

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Stuart Graduate School of Business

ENPRO 357

IIT Strategic Management Group

Business Planning & Strategy Development Module

Latin American Chamber of Commerce Team

Midterm Report

Summer 2003

Revision 6/26/03

Faculty

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Participants

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Confidentiality Agreement

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Upon request, this document is to be immediately returned to:

Professor David Pistrui.

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1. Executive Summary

This document is a progress report by the IIT Strategic Management Group in association with the Latin American Chamber of Commerce (LLAC). The IIT Strategic Management Group is composed of students working under Professor David Pistrui of the Stuart Graduate School of Business. The team focuses on strategic assessments using the Strategic Management System, developed internally at IIT by Professor George Kalidonis, Colman Chair. The SMS tool builds on top of the highly successful Balanced Scorecard framework by overlaying the Kalidonis Process Model. The system, comparable to $6-\sigma$, is focused on providing a strategic system for small and medium sized businesses and non-profit organizations. It is also in the public domain.

The Latin American Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that specializes in providing high-quality business services to small and medium sized minority-owned businesses. The majority of these services are free under the MBDA contract, and additional services are provided at competitive rates. The chamber's value bundle is created by providing all the business, financial and marketing services a company needs in one location at no cost or relatively cheaply. The chamber has operated since 1976.

Since the beginning of June 2003, the IIT team has been monitoring and evaluating the LACC to identify organizational, environmental, communicational, and motivational problems. This first phase is nearing completion and a strategy map will soon be constructed using version three of the SMS software. Soon afterwards, a strategic assessment will be completed identifying problems and suggesting initiatives to solve or minimize these issues. An applied business revenue model will be developed by analyzing the possibility of integrating the SMS software into the LLAC's services. This will allow the chamber to provide a unique service of strategic management to an under-tapped market¹ and build the internal knowledge to become a strategically-focused organization.

The IIT team will have successfully demonstrated the Strategic Management System, which will help it gain acceptance as an alternative management system. To date, SMS has been used in private consulting by IIT faculty, and thus there are no case studies readily available. The Strategic Management Group is dedicated towards spreading the concept of strategic development and help organizations to realize the benefits of becoming strategically focused.

¹ Strategic Management System Business Plan, IPRO 327&357, IIT Entrepreneurs Association, Spring 2003

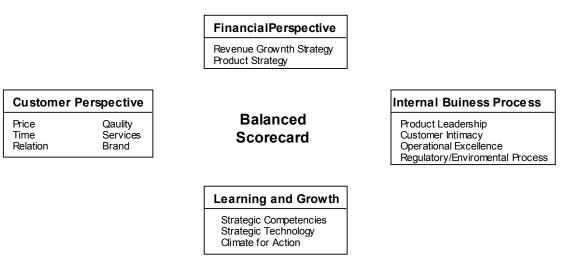
2. Introduction

2.1 Background and History

2.1.1 The Balanced Scorecard

The traditional approach towards management separates the strategic development from its implementation. This method fails during the execution phase, as finances are focused upon and the strategy is forgotten through poor communication. The organizations also measures performance through these financial metrics, leading them to often forget the customer and look solely at profits.

In recognition of this problem, Drs. Robert S. Kaplan and David P. Norton of the Harvard Business School developed the balanced scorecard (BSC) in 1992. This framework supplements the financial aspect of an organization with the customer, internal business process, and learning and growth perspectives. The metrics produced along side the finances expanded the view of managers so that the organization's strategy could be better served and initiatives could be created to improve all four measures.



With the success of the balanced scorecard, it was soon realized that it had the potential to be far more then simply a measurement system. With the introduction of the strategy map in 1997, the BSC model was expanded to help in strategic development. A strategy map has four specific themes: strategic analysis (build the franchise), strategic planning (increase customer value), operation (achieve operational excellence), and support strategy (be a good citizen). Through the development of the strategy map, Kaplan and Norton later articulated five key principles required for building a strategy-focused organization. The first is to translate the strategy into operational terms, and then secondly to align the organization to the strategy. The next two steps are to make the strategy everyone's job and to make strategic development a continual process. Finally, the organization must mobilize change through strong, effective leadership.

The balanced scorecard has proven to be a groundbreaking step for strategic management through numerous successes. In the corporate world, companies such as Mobil, AT&T,

Fannie Mae, and Nova Scotia Power have all make rapid improvements after utilizing the BSC framework. Likewise, non-profit organizations such as the city of Charlotte in North Carolina, U.C. San Diego, and federal agencies have reduced costs and improved public satisfaction.

2.1.2 The Strategic Management System

As the balanced scorecard developed into a useful means of describing strategy, it became evident that the model could become a framework for implementing and managing strategy. This realization led to the marriage of an enhanced BSC model that includes a vision and mission perspective, and the Kalidonis process. The outcome was the development of the Strategic Management System (SMS), now on its third major release. The new version also includes an innovative market analysis scorecard to help in the development and revision of a market study.

Under the guidance of Professor David Pistrui, a faculty member at IIT's Stuart Graduate School of Business, the Strategic Management System has been utilized both in and out of the classroom. At IIT's MBA program and engineering college, versions of the SMS software has been used to teach business skills and methodologies. He has also used the system successfully with over a dozen small, family-owned businesses in Europe and the Chicagoland area.

2.2 Project Summary

2.2.1 Overview

The focus of this project is on activities related to research, analysis, marketing, planning, organizational design, and budgeting, along with user studies and beta testing. The team will continue to build a relationship with the LACC and use the Strategic Management System to develop a strategy map. Through the knowledge obtained via the strategy map and observations, the team shall present a strategic assessment report analyzing the LACC and their strategy. Additionally, the team will create an applied business revenue model for the LACC which may assist them in developing their strategy and management services.

2.2.2 Vision

Our vision is to work with LACC and the six elements of the SMS software to develop a strategy for the LACC and improve their business operations. Also to provide a rewarding work and learning environment to the members of the project as well as meet our objectives and goals: to create a strategy map, strategic assessment report, and an applied revenue model. Upon completing our mission, we hope that our input will help restructure the LACC, thus, helping the organization prosper in the near future.

2.2.3 Mission

The Latin American Chamber of Commerce has been fragmented and disorganized for the last several years. With several managerial changes and new employees, the organization is having difficulty developing a strategy and improving their business. We seek to help the LACC develop a strategy, and in so doing provide important data in their efforts to restructure and build the LACC into a superior competitor in its markets.

2.3. Latin American Chamber of Commerce Overview

The LACC was founded in 1976 by eighteen small businesses in an effort to provide minority business assistance to the small businesses in the community. Since then, the LACC has grown to offer many services to anyone seeking assistance. Currently they offer the following services:

- Business Financing: Writing loan packages and obtaining financing for its clients
- Contract Procurement: Preparing MBE/WBE certification packages and assisting companies in obtaining contracts with government agencies and prime contractors
- General Business Consulting: Assisting clients in all aspects of business development from writing business plans to formulating marketing strategies.
- Management Development: Providing specialized training to upgrade the expertise of business management.

Today the LACC operates under four government contracts. Each contract provides funding to the LACC for the services that they offer for their clients. The contracts are as follows:

- US Department of Commerce Established Chicago Minority Business Development Center
- City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) Small Business Development Center
- Minority Business Opportunity Committee (MBOC)

2.3.1 Latin American Chamber of Commerce Board Members

The board of directors consists of the following members:

CHAIR

D. Lorenzo Padron	President LatiAmer General Corporation
C O-CHAIR Antonio Guillen	Senior Vice President, Commercial Loan Department, Cosmopolitan Bank and Trust
FREASURER Bennett Santana	President, Business Systems of America
SECRETARY Gabriel Hostalet	President, Kingston Plastic Co.
Frank Kross Claudio Montoya Hans W. Bonner Preston Harris, Jr.	President, Labe Federal Bank Business Development Officer, Banco Popular Senior Vice President, Latin American Chamber of Commerce President, Boaz Fine Carpentry, Inc.

Margarita Morales	Financial Control Manager, A Lakin General Corp
T. Frank Sasco	President, Re/Max Casablanca
Maria Santiago	Assistant Vice President, LaSalle Bank

3.1.2 Latin American Chamber of Commerce Employees

The LACC currently employs the following people:

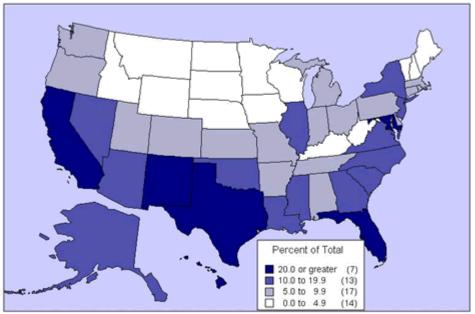
Carlos A. Bernal	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
Hans W. Bonner	Senior Procurement Consultant, Project Director
Gregory I. Bula	Business Consultant
Julieta Oliveros	Business Consultant
Jennifer Wittman	Business Consultant
Omar Elmusa	Financial Consultant
Carlos Malano	Financial Consultant
Dwain K. Speese	Financial Consultant
Terrance Wordlaw	Marketing Consultant
Marcial Garibay	Marketing Consultant
Josephine Ocampo	MBE/WBE Certifications Specialist

2.3.4 Minority Business Overview in Illinois

The target market for the Latin American Chamber of Commerce is small and medium sized companies, of which is primarily composed of minority businesses. The information presented shows the potential market that validates the need for the services offered by the chamber. A breakdown of the number of minority businesses is presented at the national, state, and city level to emphasize the growing and wide-spread need for services targeting this market. The chamber has previously had success in the Chicagoland area and it is expected to continue as there is no shortage of customers.

The following figure shows the percent of minority-owned firms at a state level. In Illinois, the number is roughly 10-20% of all firms. This is a growing market that has previously been shown to be under-tapped, giving the LACC a large potential market. If the chamber can effectively communicate its value bundle to customers and improve internal operations, then the it can grow to become an extremely popular and a well-respected organization serving the community.

Minority-Owned Firms as a Percent of Total Firms in State: 1997



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Minority and Woman Owned Businesses in Illinois

	All firms			Firms with paid employe			
Group	<u>Firms</u> (number)	Sales and Receipts (\$1,000)	<u>Firms</u> (number)	Sales and Receipts (\$1,000)	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Payroll</u> (\$1,000)	
Universe (All Firms)	882,053	993,116,732	240,024	965,260,429	4,994,344	155,799,469	
Total minorities	110,340	23,997,470	23,687	21,602,327	191,442	4,724,731	
Black	41,244	3,913,240	3,747	3,253,027	35,034	787,773	
<u>Hispanic</u>	31,010	4,814,853	6,320	4,173,772	71,692	1,551,678	
<u>Cuban</u>	1,341	293,940	275	278,030	1,723	50,143	
<u>Mexican, Mexican</u> <u>American, Chicano</u>	15,584	2,471,682	3,996	2,169,958	44,012	698,027	
Puerto Rican	2,636	203,897	407	146,958	1,704	37,483	
Spaniard	1,014	210,537	153	186,778	1,571	40,803	
Hispanic Latin American	5,274	1,180,151	1,098	1,018,359	19,550	632,471	
<u>Other</u> Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	5,162	454,646	393	373,690	3,133	92,751	

D Withheld to avoid disclosure; **N** Not available; **S** Withheld because data do not meet publication standards;

Source: <u>1997 Economic Census</u>: <u>Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises</u>

Group	All firms	Firms with paid employees

	<u>Firms</u> (number)	Sales and Receipts (\$1,000)	<u>Firms</u> number)	<u>Sales and</u> <u>Receipts</u> (\$1,000)	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Payroll (\$1,000)</u>	
American Indian and <u>Alaska Natives</u>	3,945	664,108	650	570,584	4,879	137,517	
<u>Asian and Pacific</u> <u>Islander</u>	36,857	14,727,553	13,205	13,679,250	80,589	2,262,178	
Asian Indian	10,967	3,929,883	4,363	3,558,181	26,477	792,349	
<u>Chinese</u>	6,005	5,154,597	3,102	5,022,152	20,909	530,582	
<u>Filipino</u>	4,219	552,097	594	467,525	3,192	106,647	
<u>Japanese</u>	1,867	1,835,961	713	1,801,234	6,455	185,690	
<u>Korean</u>	7,946	1,714,358	3,187	1,454,048	13,568	255,282	
<u>Vietnamese</u>	1,412	117,903	228	D	500 to 999	D	
Other Asian	3,877	1,375,929	977	1,263,136	8,991	366,859	
<u>Hawaiian</u>	458	D	30	D	0 to 19	D	
<u>Other Pacific</u> Islander	107	D	12	D	250 to 499	D	
<u>Women</u>	239,725	44,273,464	39,584	40,125,169	392,569	9,044,388	
D Withheld to avoid disclosure; N Not available; S Withheld because data do not meet publication							

standards:

Source: 1997 Economic Census: Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises

The figure above shows the breakdown of minority- and women-owned businesses in the state, and below in the Chicagoland area. As there are no other organizations offering the same array of services, there is potential for the chamber to increasing its number of strategic partners or adding service locations. This would allow the LACC to offer its services to a larger set of the community.

All firms Firms with paid employees Sales and Sales and Group **Firms Firms Receipts** Employees **Receipts** (number) (\$1,000) (number) (\$1,000)(\$1,000) Universe (All Firms) 176,605 212,939,424 47,756 206,409,580 1,110,656 40,836,164 **Total minorities** 47,091 7,941,284 9,003 7,081,779 68,808 1,536,158 2,071,103 **Black** 23,576 2,452,633 2,186 24,815 570,686 **Hispanic** 12,602 1,818,658 2,743 1,578,168 19,450 304,188 American Indian and 48,973 537 40 29,703 227 **Alaska Natives** Asian and Pacific 11,576 3,672,772 4,149 3,426,770 24,476 656,897 Islander 47,720 8,923,772 7,302 8,041,507 79,475 2,207,457 <u>Women</u>

Minority and Woman Owned Businesses in Chicago IL

Source: 1997 Economic Census: Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises

Payroll

9,017

3. Team Overview

3.1. Faculty Mentor

David Pistrui

Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Management in the Stuart Graduate School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology

Education

Ph.D. in Small Business Management, Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (Spain)Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Bucharest, (Romania)M.A., DePaul UniversityB.A. in Marketing and Economics, Western Michigan University

Dr. Pistrui is an active researcher focusing on the growth and societal impact of entrepreneurship and family business. He is the co-author of groundbreaking work including, *Growth Intentions* and Expansion Plans of New Entrepreneurs in the Former Soviet Bloc (Ashgate, 1997), *Characteristics and Attributes Of New Chinese Entrepreneurs and Their Enterprises*, (Business Forum, August 2001), Entrepreneurship in the new Germany, (Ashgate, 2002), and A Millennium Perspective On Family Business Research, (Family Business Review, 2002-03).

Dr. Pistrui has held a number of scholarly appointments in the US and Europe. Currently Dr. Pistrui serves as a Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Management in the Stuart Graduate School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He served as the founding Managing Director of the Wharton Enterprising Families Initiative, in the Wharton School, at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition Dr. Pistrui held the Raymond Chair in Family Business, and served as the founding Director of the Center for Family Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership at Alfred University (Alfred, NY).

Dr. Pistrui served on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and was Vice President, of the Family Firm Institute (Boston, MA, 1998-2001). He served as Program Chair, for the Family Firm Institute 2000 Annual Conference (Washington, DC). He is Book Review Editor and has served as Special Issue Co-Editor of *Family Business Review*. Dr. Pistrui appears frequently on TV and radio programs. He often provides commentary to business publications and the popular press having appeared in CNNfn, INC. Magazine, Chicago Tribune, Rochester Business Journal, Buffalo Business First, the Illinois Entertainer and Screen.

Dr. Pistrui is active in both private consultation and the public education of stakeholders in family and closely held corporations. With over 19 years of experience working with large and small family and closely held businesses around the world Dr. Pistrui has developed a series of solution based tools and techniques focused on identifying, developing, and assessing strategic growth opportunities. Dr. Pistrui develops both general business management tools as well as special programs focused on specific issues confronting family and closely held businesses.

Source: Strategic Management System Business Plan, IPRO 327&357, IIT Entrepreneurs Association, Spring 2003

3.2. Team Leadership

It was agreed upon that the idea of casting members into positions such as team leader, spokesperson, and secretary did not make a difference in the performance of its members. In fact, it simply provided titles for bragging rights and tension within the group. For such a small team with a clear and obtainable objective, a democratic model was chosen instead. In this model, the team members will discuss any issues in dispute and if a decision cannot be made Professor Pistrui will be sought for guidance and a final decision.

This choice was made for the following reasons. This is largely because originally the workgroup was part of larger module, where a captain was chosen for both workgroups and the module. However, a module captain turned out not to be needed due to the distinctly different focuses and that with such small workgroups the leader only made sure people began the processes of working. It soon became evident that each member was more then willing to work and push each other and thus a leader was in title only. With the dissolving of the sister workgroup (LBL Strategies), the workgroup and module became one. This decision safely calmed fears of tension arising over a title, showed the trust and commitment that the members have for each other, and allowed for focusing on the set objectives. The team will rely upon prodding each other, evenly dispersing the load and learning experience, and a high level of communication.

The team regularly discusses over group email, instant messaging, phone, and face-to-face meetings. The integration of the most recent team member has been flawless and the tasks have naturally been subdivided, with members stepping up to take on deliverables. The democratic structure lends well to a four-man group.

3.3. Team Member's Background Information

Jose Apolinar

Jose Apolinar is currently a senior at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He will receive his bachelors in Computer Science this coming fall. He has job experience in the areas of networking and customer service. He was involved in a computer equipment migration at CNA insurance for one year. He was responsible for setting up new machines, replacing servers and providing technical support to the users. He is taking this ENPRO to gain general business experience. His other goal is to extend his communication skills by working with the Latin American Chamber of Commerce.

Yan Bolotin

Yan Bolotin is a junior at the Illinois Institute of Technology and will be graduating in Spring 2004 with a Bachelors in Computer Science. Over the last several years he has held several jobs in many markets such as sales, car sales, network management, web design, construction, and currently owns and operates a cellular phone distribution and wholesale company. The purpose of taking this ENPRO course is to attain more knowledge of business operations and gain experience working with companies in different markets.

Raul Cancino

Raul Cancino-Alvarezwas was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. He attended the University of Guanajuato and majored in Chemical Engineering. He worked for nine years in the textile Industry as a QA Technician. For the last nine months he has been working at Vegetable juices, Inc. as a QA Inspector. Currently, Raul is enrolled at Illinois Institute of Technology and he is majoring in Engineering Management. He is taking this ENPRO to gain experience in the management field.

Ben Manes

Ben Manes is an undergraduate student at the Illinois Institute of Technology pursuing a Bachelors in Computer Engineering and a Bachelors in Computer Science. He will graduate in December of 2003 and earn a Masters in Computer Engineering in May of 2004 from IIT's graduate school. He is also a brother of the Armour Chapter of Triangle, where he holds the position of Internal Chair. In the Spring of 2003, he worked with the first ENPRO team in developing the business plan for the Strategic Management System. His interests include software design, aspect-oriented programming, microprocessor architecture, project management, and strategic management. He is taking this ENPRO to skills at networking and strategic development.

3.4. Contact Information



4. Objectives, Milestones, & Expected Results

4.1 General Research Question

Can the Strategic Management System be implemented and used with the Latin American Chamber of Commerce to produce an effective strategy map and provide the LACC with a solid strategy solution upon which they can restructure the organization?

4.2 Specific Research Question

- Can the Strategic Management System be used to create a comprehensive strategy assessment report?
- Can the Strategic Management System along be used to in a successfully in a revenue model?
- > Can the Strategic Management System be used to aid non-profit organizations?

4.3 Objectives

- Work with LACC consulting staff and the SMS software to create a detailed strategy map and assessment report.
- Work with LACC consulting staff to develop an applied business revenue model for the SMS software in the not-for-profit chambers of commerce consulting context.
- Work with LACC consulting staff to produce a strategic assessment & development report.

4.4 Secondary Objectives

- > Receive feedback from LACC regarding the SMS software.
- > Develop raw data that can be later used in the creation of a case study.

4.5 Deliverables

- > Team Project Work Plan due by Thursday June 19, 2003
- Midterm Progress Report & Oral Presentation by Thursday June 26, 2003
- Final Project Report and presentation consisting of: strategy map, strategic assessment report, applied business revenue model, and development report due by July 23, 2003

4.6 Assumptions

- The LACC is lacking a strategy
- > The LACC employees will cooperate during the interview process
- The LACC will benefit from the increased communication and understanding of the organization.

5. Project Progress

5.1. Activity Schedule

Date	Activities	Outputs & Deliverables	Responsible Group Members	Expected time of task	Actual Time
6/11/03	Meet with Dwain Speese	Get background on LACC and schedule next meeting	All	2 hours	2.6hrs
6/13/03	Meet with LACC and begin interviews of employees (interviews unknown) (All team members, 9am at LACC offices)	Begin to answer questions from the SMS software	All	4 hours	4.5hrs
6/13/03	Schedule next meeting with LACC to continue interviewing employees Complete project work plan	Completed project work plan due	YB, JA	1 hour	.5hr
6/15/03	Meet at 3pm to gather information from interviews and begin working with SMS	Begin to answer questions in SMS	RC	2 hours	1.5hrs
6/16/03	Receive project work plans back and work on second revision in class	Complete rewrite of project work plans due 6/19/03	YB, JA	2 hours	2.5hrs
6/17/03	Second meeting with LACC 9am (Jose & Yan) 3pm (Raul) 12pm (Jose & Yan) Contract Overview with Carlos Burnal	Complete first interviews with employees	All	5 hours total for both groups	6hrs
6/18/03	Meet at 10pm to complete revision of Project work plan	Completed Project work plan due 6/19/03		1 hour	.25hr
6/19/03 6/23/03	Submit Revised Project Work Plan Work on midterm progress reports Conduct Research on BSC for non profit	Draft written report and presentation	All YB	3 hours	2.5hrs
6/24/03	Meet with Dwain Speese to work on Applied Business Revenue Model	Begin Revenue Model Report	All	2 hours	N/A*** (Dwain did not show up)
6/25/03	Finalize Midterm Written Report Research Revenue Model	Reports due 6/27/03	YB, JA BM	3-7 hours	4hrs
6/26/03	Meet with LACC and conduct second interview of several employees 9am Jose and Yan 4pm Raul and Ben	Compile all interview data and complete SMS	All	4 hours	2hrs
6/27/03	Compile and finalize midterm report and project plan	Midterm Report and 3 rd revision of project plan	JA, BM, YB	5-7 hours	10hrs

5.2. Problems Identified

Several problems were identified while interviewing employees from the Latin American Chamber of Commerce. These observations, documents obtained, and the information provided by the employees has helped to identify six key problems.

5.2.1. Environmental Problems

The atmosphere is very cramped with little room in each office and offices are being shared by two or more employees. This decreases the level of privacy and security to clients and is not very pleasant for employees and customers to be operating in such an environment. The phone system is outdated and causes some communication problems between employees, and the furniture is also old and in poor condition.

The LACC office does contain a security system that has motion detectors along the hallway as well as door and window sensors for the front and back doors. Still, a security issue exists within the offices. The filing cabinets do not contain any locks meaning that confidential documents and data can be easily accessed by anyone. The office needs a makeover or at the very least to be painted and cleaned. All these elements are not very pleasing to both employees and clients that work with the LACC.

5.2.2. Mission and Vision

As employees at the LACC were being interviewed, it was discovered that many of the employees are unaware of the vision and mission of the organization. Each has a different idea of what the mission and vision is, some choosing to state the mission from the outdated mission plaque in the lobby while others focus on their specific job. The root of this problem arises from the lack of leadership in the LACC who must make the mission and vision known to everyone.

5.2.3. Communication Problems

Even though many of the employees at the LACC do their job well, there are communication problems that arise between employees and managers. In one instance, it was witnessed that managers respond rather rudely to the employees. It is obvious that employees do not enjoy working in this type of environment.

As for the employees, many do not see the LACC as a whole. They are excessively focused on their individual job and task at hand, forget why the LACC exists. For example, if a client comes in to receive consulting services about starting a new business, the consultant should not only help the client start the business, but inform and offer him all the services that the LACC has. This would provide the client with a complete business solution as well as drive personal and company revenue through paid services such as accounting, financial planning, and business plan preparation. The value bundle is where management sees the LACC increasing revenue, but has failed to adequately communicate this to employees.

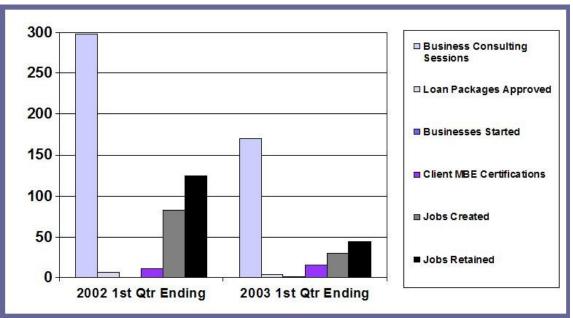
5.2.4. Lack of Motivation and Inexperience

The majority of the employees that work at LACC have years of experience in a specific field, but may be required to work in other areas. This causes problems in productivity and efficiency throughout the organization. In order to hire highly trained and qualified employees, the LACC would have to offer better salaries and benefits. These are perhaps major reasons for the lack of motivation that exists within the LACC. Many employees are not greatly satisfied by their salaries, but the fact that there are no bonuses for extraordinary effort and no extra pay for employees who work overtime, leads to a lack of motivation.

There is also a failure to properly train employees. When a new hire is made, there is no orientation processes, but rather he is handed tasks to complete. The management is afraid of providing additional training to personnel, as those employees may decide to move onto greener pastors. This causes staff to fail to communicate with clients, effectively do their job, and hurts motivation due to the chaotic nature of the chamber.

5.2.5. Productivity decline

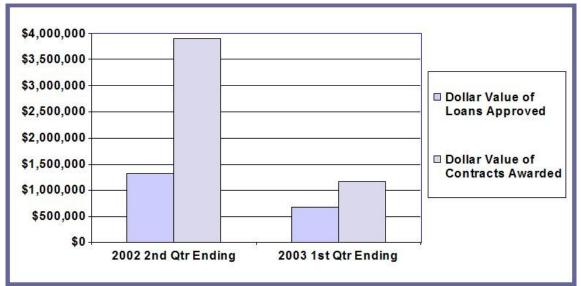
The following figure illustrates that the LACC has lost significant numbers in almost all of the categories of services and benefits they provide. Their consulting sessions have dropped from 298 to 170 in the past year, a 47% decrease! Jobs retained have similarly dropped from 125 to 44, a 65% decrease. This has sparked the fear that the LACC is in serious trouble and needs to refocus on its strategy to help them back on their feet.



Source: Latin American Chamber of Commerce "In Real Terms"

5.2.6. Financial Decline

This figure shows that the dollar value of the total contracts has been dropping in value. The dollar value of the contracts awarded in 2002 was almost 4 million compared to this year's 1.1 million. This is an approximate a third, and is a significant blow to the organization because the majority of expenses and salaries are paid by these contracts.



Source: Latin American Chamber of Commerce "In Real Terms"

5.3. Strategy Map

A substantial amount of information was gathered from the interviews conducted at the LACC and documents provided by their staff. This was the foundation for the construction of the strategy map for the LACC and provides a broad overview of the organization with many different views from various members.

While there have been successes at gathering information, it is still inadequate for a an extremely detailed and complete strategy map. The information that was provided is sometimes too general to answer specific questions in the SMS software, and the limited time granted for each interview (30 min) has become a major drawback. Time is also an issue because of the short semester and the short relationship between the LACC and the SMS teams. In addition, some important documents are restricted for confidential reasons (e.g. employee policies). These documents hold essential information that would allow considerable improvements the strategy map.

With the information so far obtained, an informative strategy map can be created and should be useful during the LACC's evaluation period. It is recommended that the LACC management take it upon themselves to furnish the strategy map with the confidential information after the committed relationship has ended.

6. Future Planned Progress

6.1. Activity Schedule

Date	Activities	Outputs & Deliverables	Responsible Group Members	Expected time of task
6/28/03	Strategy Map data entry and begin writing Assessment Report.	First draft of Strategy Map and Report	JA, BM	3-4 hours
6/30/03	Review of Strategy Map data. Modify information.	1 st Revision of Strategy Map	JA, BM	1-2 hours
7/2/03	Complete Applied Business Revenue Model 9am – Jose and Yan, meeting at LACC with all employees and Board to discuss issues	First draft of Revenue Model	JA, BM	3 hours
7/7/03	Complete first Draft of Strategic Assessment Report and Begin Development Report	Complete first draft	All	4 hours
7/9/03	Proof read First draft of Strategic Assessment Report	Second Draft of Strategic Assessment Report	YB	1 hour
7/14/03	Proof Read Strategic Assessment Report by English Department and complete Development Report	Third Draft of Strategic Assessment Report First Draft of Development Report	JA	1-2 hours
7/16/03	Work on Poster	Poster Due 7/23/03	All	3 hours
7/21/03	Assemble completed Final Report	Final Report Due	YB	1 hour
7/23/03	Submit Final Report, Web Page, Poster and Practice Presentation	Final Presentation	All	
7/24/03	IPRO DAY	Final Presentation and Poster	All	

6.2. Deliverables

The project is set to deliver a strategy map, an assessment report, and a revenue model for the Latin American Chamber of Commerce. The strategy map will be built from the interviews, LLAC publications, and interactions with the staff. The assessment report will build off of the strategy map and the employee questionnaire to outline the problems identified and what initiatives are needed to solve them. The revenue model will act as a business plan and show how to integrate the SMS software into a service the chamber can offer. It will also explain how the system will help with customers and how the chamber can gain financially by using it.

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Appendix A – Work Distribution

Group Member and Tasks	Time	Group Member and Tasks	Time
Jose Apolinar		Raul Cancino	
Interviews	6h	Interviews	6h
Presentation	3h	Meetings with LACC staff	6h
Project Plan	1h	Strategy Map	3h
Midterm Report	4h		
Meetings with LACC staff	7h		
Strategy Map	3h		
TOTAL	24h	TOTAL	15h
Yan Bolotin		Ben Manes	
Project Plan	6h	Previous time with LBL Strategies	7h
Interviews	6h	Meetings with LACC staff	3h
Midterm report	2h	Midterm Report	10h
Presentation	¹⁄₂h	Presentation	1h
Meetings with LACC staff	7h	Project Plan	2h
-		Strategy Map	3h
TOTAL	21½h	TOTAL	26h

Appendix B – LLAC Questionnaire

The questions below were provided by LACC management for a better idea of employee satisfaction and mentality.

- 1. What do you believe is the core mission of the chamber?
- 2. How do you view LACC's current mix of products and services?
- 3. What other services do you think LACC be offering?
- 4. Do you have the appropriate tools to do your job (e.g. computer software, hardware, etc)?
- 5. What kind of benefits does LACC need to offer for you to be more satisfied in what you do?
- 6. Do you know of other firms in Chicago that do specifically what LACC does?
- 7. Please describe your background that makes you able to do your job (e.g. previous experience, education)?
- 8. Where do you see yourself 3 years from now?
- 9. Where do you see LACC in 3 years from now?
- 10. What do you see as the target market?
- 11. How flexible are you at providing additional work for the chamber?
- 12. How comfortable are you in following given tasks?
- 13. Are you an independently worker? If, yes or no, explain why.

Appendix C – Draft Strategy Map

VISION

Employee A (Financial Consultant): The Mission is to provide services to minorities some of these services include: starting their businesses obtaining a greater market share helping them obtain more funding providing them with business certifications

Employee B(CFO): The Mission is to provide as many possible managerial services to minority businesses.

Employee C(senior consultant): To develop more outside businesses than rely on government contracts. To see LACC see as a business consulting group that is not specialized in one group only

Employee D(Procurement):

1st: The mission of the LACC is to help minority companies in their business by providing them with the necessary assistance and advise to help them succeed. This include financial, management, marketing, and accounting assistance. Also included are assistance with minority certification in order to help LACC members to increase their opportunity in obtaining government contracts (procurement). 2nd: Help minorities in loans, financing and maintaining business

Employee E(Business Consultant):

1st: The mission of LACC is to work with the Government to find business opportunities for small businesses.

2nd: To provide assistance to minority & women businesses

Employee F(Business Consultant, SBDC): Vision: To satisfy the contracts

Employee G(Marketing consultant & procurement) Vision: Continue with working with Minority Businesses. Improve on the weaknesses of LACC

Employee H(MBE/WBE Certification Specialist) Vision: Treat everyone equally. Assist Business owners by providing information and direction.

Employee I(Financing consultant) 2nd: New, believes it is to provide consulting services to members and non-members.

Employee J(Financing consultant) 2nd: Provide technical assistance to a new companies and promote businesses for all minorities, not just Hispanic.

STRATEGY			
Strategy Analysis	Strategy Planning	Operation	Support Strategy
Sources Of Value	Managing Information	Enacting Strategy	Control
Concept	Technologies	Strategy Marketing	<u>Financing</u>
Current Customer	1. Listing of members and	How services are	
ü Minority Businesses,	what they do	currently marketed:	Compliance
mainly Hispanic	2. Tech tools on web related to SBA/SBDC		Employee D:
ü Small to medium	3. All financial tools	Employee A:	-Monthly Audits
sized businesses	4. Direct calls to city		-Weekly Audits
ü Big construction companies	department heads and	 different events 	-daily forms filling
companies	resources	 college events 	
Contracts working under		 Latino 	The LACC must be compliant with IRS in
Business Finances	Sufficient technologies to	business	paying payroll and other
Writing loan packages	provide services?	opportunity	taxes. LACC is under a
and obtaining financing		fair	501C6 IRS tax filing
for its business clients.	Employee A:	How oon markating of	status for non profit trade
ü Loan Placementü U.S. Small Business		How can marketing of services be improved:	association. In the past,
Administration (SBA)	 There are enough 	services be improved.	they had problems
Loan Guaranties	computers	Employee A:	complying with the IRS.
ü Surety Bonds and	 More sources are 	Employee A.	For several years, the previous accountant
Business Insurance -	needed for industry trends	 calling of clients 	avoided paying payroll
Surety Bonds	 Presentations need to 	should be more	taxes. This problem was
- Business Insurance	be enhanced	frequent	resolved by hiring a
- Specialty Insurance	 Templates are 	 customers need to 	payroll service. The
- Health Insurance ü Financial Planning	26 years old	be better informed of	LACC must also comply
and Investment	There are better	the services	with their four contracts.
	products out there to	provided	Each contract has a very
Certification	use	 financing needs to 	specific set of rules which must be followed
Preparing MBE/WBE		be marketed stronger	as well as a specific
certification packages		Stionger	budget. Quarterly reports
ü MBE/WBE		Employee D:	must be submitted to the
Certification Packages	Employee D:	-Phone calls	appropriate government
Contracts	-Direct access to the city resources.	-Memberships	agency. A mid year
Procurement	-Web tools	-Advertisements	review is done by the
Assisting companies in	-Quick Books used by the	-Direct forums with the	agency and each contract must be
obtaining contracts with	controller	community	reviewed and renewed
government agencies	Needs: analyzing data for	-Web site	annually.
and prime contractors.	loans	-Banks relationships -Mail	Authorization
ü Bid Matching			Financial data is
Program ü Business Referrals	Employee I:	Employee G:	protected on a computer
ü Plans Room	-All needs met	-Phone calls	with only the CFO having
ü Contract Disputes	Energia de la	-Marketing letters on	access to the computer
ü Contract	Employee J: -Analytical software:	loans need to pushed	and then the financial
Procurement Round	Finance, Projection,	-more mailing	data file. Employee files and other important data
Tables	Marketing	-More events	is located in CFO office,
ü Monthly Business	-more space	Packaging Options	which is locked when he
Luncheons	-better furniture	Products	is not present, but the

General Business	Understanding Markets &		office is shared with
Consulting	Customers	Services	another employee. The
Assisting clients in all	Employee A:	Employee D:	filing cabinets do not
aspects of business		-Loan Packaging	have locks. First step to
development from writing	There is a high demand for		control of information
business plans to	procurement but not	-US SBA Loan	and security would be to
formulating marketing	enough help	Guarantees	replace all filing cabinets.
strategies.	5	-Community Express	Administration
ü Business Plan	Employee D:	Loan Programs	Regular employees do
Development	There is no restrictions in	-Greater Humbuldt Park	not directly report
ü Strategic Marketing	provide services to the all	Micro Loan Program	anything to
Plans	population, but the focus is	-MBE/WBE Certification	management. Each
ü Demographic	in the minority sector that	Packages	employee is responsible
Research	most of the time has no	-Bid Matching Program	for reporting to the
	resources to hire a private	-Business Referrals	government agency
Management	consultant.	-Plan Room	(requirements of the
Development		-Contract Disputes	contracts) with regards
Providing specialized	Employee E:	-Surety Bonds	to their job. Some
training to upgrade the	Employee F: Clients who need help are	-Business Insurance	employees must report
expertise of business		-Specialty Insurance	about every client they
management.	being helped with whatever	-Health Insurance	have seen, others must
ü Community Express	they need. Many clients are minorities and are	-Computerized	report number of
Loan Program	looking for advise and	Accounting System	certifications, etc. There
ü Greater Humboldt	information on owning and	-Financial Reporting	is a monthly board
Park Micro Loan	operating a business. The	-New Incorporations	member meeting with
Program	advise and services they	-Bookkeeping	the management. The
	need are being offered by	-Trucking Companies	management must
Small/Medium-sized	LACC through the	Services	provide to the board
businesses	government contracts.	-Organization of	members: Monthly
ü Solutions offered	government contracts.	customized Training	income statement
required under contracts			Balance sheet Accounts
(see above) ü Accountant Services	Employee G: -Customers need technical	Employee G:	Payables Accounts
Computerized	assistance.	-Loan Packaging	Receivables
•		-accounting services	Evaluation
Accounting Systems -Financial Reporting	Strategic Analysis &	-MBE/WBE Certification	Each department of the
-New Incorporations	Planning	Packages	LACC has a Policy and
-Bookkeeping		-Business planning	Procedures Manual.
-Trucking Companies	Strategic Human	marketing	Manuals are fairly large,
Services	Resource Management	Programs	several hundred pages.
ü Web Page Design	Benefits that should be	Current Marketing	Each group must meet
and Maintenance / IT	offered:	Programs	quarterly to review and
Consulting		Employee G: -Events	revise policies. When
-Web Design Strategy,	Employee A:	-College Events	issues with policies
Design, Development		-Direct calling of clients	arise, the policy needs to
and Maintenance	 Retirement plans 	-Referrals by banks and	be revised. According to
-(I.T.) Computer and		government agencies	policy, employees must
System Consulting	Employee B:	Processes	conduct peer reviews
cycloni conodiing	Employee B:		quarterly. This has never
		Employee G:	been done. Currently the
Employee D:	 salaries are too low 	-Events in colleges.	management sees the
-Small and medium-	 optical insurance 	-Trades shows.	goals and strategy of the
sized minority business -Subcontract in the	would be nice	-direct calling of clients.	organization, but
	 retirement planning 	Projects	employees do not.
redevelopment project of Soldier Field,			Management must first
			introduce these goals

		Future Core	and strategies to the
Overseeing that		<u>Competencies</u>	employees and then
renovation complied with		Employee A:	ensure that they are
the city of Chicago	Employee D:	Better benefits must be	being executed and
regulation of 25%	There are two key	provided to the	understood.
contracts to minority	components to hire a	customers	Board Of Directors
business.	employee of LACC:		
-IDOTM	-Education	Employee D:	Government Local &
-US SBA Loan	-Experience	-Prepare bid package	Global
Guarantees	Salaries are fine	r repare sia paokage	
-Greater Humboldt Park	Improve incurrence		
Micro Loan Program	benefits	Employee E:	Stakeholders & Others
-Government Contracts	benenits	LACC is currently only	Employee D:
		focused on Chicago.	-Employees
	Employee E:	-Should look to other	-Members
Employee E:	Benefits are good, but	cities in Midwest.	-Federal Government
-Mostly Construction	salaries are low and should	-Try to attain government	-Customers
businesses who are	be approximately 20%	contracts in other cities.	-Board Members
looking for work under	better.	-Partner with other	
government contracts.	Retirement Plan: 401k	chambers of commerce.	
-Minority businesses:		-Networking services	
startups, small	Employee I:	(e.g. roundtables) should	
companies	Independent contractor ->	be more aggressive	
	doesn't get any		
Employee F:	People seem to want	Employee G:	
Current Customers:	retirement benefits	-Marketing needs to be	
-30% Businesses	retrement benefits	expanded	
(Mostly Construction)		expanded	
-70% Consumers	Employee J:		
(looking for information,	Increase salary	Employee I:	
starting new business,	Retirement benefits	-Publicize value bundle	
restaurants.	Strategic Human		
	Resource Planning	<u>Employee J:</u>	
	Key managers and	-strengthen loan	
Employee G:	professionals that must be	(consistency and	
Current Customers:	hired and trained	financial consulting)	
-Mostly minority		-market tax credits for	
construction businesses	Employee A:	low income housing	
-small companies in	Employee A:	-strengthen accounting	
general		(now only write-ups)	
	 3-5 years experience 	-add marketing	
Employee I:	in all areas	consulting on industry by	
-Mainly minority market	 more procurement help 	industry basis	
-Bridge between	 more training for all 	-add statistical analysis	
Anglo/Minority market	areas	to census	
		-daily accounting	
Employee	Employee E:	-strategic management	
Employee J: Minority businesses	Current management is		
Minority businesses: -	sufficient	Future Distinctive	
1/2-10 million		<u>Competencies</u>	
-not necessarily startups	There are no orientation		
Potential Customer	procedures	Value Bundle Creation	
Possible list of potential	No training at all provided	Employee D:	
customers	Better schedules: 9am-	Once a services is sold	
	5:30pm w/ 30min lunch as	to a customer, the	
1. Non-minority and	can't do anything from 5-	employee must offer and	
. Non-minority and	6pm due to closed	explain the variety of	
		company the vallety of	

) [
		services that LACC can	
other minorities	agencies.	provided	
 Other minority groups Indian communality Arab and Asian communality Startup/emerging 	Knowledge Management Organizational Knowledge Employee D: Board of Directors 1 LACC Consultants 2 Authorizations	Employee E: Many of the services offered by LACC can be linked together. When clients come in to be certified, help them find bid opportunities, then offer bonding, insurance and loans.	
business (non minority)		Enabling Strategy	
3. Big Corporations		Sources Of Technology	
		Creation (R&D)	
Proof small businesses don't have good: -capital -management -time		Employee D: Business Planning & Strategic Development Module Latin America Chamber of Commerce Migration Employee D: No	
Solve these through		Convergence	
advising & consulting. These companies don't have the money and are understaffed to solve these problems.		Employee D: No Supplier Employee D: IIT/Stuart Graduate School of Business	
Employee D: -Any non-minority business -Private services for the community		Alliances Employee D: IIT/Stuart Graduate School of Business	
Employee E: -Service based businesses such as security and cleaning. -Restaurant and other food businesses LACC should do more networking among businesses to attract new clients			
Employee F: Potential customers could be technology oriented businesses, but currently LACC does not			

have much advice to offer in regards to technology. <u>Employee G:</u> Potential customers could be anyone in the Chicago area. <u>Employee H:</u> Bankers, technology related businesses, lawyers and anyone looking to be certified as a minority business.		
Employee J: \$50-70 million companies Competitors Others trying to get contracts Other available resources: ü consultants ü accountants ü lawyers ü insurance brokers ü CPAs ü banks ü themselves		
<i>Other Chambers</i> ü Mexican-American ü Chicago-land		
How are competitors meeting the needs of the customers? They focus on specific services such as:		
 Procurements certifications contracts 		
It is a possible reason why they do it so well in contrast to LACC.		
Employee D: -Other bidding for contracts -Banks -CPAs -Consultants -Woman Business		

Development Chamber -Cubin-American chamber The weakness of the competitors is that they offer only one type of service, which made them a the same time specialist in that service.		
<u>Employee E:</u> -Chambers		
Employee F: There are no competitors because LACC offers free services where others will charges for the same. Employee G: Other Chambers are competitors.		
Employee I: Hispanic: none offer the same array of services Other: Chicagoland chamber of commerce offers similar set at a larger scale, but doesn't offer certificates due to nature of members (not needed).		
Employee J: -Other chambers -Banks -CPAs -certificates But these only offer part of our services Internal R&D Ioan: keyman insurance partner		
Additional Programs ü consulting to small businesses - planning objectives ü determine other needs & packages with current services		

Employee D: There is not a designed R&D depart., but the employees of LACC must find the best way to serve the client, also monthly luncheons, and round tables. External R&D 1. Census Burrow 2. Internet websites (SBA, MBDA) 3. Advertisements in public resources	
Employee D: -Illinois Institute of Technology / Stuart Graduate School of business: Strategic Management Group, implementing SMS -Census Burrow -Public specialized Research. -Easy Maps Alliances Employee D: Information Technology Consulting	
SWOT Analysis	
Current Core Competencies ü Financial Advice ü Loan Packager ü Procurement specialist	
Employee D: Marketing analysis Loan Packages Procurement Certifications -No benchmarked against any other company	
Employee E: Satisfying the contracts and helping clients	
Employee F:	

Business Opportunities Helping new businesses start up		
Employee G: A strength of LACC is the variety of services offered		
Current Distinctive Activities that are done better than competitors		
Employee A:		
Financing and procurement		
Employee B:		
What makes LACC unique is that it offers a good variety of services. LACC could, however provide more services but right now they are limited because of their budget.		
Activities that must be performed well:		
Employee A:		
 Marketing overall services more employees to help doing more certifications 		
Employee D: Certifications Procurement		
Current Demand Drivers 1. Assistance 2. Review of business 3. Services (certification,		
membership,) 4. Direct Marketing		

Customer needs:		
Employee A:		
 Financing information about starting a business 		
Employee D: -The fact that many services are concentrates in one location.		
Employee E: -Clients come to LACC looking to get bids for contracts.		
Employee F: -Clients come to LACC looking for advise and help with startup or existing business.		
Employee G: -Customers need technical assistance Current Market Position Thoughts on current market position:		
Employee A:		
LACC is in the top 10% for market share		
Employee G:		
Is not aware of the current market position		

PROCESS	OBJECTIVE	MEASURES
	Strategic Outcome	Optimized ROE & Valuation
	Sustainable Advantage Competitive	
	Long Term Market Dominance	
	Multiple Cash Flow	