

ARUA 2023 Biennial International Conference – University of Lagos

Tech and Teams: The Promise of Webinars and Global Classrooms

Russell Ganim

Technology and Changing Higher Education Practice: Our Response

- Proud and grateful to be invited
- Iowa's commitment to research partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Many existing collaborations with African institutions
- Health sciences, business, law, education, language and literature
- Iowa is a comprehensive Research 1 institution

Faculty Connections

- Developing relationships between faculty at both institutions
- Inclusion of graduate and professional students is crucial
- Initial investment by institutions; sustainability assured by external grant funding (governments, central banks, private foundations)
- Tech an efficient and economical way to build connections

Speed Networking (1)

- Iowa Global Health Network and Vice President for Research
- Groups of 12-14 faculty (6-7 from each institution)
- 5-7 minute conversations: exploration of common interests
- Examples from Iowa: Responses to Covid—American U of Beirut
- Social Determinants of Health—U of Johannesburg

Speed Networking (2)

- Everyone talks to everyone
- 60-90 minutes of breakout rooms
- Debrief and synthesis
- Interdisciplinarity emphasized
- Creation of research teams
- Follow up—project outlines and development

Outcomes—Speed Networking (3)

- Faculty get to know each other
- Stimulating environment
- Action items required
- Setting deadlines and goals for follow up
- Identifying internal and external sources of support

Webinars (1)

- Next step after speed networking
- Select theme and panels
- Balanced representation between institutions
- Ideally, panel would consist of faculty and graduate students
- Pre-webinar to outline research questions and guide discussion

Webinars (2)

- Get administrative support (Deans, VPs)
- Marketing and advertising essential
- International panels always bring larger audiences
- Webinar consists of short presentations followed by Q & A from audience
- Goal is to raise awareness and maximize participation

Global Classrooms (1)

- Ideally, webinars can lead to global classrooms
- Global Classrooms are courses jointly designed and conducted by partner institutions
- Students take the same class and connect remotely
- Global classrooms are taught by faculty at both schools

Global Classrooms (2)

- Assignments are the same
- Format lends itself to project work
- Problem solving—in the areas of business, tech, health, communications—is often the focus
- Courses and credit approved by individual institutions

Global Classrooms (3)

- Student teams present joint projects
- Examples: app development, bringing products to market, creating communication strategies to combat misinformation
- 2-week on-site experience can conclude the course
- Students receive certificate or some kind of credential upon completion

Conclusion

- Current moment is optimal to maximize these opportunities
- Everyone accustomed to working in a hybrid format
- Initial costs are manageable
- Key is to get faculty, students, and administrators on board
- Solid, effective way to build international partnerships

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Thank you

Russell Ganim
Associate Provost and Dean
International Programs

Russell-ganim@uiowa.edu

→ uiowa.edu

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