SOEN 6841 – SOFTWARE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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DATES RANGE OF ACTIVITIES: 05/09/2024 – 21/09/2024

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Key Concepts:

- **Project Characteristics:** A task becomes more project-like if it is complex, goal-oriented, involves multiple phases and specializations, and is constrained by time, resources, and customer requirements.
- **Project Phases:** The lifecycle includes project initiation, planning, monitoring and control, and closure.
- **Software Project Tasks:** These include requirement analysis, software design, software development, testing, deployment, and maintenance.
- **Goal of Software Project Management:** The aim is to develop or maintain software products by utilizing effective project management and engineering principles to ensure delivery at minimal cost, in the shortest time, and with high quality.

Project Management in Waterfall Model: It involves using software management and technical metrics effectively.

Differences in Documentation:

- **Project Charter:** A high-level statement from top management providing an overview of the project.
- **Project Scope:** Encompasses various features and quality levels to determine the overall workload.
- **Project Objectives:** Highlights the significance and impact of the project.

Cost and Effort Estimates:

- **Effort Estimate:** Focused on labor costs.
- **Cost Estimate:** Encompasses salaries, hardware, and services.

Tentative Project Plan and Schedule: Involves breaking down tasks, estimating durations, and identifying dependencies.

Project Division Technique Procedure: This includes defining the project charter and scope, consulting experts, and establishing project objectives using the SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-constrained).

Application in Real Projects:

- Accurate cost and effort estimation—especially regarding labor and dependencies—are crucial for project success. Precise scheduling and dependency mapping help mitigate risks of delays and budget overruns, although achieving accuracy can be challenging.
- Utilizing SMART criteria for project objectives helps ensure that projects remain focused and deliver value. Balancing scope, time, and resources in a structured model like Waterfall can be difficult but is essential for maintaining product quality and fulfilling client expectations.

Peer Interactions: We shared experiences from software development projects, emphasizing team collaboration and discussing collaborative tools used in the industry. We also compared the course project rubrics with industry-standard documentation and phases.

Challenges Faced: I struggled to differentiate between the project charter, scope, and objectives due to their subtle distinctions, which made planning discussions confusing. Additionally, I found it challenging to understand the subtasks for project and product initiation, complicating the alignment of both processes.

Personal Development Activities: We held group discussions about project definitions, deliverables, and templates, as well as a meeting to finalize project ideas uploaded on Moodle. I also reviewed topics from the Software Project Management textbook, comparing them to my undergraduate knowledge.

Goals for Next Week:

- Explore effort estimation approaches.
- Investigate cost estimation methods.
- Study function point analysis.
- Continue discussions on finalizing project definitions and task distribution among team members.