**MIS 4596**

**Project Charter**

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| ***Project Title*** | ***Easing the Process of Renting an Off-Campus Apartment*** | ***Product/Process Impacted*** | ***Apartment Searching Process*** |
| ***Start Date*** | ***9/11/2018*** | ***Organization/Department*** | ***Temple University*** |
| ***Target Completion Date*** | ***12/1/2018*** | ***Champion*** | ***Department Head*** |

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|  |  | Description | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **1. Project Description** |  | Under current conditions, Temple University students encounter a multitude of issues in searching for off-campus housing while having no access to resources that could greatly enhance a student’s search process, tenancy, and overall student experience. Students typically seek to rent strictly based on proximity to the university’s main campus and are therefore presented with limited living space options and a high concentration of various property owners/managers. Even if a house tour is conducted, students cannot reasonably know key housing factors such as the nature of interactions with a landlord/manager, maintenance standards, outside noise, neighbors, convenience, etc. In the opinion of our organization, the most essential housing factor that Temple students have low awareness of is safety and security of a unit’s location. Thus the University faces the threat of losing future and current students without a comprehensive approach to securing safe student housing. We plan on providing a platform to address these issues where students may review the feedbacks of past and current peers on total living experience, composite ratings on a unit’s different key housing factors, and aggregated scores for both housing units and prominent property owners/managers in the area. Our website aims to provide students with information essential to their decision making process that would otherwise be unavailable or difficult to find in an overall effort to enhance the student experience and strengthen Temple University. | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **2. Project Scope** |  | Our platform’s geographic scope will be limited to housing units within a certain radius of Temple University’s main campus. Additionally, areas outside of our scope include servicing other universities (our platform is strictly concerned with Temple’s off-campus housing) and securing tours of/leases for properties. The focus of the platform is assisting in the process of choosing/reviewing housing options already under consideration by a student in their search process. | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| 1. **Project Goal and Deliverables**   Our organization’s goal is to reduce loss of students due to insufficient/inadequate housing options and, therefore, retain the revenue from tuition that would otherwise be lost to student attrition. The proposed platform provides transparency in housing options for students, enhances their decision making process, and will improve the overall student experience for students living off-campus. | | | | |  |  | **Metrics** | | **Baseline** | **Current** | | **Goal** | |  | |
| The team must deliver:   1. A project deck 2. Project charter 3. Budget spreadsheet 4. Data model 5. Process model 6. Systems architecture design 7. Project site 8. Relevant screenshots of prototype | | | | |  |  | Total website searches | | **0** | **0** | | **25,000** | |  | |
|  | | | | |  |  | **Total reviews made** | | **0** | **0** | | **10,000** | |  | |
| **4. Business Results Expected** | | |  | * Sponsor’s advertisements - Google Adsense   + Local advertising   + Brand advertising * Prevention of student loss & tuition | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **5. Team members** | | |  | * Champion: Aleksi Aaltonen * Team Members: Michael Blum, Sean Doyle, Steven Suender, and Nick Napolitan   + Project Manager: Michael Blum   + Documentation/Deliverable Manager - Steven Suender   + Data/Process Model Manager - Nick Napolitan   + Prototype Manager - Sean Doyle | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **6. Support Required and risks** | | |  | Resources   * Application updates * Monitoring of apartments (new housing, housing no longer existing) * Censoring of language/profanity on application * Zillow API * Amazon Web Services   Obstacles   * Presence of advertisers * Managing workload of team members * Immediate communication of team members * Validation of property manager accounts | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **7. Customer Benefits** | | |  | Students will be better equipped to make the hefty decision of choosing where to live, promoting the likelihood of students being happy/comfortable with their living experiences and the choices they make; this further translates into higher levels of student satisfaction and overall school experience. Studies find that students who live in dorm housing (a more controlled environment) typically receive better grades. Temple University will help to provide a more controlled environment in an off-campus setting through this collaborative platform, forgoing costs in constructing new dorm buildings while still enabling a better performing student body that is also generally happier with their overall experience at Temple. Students would also receive incentive for participation, being offered a chance at prizes or monetary awards at the discretion of the organization. | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **8. Technology Architecture** | | |  | We will be utilizing JustinMind to build our prototype. Each of our our team members have utilized this tool for a prior project. We will also use various Microsoft Office platforms (Word, PowerPoint, Excel). The internet gateway will be the client interface, while Amazon Web Services will handle storage and processing needs; dynamic information regarding housing units in our area(s) of interest will be populated from Zillow’s API. | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **9. Overall schedule/Work Breakdown Structure** (Key milestones & dates) | | | | | | **Responsible**  **individual** | | **Output (notes, diagrams, interviews, screen prints)** | | | **Date started if in progress**  **Or Expected completion date** | | **Date completed or date completion is expected** | | |
| Planning | | | | | | Michael, Nick, Sean, Steven | | Website, notes, deliverables | | | 9/18/2018 | | 10/25/2018 | | |
| Analysis | | | | | | Michael, Steven | | Web/data research | | | 9/25/2018 | | 10/23/2018 | | |
| Design | | | | | | Sean, Nick | | Rough draft of prototype (sketch) | | | 10/18/2018 | | 11/9/2018 | | |
| Implementation: Construction | | | | | | Sean | | JustInMind Prototype | | | 10/20/2018 | | 11/28/2018 | | |
| Implementation: Testing | | | | | | Nick | | Test JustInMind Prototype | | | 11/15/2018 | | 11/30/2018 | | |
| Installation | | | | | | Michael, Steven | | Updating website to include final deliverables | | | 11/24/2018 | | 11/30/2018 | | |