



Some ideas on GU8 activities

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1. The ideas and comments set out below follow from the simulating remarks by President Hong reported in the Minutes of the June 2007 COP meeting in LeHavre
2. Collaborative and related activities have to add value to each institution
3. Focus on increasing the competitiveness, volume and effectiveness of institutions in respect of research, training and globalised education
4. Globalising of HE, some particular features:
 - New technologies - distributed learning
 - Mobility of staff and students
 - Increasing internationalisation of curricula: learning in a global context
 - International networks offer greater capability to tackle complex multi-stranded issues in research and education
 - Gathering of information and intelligence for the benefit of members
5. Develop specialised interest groups - Task Forces as suggested by JRC
6. Collaborative Masters programmes
7. Research cooperation/collaboration can take a number of forms with increasing sophistication:
 - Informal collaboration between academic staff
 - Links between university departments (e.g. via guest lecturers, involvement in research networks, external examining (esp. at Doctoral level)
 - Collaboration to undertake joint research with possible external funding
 - Development of long-term research plans (i.e. platform)
8. Besides the four key areas that have been identified by GU8 (Marine Affairs, Advanced Technologies, Business Administration, Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management) the following may appear to be important topics for further consideration by GU8:
 - Sustainability science (understanding climate change, alternative energies, adaptation strategies - involves both science and policy aspects)
 - Systems science (principally in Business)
 - Various aspects of Health
9. Mechanisms by which the GU8 might enhance its collaboration. To date it appears that the GU8 has developed useful methods of working together through the Research and Education Committees and endorsed by the COP. Below are suggestions for additional ways in which the GU8 may add value to its activities:
 - Fellowships tenable at each of the GU8 institutions (paid for by the hosting university)

- Summer workshops, schools, institutes in various agreed subject areas
- Graduate programmes and training activity
- Mapping of expertise and interests
- Collaborative stimulation fund

10. Collaborative Stimulation Fund: this builds on the Foundation concept that has emerged from the JRC deliberations, but not focused primarily on providing a vehicle for commercialisation.

In my view this should be a fund used to support, *inter alia*, workshops, seminars etc. bringing together a selected and relatively small group of academic experts in an agreed field, through seedcorn funding, in order to explore possible areas for future collaboration and initiatives. It is a well-known and successful methodology. The outcome of the workshops may be simply a report on sharing ideas or information, in other cases it may lead to the development of joint research or other projects and application for funds from various national and international bodies. These initiatives might result in commercially exploitable work and thence provide in due course an income stream back into the Fund. The Fund would require pump-priming and it is suggested that member universities make an agreed contribution.