Applied Computer Science Department

Senior Systems Development Project Course (ACS.4901/6)

Information for Project Sponsors

A.   Purpose

The Senior Systems Development Project Course (ACS-4901/6) ("course") is the capstone course for students enrolled in the 4-Year Major Programme in the Applied Computer Science Department ("Department"). The course has three academic objectives:

- to provide experience in the development of a software system through all the phases of a software life cycle (from initiation to implementation);
- to teach and reinforce through experience, the principles and techniques of project management; and
- to develop the interpersonal and communication skills required in a professional software development environment.

The Department would like you, as a project sponsor, to participate in the course project. The students will be expected to build a system to meet the project sponsor's needs subject to the project sponsor's commitment and involvement on the project. In return for your investment in terms of time on the project, you will receive a documented and tested system and the satisfaction of having contributed a significant, real-world learning experience for these aspiring systems professionals. The Department wishes to point out that the students invariably view the project as an exciting challenge and strive to produce good results (please visit the Department's website www. acs.uwinnipeg.ca for a list of successful projects and sponsors).

B.   <u>**Responsibilities of Project Sponsor**</u>

The project teams will make demands on the project sponsor's time in terms of:

- interview(s) to discuss the project requirements;
- attending the Systems Study Review, Detailed Design Review, and the Project Completion Seminar;
- reviewing work in progress (draft of requirements, screen designs, report layouts, etc.); and
- providing timely feedback on the project.

The project sponsor will be required to provide the students with a licensed copy of the software in which their system is being developed, unless the Department already has that software installed in its labs.

The students must be given adequate access to the equipment on which the system is being developed. Since most of our students have classes during the day, this generally involves making arrangements to provide after-hours and/or weekend access. If identical equipment is available in the Department, the Department will make every effort to keep these demands to a minimum.

It must be remembered that these students are not seasoned software professionals. While all team members have had courses in systems analysis and design, programming, database management systems and project management, it is in this course that they are trying to apply all of these concepts for the first time in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, the project sponsor must recognize that the project is a learning experience and must be prepared to assist in the process.

C.   <u>**IP and Source Code issues**</u>

Project students are required to sign an IP agreement FORM assigning all rights, titles and interests related to the Project to The University of Winnipeg. The copyright for the software and documentation is held by the University of Winnipeg. The **Project Sponsor** will be given an executable copy of the software and relevant documentation upon completion. The sponsor's organization may freely use this software and documentation at the site as specified when the project was originally undertaken. Sponsors can contact the Course Coordinator if they wish to purchase the **source code for the software.**

D. **Termination of Project**

Once the system has been installed at the project sponsor's site, the project team involvement ends. Responsibility for the system operation and maintenance lies with the project sponsor. Users will be required to sign a user-sign off FORM and a disclaimer FORM.

E. **Project Assessment Process**

The Department's normal process for assigning project teams is as follows:

- potential sponsors are required to write the Department a letter describing the system to be considered;
- the Department will assess the suitability of these projects (in early summer). Since these are students and not paid employees, the Department must carefully assess the scope of the proposed projects. The amount of work done by each student must be consistent with reasonable expectations for workload in an academic course. In some cases, this may result in the project scope being reduced from what the project sponsor might find ideal;
- the Department will formulate project teams in early August (after deadline for student registration);
- the project sponsor enters into a letter agreement concerning the project; and
- project teams will contact the sponsor and arrange the first of several meetings (in mid September)

Thank you for your interest in the Course. If you have any questions about the role of project sponsor, please contact the Course Coordinator:

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http://www.acs.uwinnipeg.ca