

PMO SIG June 2016 Meeting Summary

Introductions

SIG attendees introduced themselves briefly

Member Discussion Topic: Be Heard by Senior Management

Category: Leadership

How to being heard by senior people pushing a direction

Role of product owners

- PMO and PMs can help set clear roles and responsibilities for who does what
- Person on point owns the solution – not passing it out of their responsibility
- Avoid “plate management” or getting the hot potato off your plate where issue can be dropped

Keeping multiple VPs happy:

- No half empty
- Affect decisions
- Influence via direct discussions
 - Listen or not
- “The 30 second speech”

Focus - If high level talk comes in with tunnel vision – then how do we influence?

- Accessibility
 - Management wants to control conversations
- Understand the politics

Diplomacy and preparation

- Align with your boss
- Represent the team – unified

Uncomfortable questions vs Loaded Questions

- Dealing with loaded questions, for example
 - How much can you reduce the estimate can be answered with went into the estimate, including functionality, risk, historical results, expert opinion, etc.
 - Manage the level of details to the level of management, for example:
 - Management: “A bug fix will take just 6 hours”
 - PM: Sees the big picture surrounding the bug fix (testing, approvals, documentation, implementation)

Don't break into jail

- Be careful with your wording and make your message crisp and on point – say the wrong thing and in 5 minutes you can create a storm
- Anticipate questions and prepare up front and know your audience
 - Put yourself “into their shoes”
 - Most senior people want a very crisp message, focusing on the key decision points but some folks want to talk through it
 - Depends on the audience and culture

Next Meeting

Next meeting is in September

PMO SIG Future Discussion Topics to Consider

- Value of the PMO
- How to sell the right portfolio
- Types of Charters
- Using BAs in PMO Models
- How to attract PMs to a PMO
- Value of the PMBOK
- Relevance of PMO in the future

Attending: Charles J. Cante, Charles R. Cante, David Morgen, Howard Paul, Ray Francis, Richard Loeb, Sudip Dey, William Lois

June 14, 2016
8:15 – 9:15 PM

Chair: David Morgen, PMP
davemorgen@hotmail.com
Scribe: Richard Loeb