

2024
Annual Conference

Leading
International
Education
at a Crossroads

A New Era in Partnership Strategies & Development: Quality over Quantity

- Dr. David Di Maria, Chair
- Krista Northup
- Dr. Leasa Weimer
- Emily MacDougall
- Dr. Vlad Likholetov

Redesigning for Quality

Dr. Leasa Weimer, Director for Strategic Partnerships University of Denver, Colorado USA





UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

- *Oldest private institution in mountain region – 1864
- R1 Carnegie Classification
- Students:
 - Undergraduate 6K
 - Graduate 8K
- Director of Strategic Partnerships position evolution

*The University of Denver occupies the ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations and peoples and was taken by force and illegally by state order.



Partnership Model Evolution

- 2015-16 Strategic/Priority partnership model created
 - 3 Strategic Partnerships Named
 - 7 Priority Partnerships Identified
- 2020-22 COVID pause...



Partnership Model Evolution

2022-24 –
 Reimagining the partnership model

Collaborative Partners

Focused in one/few area(s)

- Exchange/mobility partners
- Discipline-specific partners

Key Partners

University-wide & comprehensive

- Lund University (Sweden)
 - UKZN (South Africa)
 - UWA (Australia)
- University of Glasgow (Scotland)
- Indian Institute for Management (India)

Innovation Partners

Partnerships supporting DU initiatives:

- Ideas of Impact
- Centers of Excellence

Intended Outcomes

Joint research

Joint grants (supporting research & mobility)

Consorti

Mobility (outgoing

International enrollment (incoming

Customized programs (e.g., globa masters)

Joint education

COI

Dual/joint degrees





Agreements Defined

Letter of Intent (LoI)

Serves as signal of goodwill to further explore potential collaborations.

Memorandum of **Agreement (MoA)**

Specific agreement that involves deliverables and is contractual in nature (such as financial arrangements, institutional obligations, or specifies the terms of academic programs). *This is the default and preferred agreement for collaborations.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Acknowledges a formal, ongoing, and strategic relationship between institutions that is intended to be long-term whereby specific engagements are executed through supplemental MoAs.

New project/collaboration

Establishing/building a

Collaborative degrees (joint, dual, student recruitment, pathway)

relationship with a partner

Reciprocal exchange programs

Proceeds MoA / MoU Research projects where funds

Joint research/training centers

are committed

Aim: University-wide & comprehensive collaborations (student, faculty, service) Minimum criteria: Multiple engagements with two or more DU departments / schools / colleges (e.g., college level multidepartmental engagement) Evidence of historical collaborations

Can be used as a letter of support for joint grant funding applications



Lessons learned...so far

- Patience is key
 - Formulation of a new strategy/MoU process takes time
 - Managing stakeholder involvement
 - Vice Provosts
 - Dean's Council
 - Internationalization Council
- Growth mindset
 - Something might be finalized until it's not
- Next big lift: rolling out the support structure/communication plan



How many MoUs do we need?

Dr. Vlad Likholetov
Associate Director for Partnership Agreements
Penn State, Pennsylvania
USA





Penn State

- Public Land-Grant University (est. 1853)
- 14 colleges at UP; 20+ commonwealth campuses
- Total Enrollment 87,903; international 9,671
- Penn State Global
- Global Partnerships & Strategy group











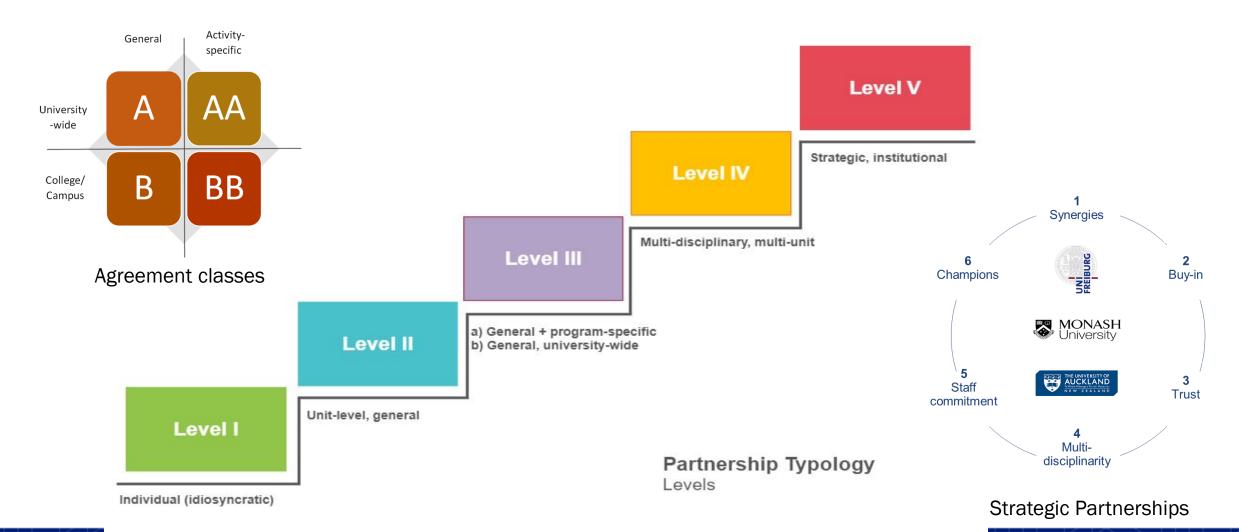
Partnership Agreements





Key metrics

Partnership Development: Quantity vs Quality





Toward a more holistic approach to global partnerships

Emily MacDougall, Director of Global Partnerships University of British Columbia, Vancouver Canada



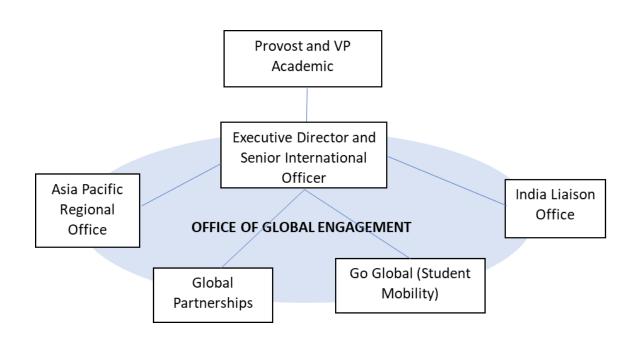




THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Public university (established in 1915) 2nd largest in Canada, largest in British Columbia
- Two campuses: Vancouver / Okanagan
- Two Host Nations: Musqueam, Syilx Okanagan Nation
- Student population: 60,000 Vancouver / 12,000 Okanagan

Office of Global Engagement – Structure and Context



Positioning:

Service unit to the Faculties

Context:

- Focus on foundational work
- New resources limited
- Ethos of engagement

Key Highlights:

- Deepening UBC-Germany Connections
- Expanding Engagement in ASEAN

Deepening UBC-Germany Connections







Context:

- Breadth and depth of partnerships with German institutions
- Faculty collaborations and priorities
- Canada's Association to Horizon Europe

Actions:

- Relationship with Consul General
- Collaborative activities
- Visit from the German President in April 2023
- Communications support

Expanding Engagement in ASEAN

Context:

- Canada's new Indo Pacific Strategy
- Longstanding engagement in Asia
- Growing economic and political importance

Actions:

- Developed ASEAN Blueprint
- Faculty engagement
- Prioritizing engagement and new partnership development







How can we do together more than we can do alone?

Krista Northup, Director of Global Partnerships UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA







University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen: Data Science and Society Collaboration



- Existing strategic partnership is basis for which to build a thematic, transformational partnership.
- Combines best features of top-down and bottom-up.
- Joint seed fund enables engagement.





Research conducted with international partners can accelerate collective progress on shared research agendas.

Q&A / Discussion