Luther - WRT 307
Executive summaries from previous feasibility studies

1.
Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is currently facing a dilemma. The organization needs to adopt a project to renew member interest, but it cannot choose a project that will exhaust its dwindling budget. EWB has recently been presented with three projects: a water delivery system in Bungwe, Rwanda, installation of small-scale water systems in Guatemala, and a wastewater treatment facility in Mindo, Ecuador.

Each project was evaluated using several criteria: financial impacts, location, design difficulty, community relationship, and mentorship. By examining each project using these criteria, it provided a comprehensive view of each project, including potential benefits and risks associated with each one. Meetings with project contacts, various documents, travel sites, and my own experience were used to obtain and analyze information associated with each project.

After reviewing each project, I recommend that EWB adopt the project in Guatemala. This project is simpler and cheaper to implement than the others, and is acceptable under each of the criteria mentioned above. In my report, I will discuss my process and results thoroughly, providing a detailed analysis of EWB's problem, and my suggested solution.

2.
This report recommends implementing a student coaching model in the Pathfinder program. This option will improve the cost effectiveness of Pathfinder office hours, bring assistance to students, and help connect students to the L.C. Smith community. This is a better option than merely altering the events that Pathfinders host because it provides consistent, one-on-one communication to students for their first three semesters as engineers. Continuing dialogue in to the second year is crucial because at L.C. Smith second-year students are statistically most likely to drop out. Student coaching is also desirable over leaving the Pathfinder program in its current condition because office hours and supporting events rarely garner meaningful student participation.

3.
I have conducted a study in order to investigate the best fix for the problems with the spreadsheet organization of the food distribution system at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Brockton, MA. Alternative programs to the current Microsoft Excel sheet were examined to determine which was the best fit for the need of the VA Hospital to organize their food production and deliveries.

Upon following out these comparisons, the most efficient and useful program for the use of the VA Hospital was determined to be the current Microsoft Excel program that is in use. Changes will however need to be made to the current spreadsheet to make it much more workable. Once these changes are introduced into the Excel workbook, the production and delivery for all of the locations and all of the food rotations will communicate with each other – updating along with any changes being made to the menu.

I recommend that the VA Hospital remain using Microsoft Excel, but make some much needed changes to the current spreadsheet that is in use.

4.
This report recommends that Jerk Magazine should have additional events on campus, double the amount of advertisements per issue, obtain a larger grant from Campus Progress, but still get some funding from SA. In 2011 Jerk Magazine faced a tough realization about how dependent the organization is on Syracuse University's Student Association. This report shows options for Jerk Magazine to become more independent while still having the appropriate amount of funding to run the magazine. Through my research, I have found that it is not feasible for Jerk to become completely independent of SA. I recommend that you do not cut the funding from SA all together, but rather reduce the amount of funding to $7,000. This would guarantee at least $3,000 from Campus Progress and

make your annual income about $18,700. This is a better option than doing nothing, because your organization will no longer rely so heavily on SA. It will reduce the amount Jerk receives from SA by $8,000.

5.
This proposal is designed to outline the housing problem that the brothers of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity at Syracuse University are currently facing. This document outlines the possible solutions to the problem and all potential ramifications. Potential solutions include re-signing a three-year lease, signing a long-term lease, or finding a new chapter location. Finally, this proposal includes a description of what steps will be taken to arrive at a decision. These steps will include talking to brothers, talking to landlords, looking into potential property, and research as to how much money the fraternity has to spend on resolving this problem.

6.
The DAVIS Companies is a full service staffing solutions company that offers staffing expertise in a number of areas. In recent times, The DAVIS Companies has experienced rapid expansion of their employees, clients, talent, office complexes, areas of service and overall company so greatly that they have begun having internal communication issues. In order to maintain a successful business it is important to maintain lines of communication internally so they can achieve success externally. Documented in this report are three options that offer detailed solutions for The DAVIS Companies to consider in order to restore the internal lines of communication. Solution one proposes a monthly meeting for three members of each office location. Solution two proposes the Chief Executive Officer, Robert Davis, delivers a broadcast over the web to all employees speaking about issues and discussion topics weekly. Solution three proposes a yearly company conference to realign company goals and values. Robert Davis states that re-opening lines of communication is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed and solved immediately. Therefore, I recommend that The DAVIS Companies purchases a WebEx account for $50 per month which will enable them to provide companywide conferences each week detailing issues, goals and company values.

7.
I am recommending that the club's faculty advisor contact Meg Cortese in the Registrar's Office to reserve a classroom for the next semester. The house on Lancaster, which the club is currently using as an unofficial meeting location, is too far away for most members and cannot support meetings of 10-15 people. The Office of Student cannot help us reserve rooms because we are not an official club. Since the appeals process is seemingly unending, waiting to become an official club is unreasonable. The Registrar's Office requires only a faculty advisor and can help us reserve rooms on campus which is close for most of the club members.
Furthermore, I am recommending the club hold meetings on Saturday afternoons as opposed to weeknights. Deciding on club meetings the day of creates scheduling nightmares for all club members. 60% of the club members stated that were available on Saturday afternoons for meetings as opposed to the 40% who are available on weeknights. As shown by the Breakdance Club, attendance is also much better on Saturday than opposed to weeknights because there is no class the next day.
Failure to retain members because of apathy can be attributed to the fact that nothing gets done at club meetings. To combat the apathy, I recommend that the club start analyzing matches and playing games together. One club theory states that to keep members interested in a club, the club members need to establish an emotional connection with club and gain value from being in it. Analysis of matches is an important way to make players better which adds value to their experience. Playing games together helps bonding and forms emotional connections.
Lastly, I recommend implanting periodic Barcraft events to recruit new members. The current method of word of mouth is very limited and has not worked very well for the club so far. After talking to other

clubs on campus and other Starcraft II clubs from other universities, it was recommended that we go to club fairs, hold tournaments, and host Barcrafts. Unfortunately, we cannot participate in club fairs because we are not an official club of the university. Tournaments, advertised via fliers or Facebook, can be a great way to get new members. However, hosting Barcrafts, which can be advertised the same way as the tournaments, have a much lower barrier to entry making it appeal to a broader audience.

8.
The Chrissy Ost Show at Syracuse University as part of the WERW Campus radio, currently has a small listening audience. I have investigated the feasibility of employing different advertising methods to increase the listenership of the show.
My research evaluated the potential for three different types of advertising: methods: social media, campus news sources, and tabling, to increase the number of listeners and found that all three forms would require equal expense, when implemented properly. However, in terms of speed of institution, social media and SU News are most quickly implemented. And ultimately, in terms of effectiveness, social media advertising brings in the largest number of listeners efficiently.
I recommend the use of social media as the advertising solution to increase the listening audience for Syracuse University's Chrissy Ost radio show.

9.
This report recommends Brookline Development Company, LLC subscribe to Microsoft Office 365 to provide for its growing communication and productivity needs. Office 365 is a full productivity suite completely cloud-based (housed on a Microsoft server and accessed through the internet. A subscription to Office 365 will allow for a Microsoft maintained company website, corporate emails through outlook, a full complement of cloud based office productivity applications, a shared cloud drive which allows for individual data warehousing along with easy group collaboration. This solution is the most appropriate due to the ease of integration and future expandability. The Brookline staff is already using the Office suite of productivity applications and outlook. This transition merely has them work on those same program s through the internet instead of being housed on their desktop. This option allows each individual 25GB of space for email which will solve the capacity and redundancy issues. Future employees can easily be added at the additional rate of $6 per user per month. This solution is the appropriate due to its low cost at $1008 yearly. Traditional IT contracts run between 3 to 4 times the Office 365's stated rate. Additionally, switching to the Office 365 maintained company website will increase savings. The other main solutions being Google Apps for Business, and HyperOffice are similar in offerings and to some degree price, but would require staff to learn a completely different set of productivity applications and would result in reduced capability until proficiency was gained. Lastly, the choice of doing nothing will result in the current server being filled to capacity in the next month and will result in Brookline being unable to send or receive emails and conduct business. The given recommendation will allow Brookline to transition easily to a cloud-based service for a minimal cost.