the University of Pretoria. This person is known also as the applicant.
 - **HOD** - The head of the department of which a Grant holder is a member.
- **Internal groups:** These are stakeholders that do have a PeopleSoft account and are a group of staff members.
 - **Dean's office** - The dean and deputy dean of the faculty under which the department which a particular Grant Holder is a member of.
 - **DRIS** - The department of Research and Innovation Support at the University of Pretoria. This stakeholder oversees the application and renewal processes.
 - **Post-doctoral committee** - The committee who evaluates any post-doctoral fellowship applications and renewals.
 - **CSC** - The client service centre of the University of Pretoria.
 - **Finance** - The department of finance at the University of Pretoria.

6 Project Scope:

The scope of the project is to design an electronic Post-Doctoral application management system where prospective fellows can apply for fellowships and current Post-Doctoral can renew their fellowships at the University of Pretoria. The system will further allow the management of such applications or renewals till the end of the application process. The end is defined as follows: When the DIRS have approved the application and have notified the CSC and Finance department or when the application has been denied and the prospective fellow does not restart the process. The system will replace the current paper based system currently in place. The system will be designed so to allow for future integration with the current student and personnel management system, PeopleSoft, employed by the University of Pretoria. Though the scope of this project will be to construct the proposed system independently of any other system and allow it to run as a stand-alone system.

6.1 Use cases:

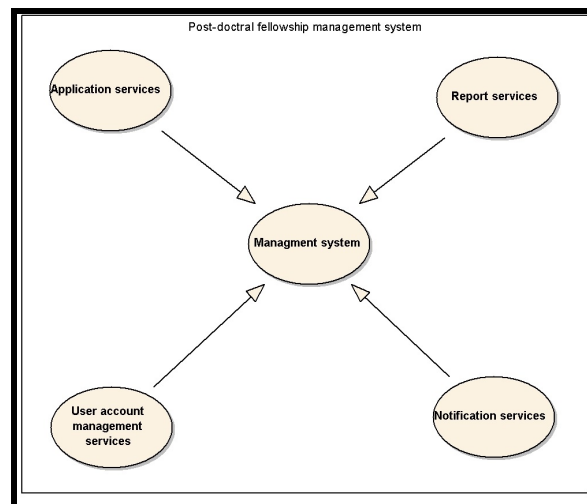


Figure 1: Use case diagram of Post-doctoral fellowship management system

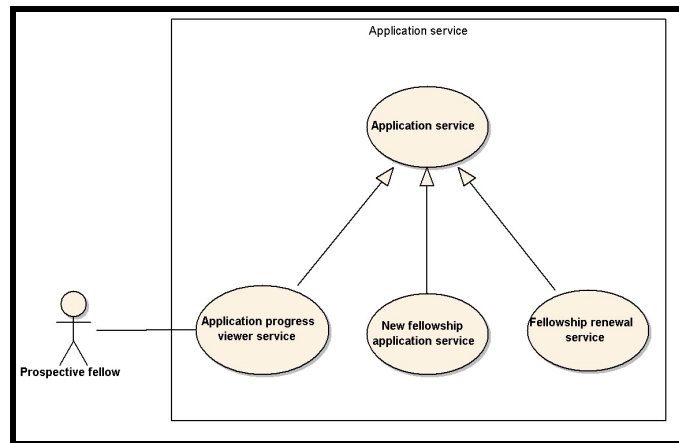


Figure 2: Use case diagram of Application service

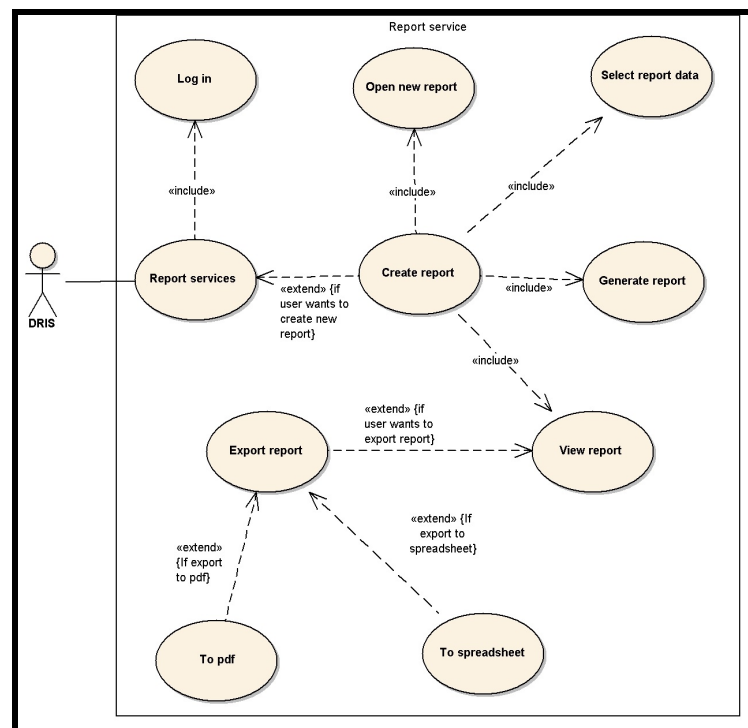


Figure 3: Use case diagram of Report service

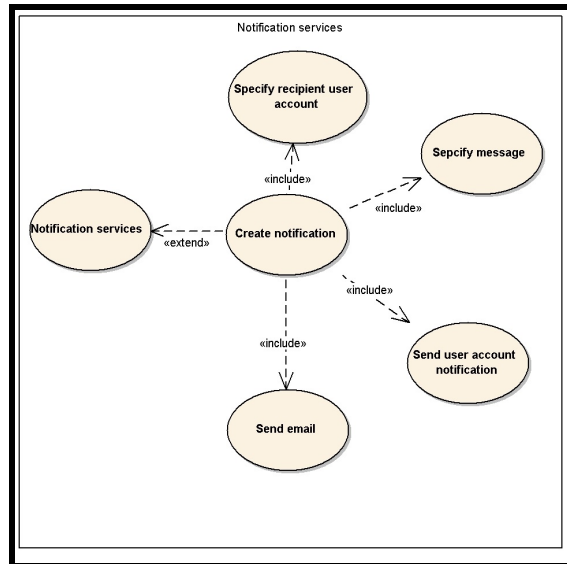


Figure 4: Use case diagram of Notification services

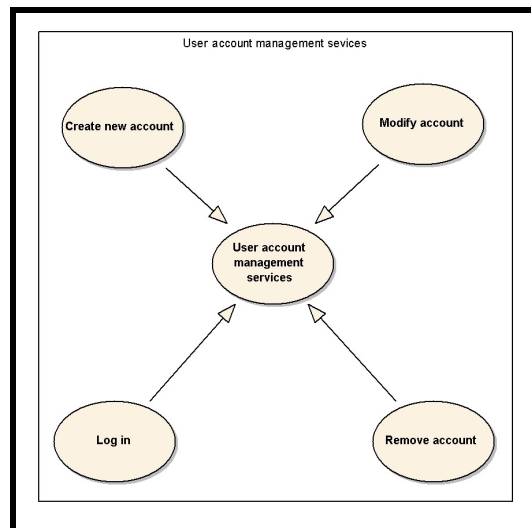


Figure 5: Use case diagram of User account management services

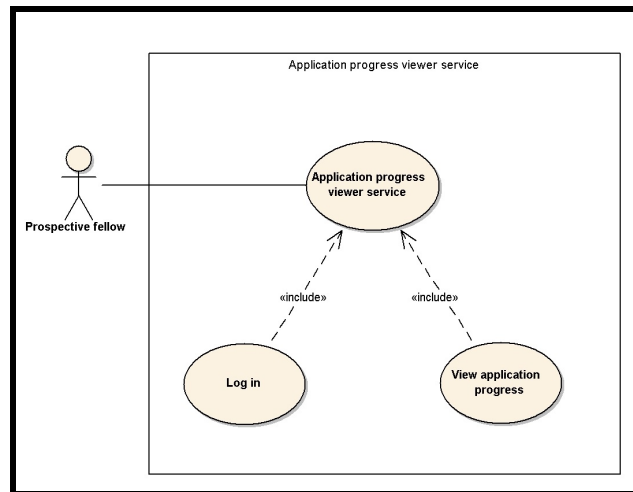


Figure 6: Use case diagram of Application progress viewer service

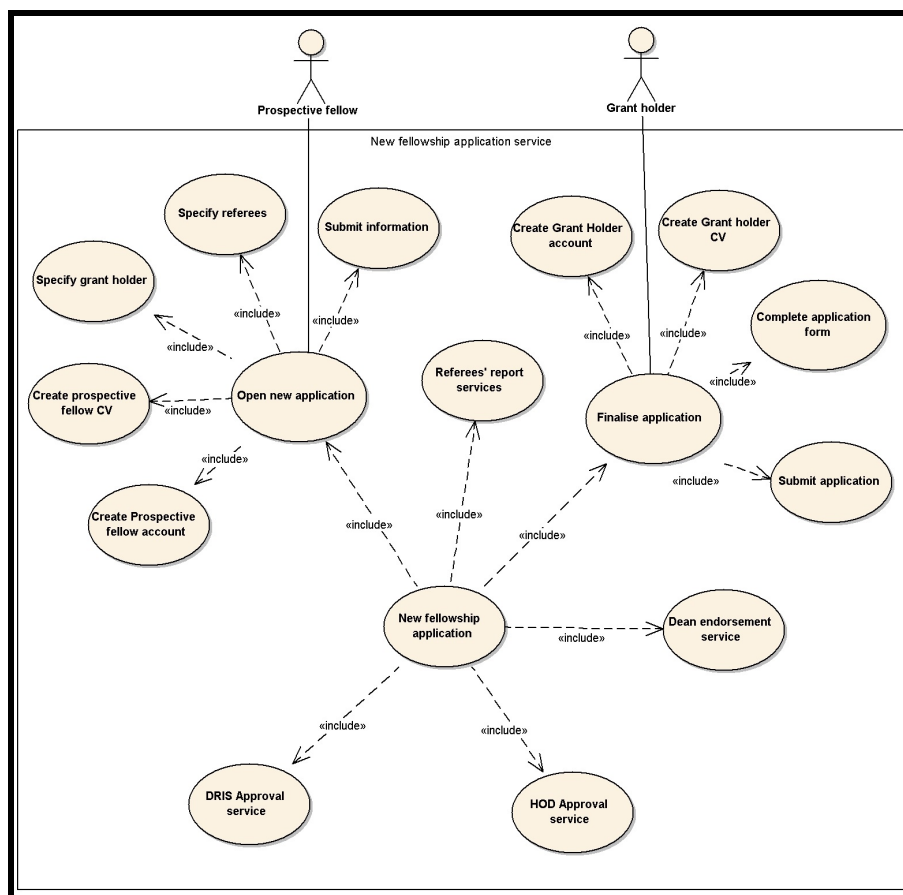


Figure 7: Use case diagram of New fellowship application service

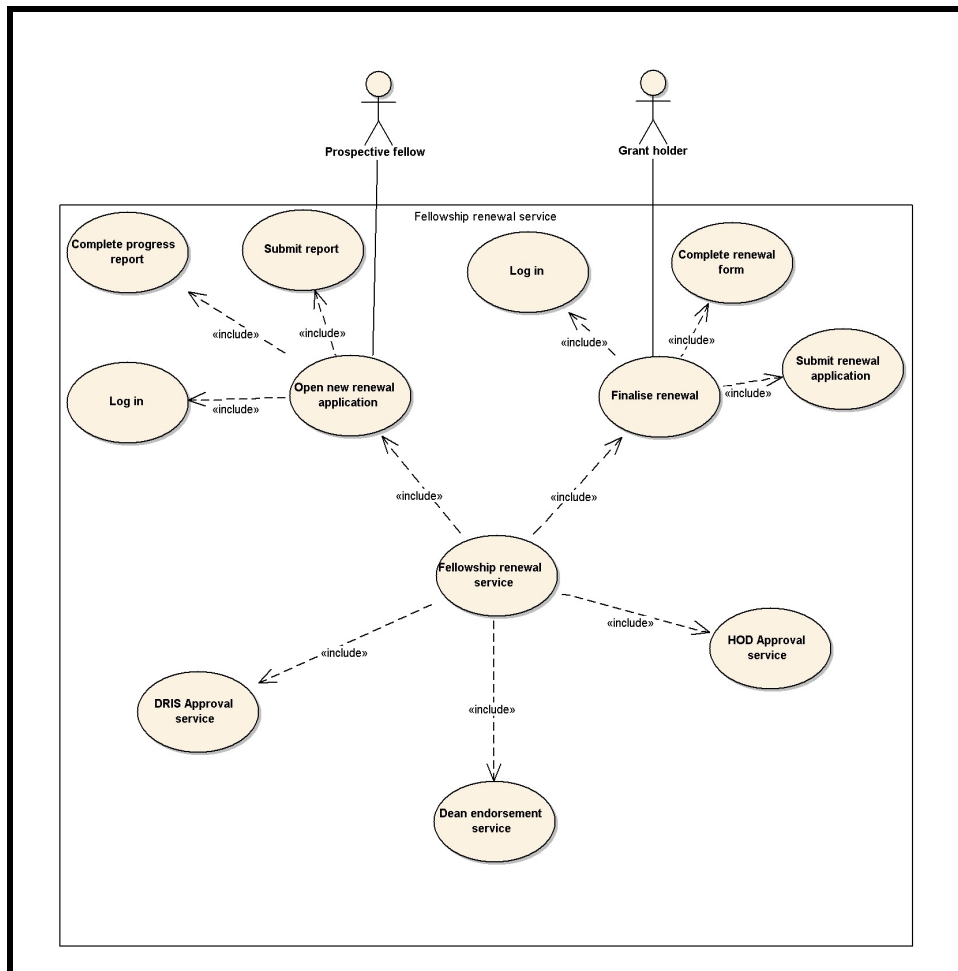


Figure 8: Use case diagram of Fellowship renewal service

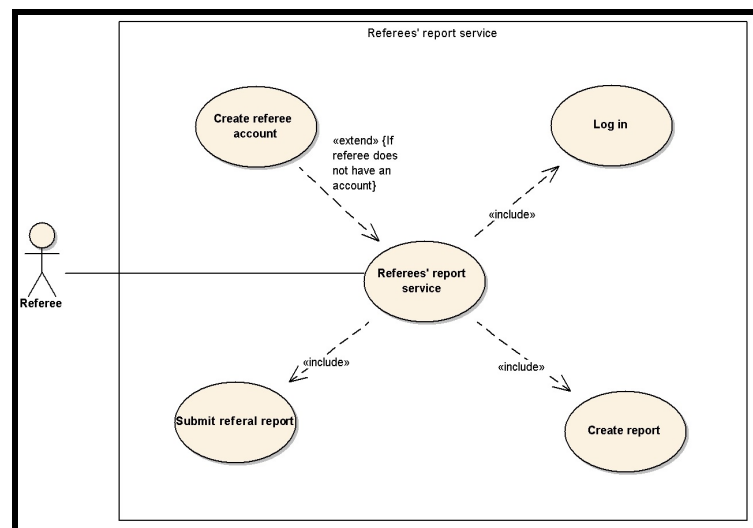


Figure 9: Use case diagram of Referees' report service

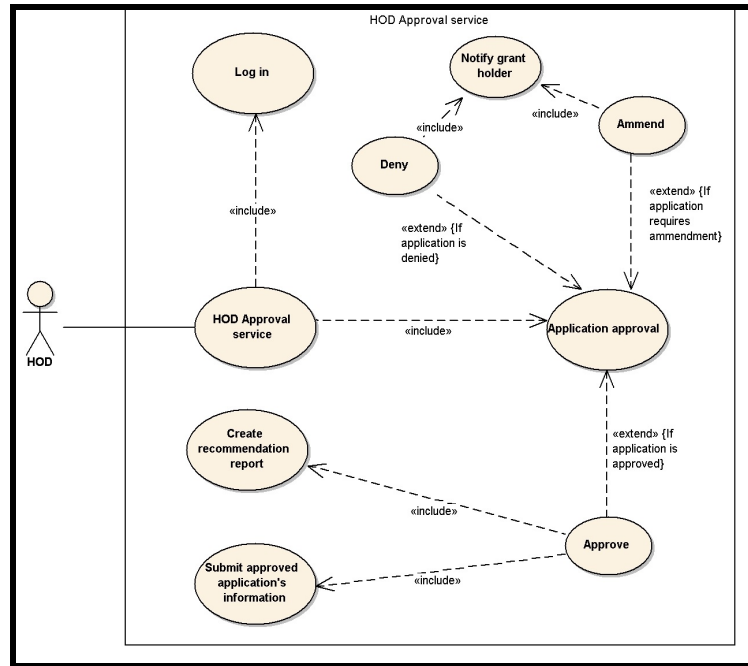


Figure 10: Use case diagram of HOD Approval service

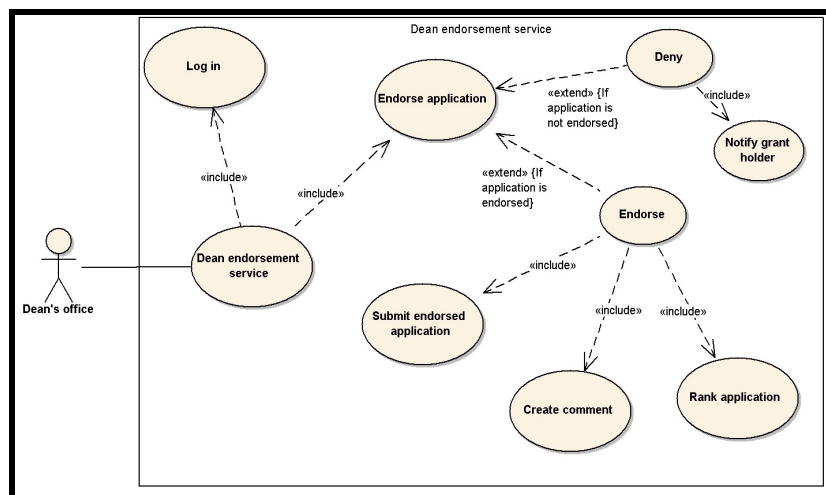


Figure 11: Use case diagram of Dean endorsement service

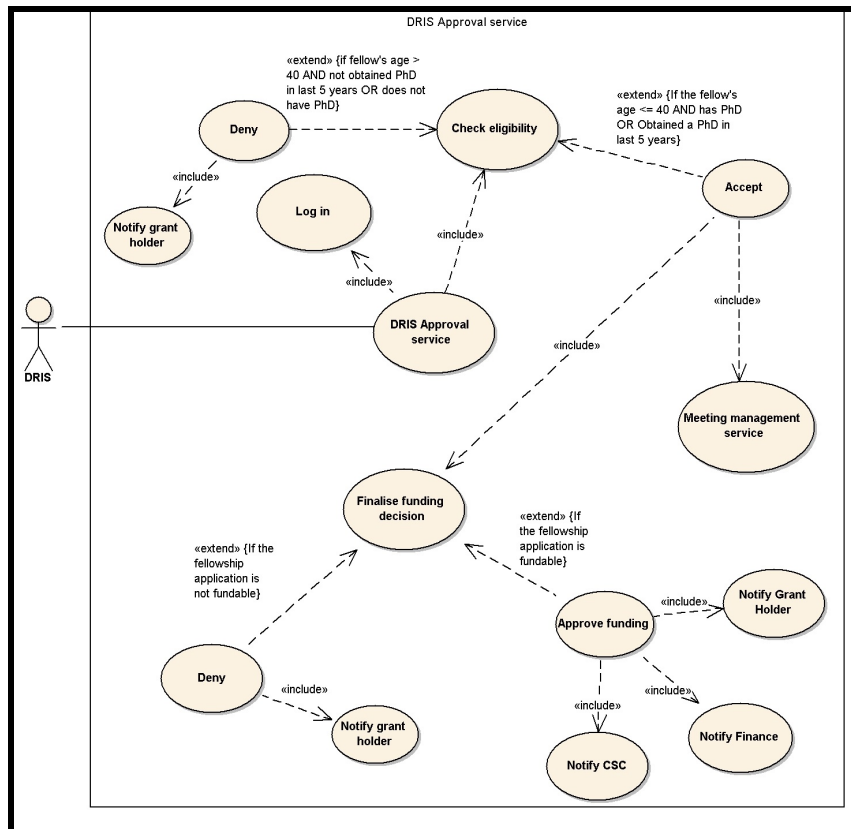


Figure 12: Use case diagram of DRIS approval service

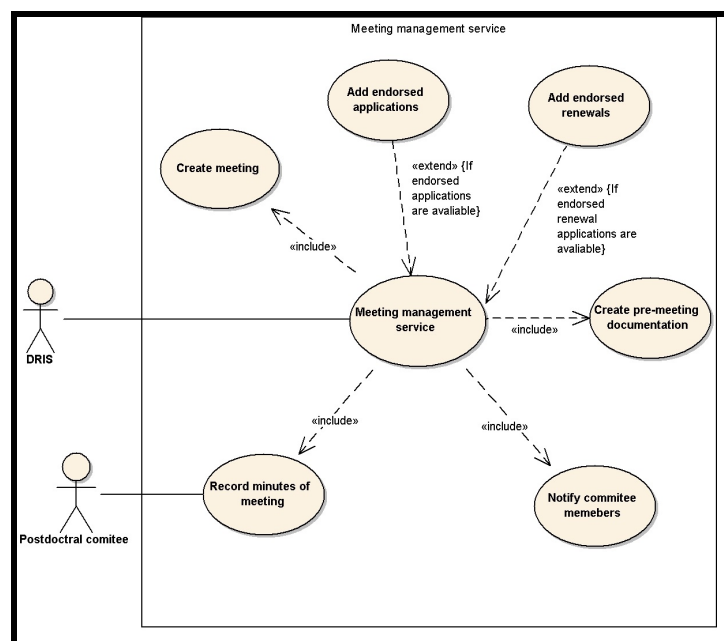


Figure 13: Use case diagram of Meeting management service

6.2 Limitations

At the time of writing the project is only limited with regards to the integration with the UP network and the UP's current student and personnel management system. This is due to the IT department of UP only being willing to offer these services or knowledge once the project has been successfully completed. But the system will be developed in such a way to consider possible integration requirements.

6.2.1 Exclusions

Everything not included in this document in terms of scope is considered not in the scope of the project. Though due to the Agile methodology that is employed by the project the scope may be extended or reduced in later iterations if approved by the client.

7 Glossary:

- **UP** - University of Pretoria
- **CV** - Curriculum Vita
- **PDF** - Portable Document Format file
- **NRF** - National Research Foundation
- **API** - Application Programming Interface
- **PhD** - A doctoral degree in a particular field of study.
- **Spreadsheet** - A special type of computer document that is used to represent data in rows and columns.
- **HTML** - Hyper Text Mark-up Language
- **Java EE** - Java Enterprise Edition
- **Use case** - A visual depiction of a service or group of services.
- **Application** -Both renewal applications or new fellowship applications are seen as applications by this project.