Chapter 3
Organization: Structure and Culture

Project Management Structures

- Challenges to Organizing Projects
  - The uniqueness and short duration of projects relative to ongoing longer-term organizational activities
  - The multidisciplinary and cross-functional nature of projects creates authority and responsibility dilemmas.

- Choosing an Appropriate Project Management Structure
  - The best system balances the needs of the project with the needs of the organization.
Project Management Structures

- Organizing Projects: Functional organization
  - Different segments of the project are delegated to respective functional units.
  - Coordination is maintained through normal management channels.
  - Used when the interest of one functional area dominates the project or one functional area has a dominant interest in the project’s success.

Functional Organizations
Functional Organization of Projects

- Advantages
  - No Structural Change
  - Flexibility
  - In-Depth Expertise
  - Easy Post-Project Transition

- Disadvantages
  - Lack of Focus
  - Poor Integration
  - Slow
  - Lack of Ownership

Project Management Structures (cont’d)

- Organizing Projects: Dedicated Teams
  - Teams operate as separate units under the leadership of a full-time project manager.
  - In a projectized organization where projects are the dominant form of business, functional departments are responsible for providing support for its teams.
Dedicated Project Team

Advantages
- Simple
- Fast
- Cohesive
- Cross-Functional Integration

Disadvantages
- Expensive
- Internal Strife
- Limited Technological Expertise
- Difficult Post-Project Transition
Project Organizational Structure

Organizing Projects: Matrix Structure

- Hybrid organizational structure (matrix) is overlaid on the normal functional structure.
  - Two chains of command (functional and project)
  - Project participants report simultaneously to both functional and project managers.
- Matrix structure optimizes the use of resources.
  - Allows for participation on multiple projects while performing normal functional duties
  - Achieves a greater integration of expertise and project requirements
Matrix Organization Structure

Division of Project Manager and Functional Manager Responsibilities in a Matrix Structure

**Project Manager**
- What has to be done?
- When should the task be done?
- How much money is available to do the task?
- How well has the total project been done?

**Negotiated Issues**
- Who will do the task?
- Where will the task be done?
- Why will the task be done?
- Is the task satisfactorily completed?

**Functional Manager**
- How will it be done?
- How will the project involvement impact normal functional activities?
- How well has the functional input been integrated?
Different Matrix Forms

- **Functional (also Weak or Lightweight) Form**
  - Matrices in which the authority of the functional manager predominates and the project manager has indirect authority

- **Balance (or Middleweight) Form**
  - The traditional matrix form in which the project manager sets the overall plan and the functional manager determines how work to be done

- **Strong (Heavyweight) Form**
  - Resembles a project team in which the project manager has broader control and functional departments act as subcontractors to the project

Project Organization: Matrix Form

- **Advantages**
  - Efficient
  - Strong Project Focus
  - Easier Post-Project Transition
  - Flexible

- **Disadvantages**
  - Dysfunctional Conflict
  - Infighting
  - Stressful
  - Slow
Choosing the Appropriate Project Management Structure

- Organization (Form) Considerations
  - How important is the project to the firm’s success?
  - What percentage of core work involves projects?
  - What level of resources (human and physical) are available?
Choosing the Appropriate Project Management Structure (cont’d)

- Project Considerations
  - Size of project
  - Strategic importance
  - Novelty and need for innovation
  - Need for integration (number of departments involved)
  - Environmental complexity (number of external interfaces)
  - Budget and time constraints
  - Stability of resource requirements

Organizational Culture

- Organizational Culture Defined
  - A system of shared norms, beliefs, values, and assumptions which bind people together, thereby creating shared meanings
  - The “personality” of the organization that sets it apart from other organizations.
    - Provides a sense of identify to its members
    - Helps legitimize the management system of the organization
    - Clarifies and reinforces standards of behavior
Key Dimensions Defining an Organization’s Culture

Identifying Cultural Characteristics

- Study the physical characteristics of an organization.
- Read about the organization.
- Observe how people interact within the organization.
- Interpret stories and folklore surrounding the organization.
Organizational Culture Diagnosis Worksheet

I. Physical Characteristics
   Architecture, office layout, decor, attire

II. Public Documents
   Annual reports, internal newsletters, vision statements

III. Behavior
   Pace, language, meetings, issues discussed, decision-making style, communication patterns, rituals

IV. Folklore
   Stereotypes, anecdotes, heroes, villains

Implications of Organizational Culture for Organizing Projects

- Navigating Organizational Cultures: Working Upstream or Downstream?
  - Interacting with the culture and subcultures of the parent organization
  - Interacting with the project's clients or customer organizations
  - Interacting with other organizations connected to the project
Cultural Dimensions of an Organization Supportive of Project Management

Key Terms

Balanced matrix
Dedicated project team
Strong matrix
Matrix
Organizational culture
Weak matrix
Projectitis
Projectized organization