

Emily Brown

LIBR 204

3/21/12

How should Michael react to the Vice President's request?

I think Michael should be honest about his capacities. He would lose the University the grant, and a great deal of money, if he were to exaggerate his technological capabilities and claim to be able to manage the grant team. If he isn't capable, he should turn it down and suggest someone that is.

What do you suspect are his real attitudes about archives and technology?

I suspect that Michael's real attitudes regarding technology in archives are as the Vice President said. I don't think Michael is a fan of it. His concerns about constant upgrades needed to be up-to-date in favor of "good old paper and pencil" belay a serious misunderstanding of the capacity of technology. Michael doesn't seem to understand that technology, even of the not up-to-date variety, can significantly increase work performance.

While he may not want to turn down or disappoint the Vice President could he effectively carry out the work if he has serious reservations?

I don't believe that Michael could effectively carry out the work if he has serious reservations regarding the nature of the project. It would be a grievous mistake for Michael to accept such a technologically heavy project at this time.

Should Robert do anything about identifying another grant team leader? Regardless of who is chosen as team leader is there a longer term concern regarding the archives that he needs to address? Is so, how could he go about addressing them?

Robert, the Vice President, should definitely seek to identify another grant team leader who is more comfortable with, and has a better understanding of technology. There is a long term issue regarding the archives' digitization project. The sub-par software which has a high error rate and creates unsatisfactory scans of handwritten documents indicate that there needs to be a serious upgrade of hardware and software in the archive department. The disagreement a few years ago between Michael and Charles Courtney about making certain history papers available online and the underlying issue being technological in nature is an indication that this deficit in the appropriate level of technology has been going on for some time now. The Vice President could address these concerns by hiring a technological specialist who would evaluate, create a plan for bringing the archive department up to a professional level standard, and execute it.

What other information about Michael's skill and experience would help the VP to make a decision?

Michael has a very high standard of quality, as demonstrated by his refusal to put any poorly scanned material on the University website. He cares about service for his on site users who access the archives. He takes pride in the organization of his on site collection. He's been with the University for

several years. However, his resistance to technology makes him highly unsuitable to effectively manage the grant team.