Replacing GU current learning management system

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According to project-smart.com, “In a perfect world every project would be "on time and within budget." But reality (especially the proven statistics) tells a very different story. It's not uncommon for projects to fail. Even if the budget and schedule are met, one must ask "did the project deliver the results and quality we expected?" True project success must be evaluated on all three components. Otherwise, a project could be considered a "failure."

There are a lot of reasons why projects fail like poorly managed, inadequate testing process, lack of user input, lack of organizational support, team weakness or insufficient resources (funding and personnel). Working as a team GU and our team we can over come the potential risks listed below.

The potential risk for replacing the current learning management system is rolling the system out to all the students in all courses by the end of July. In that time frame we are creating a database, working with all the courses head personal, understanding how the students can utilize the system and creating a new portal. We will have a lot of project going with scarce resources and will need to priorities carefully.

The lack of funding is a major challenge in the implementation of this project, adding that it could lead to lot of problems, if not promptly attended to. We will need an advance amount in funds because inadequate funds will bottleneck multiply projects and extra staff will be needed.

According to Neal Whitten, a world-renowned project management author and lecturer, "an organization may have currently defined processes, but those processes are ineffective for one or more of the following reasons (Whitten, 1995):

* Not comprehensive enough: they do not already define all of the activities that apply to all new projects,
* Overly complex: they require too much time and skill to comprehend and apply,
* Not flexible: they are not easily tailored to meet the unique needs of new projects,
* Not "owned": there is weak or no buy-in from the project's members,
* Not continuously improved: lessons learned from past projects are not used to improve the current processes, and
* Not enforced: the guidelines are there, but the project leadership lacks the discipline to enforce them."

During the course of managing this project, I must monitor activities (and distractions) from many sources and directions. Complacency can easily set in. When this happens, the process of "monitoring" breaks down. I will remain in control of a project and be aware of any activity, which presents a risk of project failure.

Resources

http://www.projectsmart.com

http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/features/mesa1/