Champlain College

Week 4: Assignment: Work Breakdown Structure

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The work breakdown structure is a tool used to divide a project into smaller chunks to allow for a team to work through their problems either separately by handing out separate sections or working on them in a linear order, depending on the team size. The WBS "Ensures the work of the project correlates appropriately with the organizational breakdown structure (OBS) yielding the responsibility assignment matrix (RAM)" (PMI, 2019)

As you break down your project, you can subdivide it into manageable pieces. "Decomposition is a technique used for dividing and subdividing the project scope and project deliverables into smaller, more manageable parts." (PMI, 2019)

For this week's WBS, most of it made sense; however, it was necessary to remove one point and add many more to fill out the structure. I was worried about breaking it down too far, so I left it with a handful of changes. "[E]xcessive decomposition occasionally leads to non-productive management effort, inefficient use of resources, decreased efficiency in performing the work, and difficulty aggregating data over different levels of the WBS." (PMI, 2019)

My main focus was adding level 3 items. I didn’t see the need to add too many at level four in an effort to keep with the above quote from our reading. I did change some titles as it wasn’t clear what the purpose was, but most seemed fine and I was able to add to their second level. I can’t say I did a perfect job. The intention was to “[subdivide the] project deliverables and project work into smaller, more manageable components.” (PMBOK, 2017)

We know that “the WPS components represent verifiable products, services, or results.” (PMBOK, 2017) I think this is where the imagination helps here, to think about the possibilities and push them into the WBS. If it was in my shop, I would have asked for more feedback than my own.

References:

Project Management Institute. (2019). Practice standard for work breakdown structures (3rd ed.). Project Management Institute.

A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide), Project Management Institute, 2017. ProQuest eBook Central, http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/champlain/detail.action?docID=5180849.

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