

Panel: Globalization, Internationalization and the World-Class University: Concepts, Contributions, and Challenges to the Globalization and Internationalization of Tertiary Education

Panel Discussion

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The University of Virginia entered the 21st century with a call from its leadership and a strategic planning group with significant faculty participation to become a more international institution. The future well being of the institution was even said to depend on its ability to internationalize. Although the term “World Class University” was not invoked, interest in raising the global profile of the University was strong. The number of international activities increased substantially from the early- to mid-2000’s. Most were faculty centered, ad hoc, and not surprisingly, fragmented. In hindsight, the de facto strategy appears to have been simply to up the number of international activities particularly those with an output of increased student and faculty mobility. A number of stakeholders - students, faculty, institutional leaders, alumni, and employers were not satisfied with the efforts of the University to globalize, however. In the most recent strategic planning effort (2008), the Commission on the Future of the University, global education was identified as one of three institutional priorities. This time, World Class University standing and global education were connected, recognition that the operating environment of the University is unmistakably global as well as national/regional and that the competition for resources and position crosses national borders. The presenter will use Knight’s internationalization model (2008) to contrast the results of the two strategic planning efforts in terms of meaning, rationales, approaches, and priorities; suggest reasons for differences; point to lessons that might be drawn from efforts at U.Va.; identify outstanding issues and challenges, and discuss the impact of the SJTU rankings as a global strategy.

Questions:

Many public W.C.U.’s in the U.S. face significant reductions in financial support from traditional sources. How can these institutions tap funding sources outside of the U.S.?

What international accreditation standards and practices would we like to see develop?

In August, Teresa Sullivan will take over the presidency of U.Va. What might she do to advance global education at U.Va. and elsewhere?

Panelist:

Dudley J. Doane, PhD

Director, International, Summer, and Special Academic Programs

Minor Hall 223

P.O. Box 400165

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA 22904-4165

434/982 3010

434/982 3011 - fax

djd4j@virginia.edu

World-Class University selected Bibliography
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Joan Elias Gore
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