Abstract

Different meetings are planned in university structures to discuss different pedagogical, administrative or scientific questions. Always, the concerned with the meeting are required to free themselves for these different appointments. Also, sometimes, they are forced to give up some tasks such as teaching. In addition, certain points of the topic of discussion require time for reflection and additional data to enable the participants to give meaningful opinions and/or propositions what is not possible when these points are presented during the meeting. Sometimes, for important subjects, other appointments are necessary, a fact that sends the group involved in the meeting to the same constraints. The third problem is related to the persons to invite to the meeting: the question can involve all students and all teachers for example, however, it is not possible to have everyone on the place of the meeting. The organizers will then be faced with the sensitive issue of choice of persons. The chosen ones will propose opinions/suggestions in place of the others which can lead to conflicting situations that disrupt university or department operating. Virtual meetings will avoid all these problems and improve the transparency and quality of discussions. In this paper, we focus on asynchronous virtual meeting proposed as a web service that can be integrated to virtual campus structures, university Web sites or e-learning platforms. It is a way for participants (students, teachers, staff) to discuss for a defined period, one or more topics. These virtual meetings are implemented in our case as contextualized forums to be created by the department administrator or teachers. After that the forum's members have to give, respectively, their opinions and/or suggestions joined to their respective responses to the discussion. In real time, specific processes for opinion mining and/or text mining suggestions give a progressive synthesis of the discussions visible for all participants. We developed a prototype for an e-department from Tizi Ouzou University where virtual pedagogical meetings are integrated. The prototype was tested with a group of students, administrators and teachers. The results were interesting since, as reported by the participants to the experiment, everyone, with this Information and Communication Technology tool, can "simply" participate to a pedagogical meeting