Unit 10 Course Analysis

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**IT401 Project Management II**

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**November 28th, 2023**

Throughout my time in this Project Management II course, I have been able to hone my management skills. This started towards the beginning with project approaches. A thought to project approaches such as Agile, Predictive, Waterfall, or Hybrid approaches helped contextualize much of the project logic that I have experienced in my life.

Throughout my time working with a popular E-Bike retailer, I have seen Agile approaches in action. This course has deepened my understanding of these projects, and in turn made more perspective on the world around me even more holistic. The information contained in that introductory unit was then further contextualized with the Garage Apartment project. This is the project we have used throughout the course to practice new management disciplines. With this, I was able to apply a management approach to this theoretical situation to further get a grasp on how exactly each approach may affect a real-world situation. Because of this exercise in Unit 2, I was able to gain a new perspective on how simple decisions like approach behaviors could be utilized to a greater effect to not only standardize project workflows, but also to create a new organization to the overall project and help each worker achieve a greater output than would be possible without complex organization. This information was further enhanced at the introduction of our project charter. This charter detailed many facets of the Garage Apartment Project case that we had started working on. Some examples include Purpose detailing and justification, overall project descriptions, Preliminary Risk Assessment, Deliverable detailing, and Budget outlines. These concepts would prove vital to project research, and would be further elaborated on in the coming units. This charter introduced these important concepts, and acquainted me with looking at projects towards a more well-rounded perspective, rather than a narrow view of how the project may look from a simple worker’s perspective.

These introductory chapters to this class provided necessary context, but would be further elaborated on in the Unit 4 group assignment. Although each member of my team had their own outline to work on for this assignment, I was able to see a compiled list of each chapter put together. My part for this unit’s submission was the Work Breakdown Structure’s views. I had learned previously about a WBS in the introductory project management course, but this was the first time I was able to create one for a pre-outlined project. The Garage Apartment project proved difficult to draw a WBS for, as I was not responsible for creating the overall details on how exactly this project fits together. I would argue that this gave me vital experience that I needed that would translate realistically to the real world. In a real project management scenario, I will find it unlikely that I would be the one creating the scenario, and determining the project with the outlines and requirements that it needs. Drawing up a WBS on a project that I didn’t create provides a more realistic scenario for me to practice. For that, I was able to hone my skills and critical thinking to develop more complex details to read into the assignment instructions to make criteria that is faithful to those very same instructions. This lead very well into the next unit about role assignments. I would need to further look into the assignment instructions to create job listings for the disciplines required in the Garage Apartment Project. I have no experience with posting or creating jobs in my daily life, so this assignment gave me necessary skills to think about what exactly is needed to accomplish a certain task. Roles like management would be required to organize the project while Carpenters, Plumbers, and more would be required to fulfill physical needs. Unit Six pivoted the mindset a little more to monetary and communicative means. This assignment came in two parts. The first part was a budget estimation taking Labor, Materials, and Equipment into account. This part of the assignment was essential for me to understand the workings of Project Management beyond simple arbitrary numbers and decisions. Budgets are the key to understanding the weight and gravity of every decision that you make for a project. A budget can either cancel or grow a project based on the allowances of stakeholders and investors, and this project helped me understand that. The second assignment submission for that unit would focus on communications in our project. This was the assignment in which I detailed exactly what meetings were to take place, and how often. This was a particularly difficult assignment, as it not only needed proper identification of factors such as daily routines and project milestones, but it also needed careful consideration into risk factors of each project deliverable and outline. This assignment helped me think through exactly what a project of the scale of the Garage Apartment Construction may need, and what communications were necessary to keep it running efficiently. Too little communication could risk inefficiency just as much as too much.

Unit seven started the ending sprint of the class. Unfortunately, I was already well versed in types of project contracts since my current job helps me gain insight into those requirements, so not much new information was gained from this particular unit. I did, however, enhance my already present knowledge by having a more in-depth look into contract assigning in the Garage Apartment Project. This helped me think about what exactly *I* would do in the scenario of contract application, and how to structure something like the construction crew in a way that made sense for the overall context of the project. Unit eight was another assignment that came in two parts. The first part was focused on a Quality Assurance plan. This was a particularly enjoyable unit to work through, as I find a fascination in quality control. I was able to demonstrate an interest and skill in identifying exactly what precautions and regulations would work to help our Apartment Project, and which specifications may limit creative freedom to a destructive degree. The line between those two disciplines is something I think about regularly, as quality needs to be maintained, but there seems to be a definitive marker in too much regulation. The second part to this assignment had me reflect on certifications as they relate to my degree. As there was no particularly new information discovered here, there is not much to reflect on that submission in this document. Unit nine saw a unique assignment. This was based on analyses and calculations—Particularly, variances. Variance calculations were new to me in Unit nine, so the information I learned while completing this assignment helped me to be more analytical about the projects I face going forward. Using this tool, I am able to get a better grasp to understanding where a particular project lies in terms of productivity and budget. This in turn provides me with a skill to critically think about the numbers of a particular situation, and supplement that with context to derive project health and status.

There were a great many things learned in this course to help me with not only project management, but also my daily activities. Budget designations can help me calculate necessary expenditures on a tight schedule, while risk managements can help me understand that gravity of certain factors I may work with in my daily life. All of these skills can be applied throughout the rest of my years with critical thinking to help me go about them with more organization and efficiency than I would be capable of without this knowledge.