Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships

Chair
Leonardo Villalón, University of Florida

Panelists
Sandra Russo, University of Florida
Chad Hoseth, Colorado State University
Nicola Kernaghan, Queen’s University of Belfast
Agenda

• Three Perspectives on Research Partnership Strategies and Outcomes
  • University of Florida
  • Colorado State University
  • Queen’s University of Belfast

• Designing a Strategic Road Map
  • Q&A
  • Brainstorming Strategies and Outcomes
  • Connecting Strategies and Outcomes
Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships

Sandra Russo
University of Florida
What data, what outcomes, which objectives?

• Data collection and management – where is it, who controls it?
• Why do you need the data?
• What are you reporting on and to whom?
• Which metrics do you use to address which objectives?
Research Partnerships
A broad definition

Sharing resources to support knowledge creation and dissemination. The goal of the partnership agreement is to facilitate:

• Joint conference presentations and attendance
• Joint authorship and journal submission
• Joint grant proposals
• Development of course content
401 Agreements in 81 Countries
Key Attributes

• 401 Agreements in 81 Countries
• 2/3 focused on research and other strategic partnerships
• Key partners: China, Brazil, and South Korea
Survey of UF Partnership Managers
n=60

- **70%** describe purpose as “to facilitate exchanges among faculty”
- **63%** state purpose is to facilitate joint authorship of scholarly work
- **66%** believe they have been successful in enabling exchanges among faculty
- **95%** report the agreement was worthwhile
When Research is the Purpose

- 57% joint conference presentations
- 50% developed new content for courses
- 42% joint journal submissions
- 36% joint grant proposals
- 12% joint grants awarded
Drivers

• Desire to work with colleagues in other countries
• Possibilities for publications, grant awards, exchanges, contribution to teaching
Challenges

• Moving from small grant funding to larger grant funding
• Deepening collaboration with other partners and other donors
• Legal issues
• Political climate and resource differences between the institutions
Strategies

• **Connect** faculty to funding opportunities
• **Identify** and profile faculty expertise
• **Facilitate** networks across organizational units
• **Advise** on opportunities with potential international research partners
Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships

Chad Hoseth
Colorado State University
Definitions of international research partnerships

• Research and Discovery embedded our land-grant mission

• International Research embedded in our culture – Peace Corps and USAID

• Scholarship sits alongside Research, capturing a wider range of faculty activity

• Faculty/Research sits at the foundation of our internationalization strategy

• But what gets counted, counts:
  • Tangible outcomes -- Dollar driven
  • Unfunded activity important, but maybe a smidge less important than $$
What do the data show?

My answer six years ago. Then...

• VPs of International Programs and Research stated a goal of collaboration
• Shared goals on data, funding for faculty, celebrating success, and other good stuff
• Mutual participation on each other’s leadership committees
• Collaboration on agreements and lunches
• Data collection...Global Engagement Directory
• Research provides info...initially financial flows, then dashboards, then Digital Measures
What do the data show?

Still working on it, but at this moment...

- $66M over 5+ years from 178 funders
- 22 research-centric agreements
- 9 Joint Research Institutes in China
- 50 int’l sabbaticals in last five years
- Starting to link information on visiting scholars and travel

Just a start, with hopes for the future.
What drives research partnerships?

These folks are important, but...

• Researchers drive research partnerships

• Staff and administrators should support, invest, incent, facilitate, mitigate risk, and celebrate

• I got good at my job when I realized that I work for the faculty. They do not work for me.

• Research-oriented faculty are driven by their own motivations. They will develop international and research partnerships to help achieve their goals.

• Our goal should be to help them. This can be messy, time consuming, and inefficient, but it’s the best path to generate tangible outcomes.
Challenges
Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships

Nikki Kernaghan
Queen’s University Belfast
International Partnership Definitions

• Strategic/Institutional Partnership: operates across a range of subjects

• School/Center Partnership: focused on a specific research interest

• Individual Partnership: researcher(s) working on a common project
Drivers: Institutional Vision & Strategy

A world class international university that supports outstanding students and staff, working in world class facilities, conducting leading-edge education and research, focused on the needs of society.
Drivers: Funding Agencies

- Funding: Global Challenge Research Fund; Newton Fund; Official Development Assistance
- Research Excellence Framework (REF) UK’s system for assessing the excellence of research in higher education institutions.
Databases

- Number & value of international research awards
- Faculty international activities
- Number of internationally co-authored publications
- Joint publication citations
Awards Data
# Publication Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaborating institution</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of publications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beijing University of Chemical Technology</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangdong University of Technology</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaborating institution</th>
<th>No of publication 2012-2018</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beijing University of Chemical Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meilan Huang</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Christopher Lambert</td>
<td>School of Mathematics and Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Peijun Hu, P.</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mao, Yu</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Xu, Yongtao</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yu, Shui</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Maire O'Neill</td>
<td>School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mathini Sellathurai</td>
<td>School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fei Wang</td>
<td>School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hang Fai Kwok</td>
<td>School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cian McCrudden</td>
<td>School of Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorandum of Agreement</td>
<td>2.40%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract or collaboration agreement</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your partnership is informal with no signed agreements</td>
<td>52.00%</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joint Pubs, 92
Grants Apps, 74
Curriculum, 14
Facilities, 50
Exchanges, 42
PhD Students, 26
Grant Awards, 46
No outputs, 7
Other, 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaborating institution</th>
<th>No of publications 2016</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beijing University of Chemical Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meilan Huang</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Christopher Lambert</td>
<td>School of Mathematics and Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Peijun Hu, P.</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mao, Yu</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Xu, Yongtao</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yu, Shui</td>
<td>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Maire O’Neill</td>
<td>School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mathini Sellathurai</td>
<td>School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fei Wang</td>
<td>School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**University:**
- Dalian University of Technology
- Chinese Academy of Sciences
- East China University of Science & Technology
- Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Beijing Institute of Technology
Challenges

- Academic Silos
- Lack of Consolidated Partnership Information
- Conflicting Outcomes
- Disparate Data Sources
- Lack of Assessment
- Data Integrity
Discussion and Q&A session
Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships

Strategic Mapping

Key questions

• How to measure outcomes in resource limited settings?
• Examples of initiatives that have come out of the data collection experience?
• Examples of getting Arts/Humanities experiences to “count”?
• Have we been able to measure the impact of the contract versus the non-contract (agreement) partnerships?
• How do we convert faculty activity forward beyond to something more substantive
• How do develop an institutional strategy from the diverse faculty-led efforts?

Strategies

• Provide seed funding
• Encourage and incent faculty participation in target experiences (Swaziland cited)
• Support group travel…more than one group within a dept can be transformative
• Examining stronger university partners for more in-depth follow up meetings
• Internal communications can be key, starting with the data that you have, to form the conversation and direct future strategy
Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships
Strategic Mapping

**More strategies**

- Characterize where the strengths exist in partnerships, feeding into internal reports to Senior Leadership and deans
- Bring a faculty voice to the administration
- Recognize that disciplines will have different goals, and seek to celebrate faculty accomplishments regardless of the discipline.
- Understand the departmental assessment better and support those efforts further. Impact teams.
- Consider developing institutional strategies from the faculty activity perspective

**Strategies**

- Look at faculty CVs, as they are looking to populate the Research Excellence Framework (REF) program (in UK)
Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships
Strategic Mapping

Outcomes

• Establish a process that may lead to enhanced research productivity

• The presence of long-standing research connections and scholars can last and bring meaning for an extended period of time. Partnerships can be non-contractual, but still have meaning
Determining Outcomes of International Research Partnerships

Strategic Mapping

More questions

• How to support the establishment of interdisciplinary teams?
• Also, are course buyout opportunities available to participating faculty?
• To what extent can we establish and prioritize a smaller group of “strategic” partnerships? To what extent can/should research partners, mobility partners, and other academic partners overlap to create this small group of key partners? Should research drive this?
• Should there be areas of focus in certain regions? Or operate globally?
• Other examples of publication/citation info products?

Discussion

• Multiple institutions have established seed funding programs that emphasize interdisciplinary work. Different models, though. Other examples of internal funding models.
• Must move beyond seed funding to cluster hires, and other more substantive efforts.
• Consider cotutelle as a way to get faculty involved in collaborative Ph.D. programs, create more research, and so forth.
• Various assessment methods under consideration. Strategic partnerships. Quantitative assessment.