**Executive Summary: Arborwood Compliance Gateway Initiative**

The **Arborwood Cost Calculator project, known internally as "The Gateway" Initiative**, was launched to immediately mitigate a critical regulatory and financial risk stemming from the institution's existing manual process for publishing student costs. The project was initiated upon identifying that the current system violated the **Single Source of Truth (SSOT)** principle, relying on error-prone human data entry, which put Arborwood in direct conflict with the accuracy mandates of the **Higher Education Act (HEA)**.

The initiative's core objectives are threefold: First, to achieve absolute **Compliance and Risk Mitigation** by embedding a non-negotiable **Legal/Compliance Gateway** into the project lifecycle. Second, to enhance **Equity and Transparency** by replacing manual uploads with a **Real-Time API Integration** to the Student Administration System (SAS). Third, to establish **Technical Modernization** by eliminating technical debt through the deployment of a scalable microservice architecture on the Google Cloud Platform (GCP).

**Scope, Milestones, and Timeline**

The project scope is defined by two integrated and non-negotiable deliverables: a new process and a new technology stack. The new process involves the **Compliance Gateway**, a mandatory legal checkpoint requiring formal sign-off from the Legal team on all financial logic *before* development is finalized. The new technology involves the **Real-Time API Integration**, a secure, read-only RESTful API microservice designed to pull instantaneous cost data directly from the SAS.

The Gateway Initiative is targeted for completion within **Six Months (T+6)**, following a phased approach. The first critical deliverable, the **Governance Go/No-Go Milestone**, is scheduled for **T+1 Month**, where final use cases must be certified by the Legal team. This is followed by the **API Microservice Complete Milestone** at **T+3 Months**, signifying the development and 100% data fidelity testing of the integration layer. The project will conclude with **Production Deployment and Policy Hand-Off** at **T+6 Months**, formalizing the new data governance policy and launching the compliant calculator.

**Risk and Communication Strategy**

The highest-priority threats to project delivery are **SME Resource Constraints** and **Data Integrity Failure**. These are actively mitigated by executive action and technical controls. Resource risks are addressed by an **Executive Sponsorship Mandate** securing dedicated time from the SAS Subject Matter Experts. Data integrity is guaranteed by the mandatory **Compliance Gateway** approval and mandatory **100% automated integration testing**.

Stakeholder communication is tailored by audience and frequency. The **Steering Committee (Executive)** will receive bi-weekly briefings focused primarily on risk register updates, resource issues, and formal sign-off requests. Technical and development teams will hold daily syncs focused on integration challenges. This disciplined communication structure ensures the critical link between **regulatory compliance** and **technical execution** remains transparent to all leaders, providing a clear and managed path to institutional compliance.