ENGN 2125: ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING – SPRING 2023 (S02)

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Mighty Jaxx

WRITING PROMPT 1:

From the Mighty Jaxx business, the 2D Rendering, the 3D Rendering and drawings as input to producing molds for manufacturing and the Production department would benefit most of the scrum/sprint methodologies. The reason why is because this particular methodology has several advantages to the method, which is continuous improvement through short sprints of like (2-3weeks) providing maximum value on the end result but also with powerful collaboration with the Product Manager and Scrum Master and the technical experts. This methodology is very flexible which allows the end results to have maximum number of iterations in the product. Scrum brings full transparency within the team as it keeps everyone on their toes with the progress of the project and if any issues arise during the process, that could be looked at and addressed. Scrum also encourages continuous improvement through their own reflection, whereby they see what worked well and what did not, and they can improve on the process before the next sprint. This process also allows the team to focus on bringing value to the customer, which means the team will constantly work on the features of the product based on customer feedback and accordingly produce the final product. This is the reason why Design and Production in my opinion would be the two departments that would benefit a lot from Scrum methodology as opposed to Kanban. As Kanban, do not provide a structured framework for continuous improvement like Scrum even though it promotes it. In addition, using Scrum, teams have designated roles like the Product Owner, Scrum Master, Designer etc, while in Kanban the team members are doing multiple roles which in these two departments would not really be useful. Lastly, to be able to add value to the customers we need to be continuously making iterations to get the desired product, and in order to do so the Scrum process has fixed sprints or timelines for working on the product which provides the entire team retrospective about their product, while on the other hand in Kanban there is no fixed sprints, it's a continuous flow of work.

WRITING PROMPT 2:

From the Mighty Jaxx business, the Marketing and the Distribution would benefit the most out of the Kanban methodology as opposed to Scrum because in the marketing and the distribution departments you need to have continuous flow of work and not fixed sprints, as you want to make sure the distribution of the products to the customers are happening constantly without any interruption like how we saw in the case but also the marketing efforts need to be done in a continuous manner. These two departments will definitely benefit from a team standpoint as well from the Kanban methodology as it will allow the team to have multiple functions and get more done within the marketing and distribution space as suppose to having fixed roles and responsibilities like Scrum framework. Also, with continuous flow of work, Kanban allows the teams in the two departments to focus on continuous flow as opposed to a fixed deadline, which allows the team to deliver high quality constantly. Kanban also helps reducing waste, which in this case in the distribution and the marketing departments it will be very beneficial as it will only market and distribute to its own customers' requests. This process also allows more flexibility and less overhead which is useful for the two departments.

WRITING PROMPT 3:

Based on my knowledge on the different types of biases, I think the one that can be the most problematic for Jackson's thinking is confirmation bias. The reason I mention confirmation bias is because it is the tendency to seek, interpret, and recall information in ways that support our beliefs and hypotheses, while ignoring or downplaying information that contradicts them.

In the context of Jackson's shift to agility in his organization, confirmation bias causes Jackson to seek and consider only information that confirms his existing beliefs or assumptions about the organization, ignoring information that indicates a shift to agility which may not be the best approach. This can result in a biased decision that may not fully consider all available information and alternatives.

In my opinion, for Jackson to avoid confirmation bias, he should actively seek out and consider information that contradicts his existing beliefs and assumptions about organizing and moving to agile. He should also encourage the team to offer different perspectives and opinions and should be open to feedback and criticism. Additionally, you should consider hiring an outside consultant who can provide an unbiased perspective on the decision-making process.