Information and Informed Consent Form – Degree Audit Study

Our names are Nick Zola, Rob Quimby, and Mel Chua. We are students at Olin College of Engineering studying Human Factors and Interface Design. You can contact the group via phone on 781-223-5362 (Nick) or by email at nicholas.zola@students.olin.edu. Our professor for the course is Lynn Stein, who can be reached at 781-292-2525 or by email at las@olin.edu.

We are studying how the Olin community uses the degree audit system. Over the course of the semester we will be investigating current systems and practices and exploring alternative interface possibilities and functions. Early in the semester, we will be observing and interviewing current users. Later in the semester we will be asking users to help us test our prototype system, again through observation and interview.

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you may be interviewed or asked to use one or more real or simulated computer systems to test a version of the degree audit system and to answer some questions. Notes may be recorded on video, audio, photographs, logged via computer, or written. Volunteering to participate in this study does not commit you in any way; we will contact you and ask permission for individual appointments.

The results of this research (including but not limited to field notes, records, videos and photos) will be used for educational and research purposes. They will be placed on an Olin College educational website that is public and may be used in presentations by us and by Olin to illustrate the work that we do and/or to help advance engineering or educational work. They will also be discussed within the classroom and with our professor, Lynn Stein.

We will take every reasonable effort to keep your identity confidential and share only non-traceable information with the public unless we specifically ask you for permission to do otherwise. Please do not disclose any information that you feel would put you at risk. We will honor any requests to keep any information private.

We hope this will be a fun and interesting process for you. We do not anticipate any risks or discomfort to you during this study. Participation is voluntary. You may discontinue your participation at any time without any adverse effects and with no hard feelings.

There will be no costs associated with your participation. We regret that we cannot pay you for your participation in anything but good karma.

Thank you,

Rob Quimby, Nick Zola, and Mel Chua

I have read, understood, and agree to the above document.

Signature_____________________________________ Date________________
Print name_____________________________________
