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A MODEL BUSINESS MINOR DEGREE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The importance of Project Management (PM) is increasing and cannot be overemphasized. This is particularly true with the widespread adoption and implementation of various systems in business and therefore there is a need for more graduates with PM knowledge to contribute and lead business projects. The Project Management Institute (PMI) recent reports indicate a significant increase in the number of jobs requiring project management skills (Project.Management.Institute 2017). Further, PMI predicts the demand for project managers is increasing as a result of an increase in the number of jobs demanding project management skills, attrition including retirement and a demand for project talent (Project.Management.Institute 2017). Therefore, the educators strive to prepare graduates for the PM positions and their challenges. The purpose of this paper is to emphasize the importance of PM degree and introduce a model for offering a minor degree in PM for the College of Business.

KEYWORDS

Project Management, business minor degree, project management minor

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Project Management has always been important and an attractive field of study. This importance and attractiveness has grown more recently with the changes to the Information Systems (IS) departments to include Enterprise Systems, Business Intelligence, Business Analytics and Agility. As the results, the IS departments are now offering Business Analytics PM and Agile PM in addition to the traditional PM courses. This increase importance and emphasis on PM coupled with increased number of PM courses calls for a minor degree in PM in the College of Business. The PM minor is an ideal course of study for business students seeking a comprehensive introduction to the field of project management.

A minor degree typically requires students to take five courses. The proposed model for business PM minor suggests four required courses and one elective. The four required courses are Traditional PM, Agile PM, PM for Analytics and Change Management. Project Management includes many topics and skills that are covered in many exciting courses offered in the college of business. These course can be used as a set of elective courses for the PM minor which students can choose one of them depending on their major field of study. It is possible that students have to take one or more of these courses to satisfy the requirements for their major field of study. The examples of existing elective courses for minor in PM include Financial Tool & Methods, Behavior in Organizations, Leadership in Organizations, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Six Sigma and Continuous Improvement, Negotiation.

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1. Project.Management.Institute. 2017. "Job Growth and Talent Gap," Project.Management.Institute (ed.).