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Course: SOEN-6841: Software Project Management

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Key Concepts Learned: During this week, I learned the importance of project monitoring and control, which involves tracking the progress of a project using predefined baselines for time, budget, and performance. Earned Value Management (EVM) was particularly insightful, as it provided a structured way to measure deviations from the plan and helped me understand how to take corrective actions when necessary. I also grasped the significance of performance metrics, such as schedule and budget variance, which are essential for assessing whether a project is progressing as expected or requires adjustments.

Another key takeaway was the process of applying corrective actions when deviations occur. Understanding when and how to adjust project schedules or reallocate resources is vital to ensure the project stays on track. Additionally, the concept of project closure, where all deliverables are finalized, data is archived, and lessons learned are documented, was emphasized as a critical phase that contributes to future project improvements.

We also presented our project idea as a group, sharing our progress and ideas with peers and receiving constructive feedback. The pitch went smoothly. The feedback from the presentation helped us refine our approach, boosting my confidence in using these project management techniques in real-world scenarios.

Application in Real Projects: In real-world projects, the concepts of project monitoring and control play a crucial role in ensuring successful project delivery. Tools like Earned Value Management (EVM) are widely used to monitor both budget and schedule performance, helping project managers make informed decisions when deviations occur. Performance metrics such as schedule and budget variance provide valuable insights into whether a project is progressing as planned or if corrective actions, like reassigning resources or adjusting timelines, are necessary.

The process of applying corrective actions when a project falls behind schedule or over budget is essential to keeping projects on track. In large organizations, where multiple projects run simultaneously, these techniques help in managing resources efficiently and ensuring that deadlines are met without compromising quality. The lessons learned during project closure, such as challenges faced and solutions applied, are documented to improve future project performance. By reflecting on these experiences, teams can better anticipate risks and improve project planning and execution. The project pitch experience also mirrored real-world practices where project teams present progress updates to stakeholders, gather feedback, and make adjustments based on that feedback. In practical settings, such

presentations help ensure alignment with stakeholders' expectations and provide an opportunity to refine the project's approach based on constructive input.

Peer Interactions: We worked closely as a group to present our project idea during the pitch. Each member contributed, and we collectively addressed feedback, which helped refine our project. The discussions afterward were productive and provided useful suggestions for improvement. Collaborating on the presentation improved our communication and teamwork.

Outside the pitch, we also discussed project monitoring techniques like Earned Value Management (EVM) and how to apply them to our project. These interactions deepened my understanding and helped enhance our approach.

Challenges Faced: During this period, one of the challenges I faced was discussing project plans and solution ideas, as each team member had a different approach. This led to lengthy discussions, and reaching a consensus took time. Additionally, learning how to write the required parts for Deliverable 2 was another challenge. Understanding the format and expectations for this deliverable required significant effort. However, through continuous discussions and collaboration, I was able to gain clarity on the expectations and improve my understanding of how to structure the deliverable.

Personal Development Activities: Along with enhancing my technical knowledge, I spent additional time reading about project planning, project closure, and concurrent engineering to understand these topics and their practical applications more deeply. In addition to this, I participated in group study and project-related sessions, which greatly improved my communication and collaboration skills. Explaining and discussing these topics with my friends helped me express my understanding better and gain new perspectives. These interactions not only deepened my understanding of the subjects but also allowed me to refine my ability to communicate complex concepts effectively and collaborate efficiently within a team.

Goals for the Next Week: Next week, I aim to implement the concepts of project monitoring and control in my ongoing projects. I will also focus on improving my understanding of the lessons learned process by reviewing previous projects and identifying key takeaways that can enhance my performance in future assignments. Additionally, with the upcoming Phase 2 project submission, I plan to apply these concepts to ensure we stay on track and make necessary adjustments for successful completion.