Experiencing Global Project Management:

Designing the Floor Plan for the Information Systems Program

Amal Al Barwani, Nasreen Zahan, Faiza Alsaeid abbarwan@qatar.cmu.edu, nzahan@qatar.cmu.edu, falsaied@qatar.cmu.edu Instructor: Selma Limam Mansar, PhD Information Systems

The IS Predicament

Information Systems is a new degree in CMU-Q. It calls for specific floor plan needs that CMU-Q currently doesn't cater to (students, faculty and courses)

Approach

Worked as a global team: 3 students in Qatar; 2 students in Pittsburgh working remotely

- Used distance collaboration tools: Basecamp, Videoconferencing, Chat rooms
- Used project management techniques: (Estimation, Gantt charts, etc)
- Studied Pittsburg & Qatar campuses for possible IS department needs



Fig 1. Pictures used to generate ideas for department needs

- Explored department needs through meetings with IS professors
- Selected locations, rooms & resources needed



Fig 2. Options looked at for placement of rooms



Solution

Design Project Rooms: A thorough investigation led us to the conclusion that the most pressing need of the IS department were project rooms.

Results





Fig3. Location and design of rooms

Reflection

- Global Project Management is effective if the team manages:
 - Time and time zone differences
 - Collaboration, communication
 - Cultural differences and various backgrounds
 - Technology constraints