Learning Journal Week 1 (Jan 18 – Jan 24)

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Course: Software Project Management (SOEN 6481)

Journal URL: https://github.com/anujkharit/SOEN-6841

Week 1: [18th Jan – 24th Jan]

Date: 24th January 2024

Key Concepts Learned:
This week in Software Project Management, I delved into fundamental concepts such as the definition and differentiation between a general project and a software project. Understanding the project life cycle, project charter, project scope, and project objectives were key takeaways. The Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) was explored in detail, encompassing various activities involved, including planning, monitoring, and project closure. The role of a project manager was emphasized, highlighting responsibilities throughout the project's lifecycle.

Additionally, I've obtained another case study for practical application, applying the concepts learned in the classroom. I've already developed the project charter, scope, and objectives for this new case study.
Reference :
https://grad.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/329/2018/02/2018-Case-Study.pdf

Project Charter, Scope, and Objectives for the case study :

Project Charter: Innovative Office Design and Move at UW-Madison

Project Scope:

- Demolition and Construction: Oversee schedules for demolition and construction, including the removal of internal walls, flexible electrical connections, and extension of wireless access. Construction estimated to take 2 months.
- Furniture and Equipment: Coordinate the ordering and installation of modular furniture, laptops, cell phones, and other necessary equipment. A 3-month lead time is required for furniture delivery.
- Staff Relocation: Manage the move of 78 staff members into the new space, ensuring a smooth transition and minimal disruption to daily activities.
- Innovative Office Design: Implement a design that maximizes flexibility and mobility, anticipating different floorplans/layouts for future research projects.
- Budget Management: Adhere to the project budget of $450,000, with detailed breakdowns for demolition, construction, furniture, and a contingency fund of $20,000.
- Timeline: Adhere to the project milestones, with a design proposal approval in Month 1 and completion of the move in Month 6.

Project Objectives:

- Coordinate the relocation of 78 staff members from two separate buildings into a consolidated office space.
- Ensure the new office space is move-in ready within 5 months to align with the kickoff of a $5 million innovation grant.
- Oversee the demolition, construction, and installation of modular office furniture and electronic systems.
- Implement an innovative office design featuring portable cubicle walls, laptops, cell phones, and electronic storage.
- Meet the project budget of $450,000, with detailed allocations for demolition, construction, furniture, and contingency.

Application in Real Projects:

The insights gained this week have immediate applicability to real-world projects. By comprehending the project life cycle, I can better plan and execute projects, ensuring that project charters and scopes are well-defined. Understanding the activities within the SDLC allows for effective monitoring and control, leading to successful project closure. However, challenges may arise in accurately defining project objectives and scoping, and implementing these concepts may require careful consideration to align with the unique aspects of different projects.

Peer Interactions:

Throughout the week, engaging discussions with peers provided valuable insights. Collaborative activities allowed us to share different perspectives on project management, enhancing my understanding of various methodologies. The diversity of experiences within the group enriched our discussions, and I gained insights into real-world project challenges and successes.

Challenges Faced:

One challenge encountered was grasping the nuanced differences between project and software project management. Further clarification is needed in understanding specific activities within the SDLC. This underscores the importance of seeking additional resources and possibly engaging in peer discussions for a deeper understanding of these concepts.

Personal Development Activities:

As part of my personal development, I conducted supplementary readings and watched online tutorials to reinforce the concepts covered in class. This extra effort aimed to solidify my understanding of project management fundamentals and their practical applications.

Goals for the Next Week:

Next week, I'll focus on understanding how to estimate effort and costs in projects. I also want to dig into risk management and configuration, which are important for planning and making projects run smoothly.

I plan to join more discussions with classmates to hear different ideas on how to tackle project challenges. Learning from their experiences can help me become better at solving problems.

Lastly, I aim to put what I've learned into practice by working on a case study. Applying these concepts in a real-world scenario will help me get the hang of project management and improve my problem-solving skills.