Kansas State University
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“Facilitating the Advancement of Inter-Institutional Academic Programs”
The Great Plains IDEA
A Multi-State Alliance of Human Sciences Colleges
Founded 1994
Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance

(www.gpidea.org)

Support for the Great Plains IDEA has been provided by the member institutions, the U.S. Department of Education (FIPSE LAAP), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC).
In the beginning...

We want to offer a distance ed program. Do you want to join us?

We can’t do it alone.

Let’s see where this goes.

We don’t want to be left behind.

Human Sciences Deans
The Great Plains IDEA Model
(Students)

- Admitted to a university
- Enroll in courses and graduate from that university
- Taught by faculty from multiple universities
- Served by academic advisors and campus coordinators
The Great Plains IDEA Model (Academics)

- Faculty developed curricula
- Institutions award credit and degrees
- Institutional academic policies and procedures prevail
- Program information is available on the web
It is tempting (but generally unwise) to build a program based on the easily available component parts—
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<td>Fundamentals of Financial Planning</td>
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| Spring     | Professional Practices in FFP   | Estate Planning                 | Insurance Planning       | Financial Counseling |

| Summer     | Housing & Real Estate           | Financial Planning Case Studies (if demand) | Retirement Planning | Housing & Real Estate | Family Econ  |

Anytime - 6 Credit Practicum/Project
1. Once a course is offered, it will need to be repeated at least annually to accommodate new entrants to the program.

2. To underwrite institutional and alliance costs, courses should be filled to capacity. Recommended size for a graduate course is 25 students.

3. Develop annual reports that include outcome assessments.
The Great Plains IDEA Model (Management)

- Students pay a common price/credit hour
  - 75% to teaching institution
  - 12.5% to admitting institution
  - 12.5% to alliance

- Course costs and faculty workload are institutional responsibilities
- Alliance culture is egalitarian
Family Financial Planning Program

Fall Semester 2004 Revenue

- Total Revenue: $144,560
- Teaching U: $108,420
- Admitting U: $18,070
- Alliance: $18,070

135 Total Students @ 6 Universities
Finance Model: Common Price/Credit Hour

- Collected at the student’s home (admitting/enrolling) institution.
- Each institution determines revenue allocation internally.
- Annual price review.
When is an alliance most useful?

- To pursue projects that are significant and urgent.
- To do together what cannot be done singly.
- To improve professional practice.
- When all partners benefit.
Partnering Attributes

- Pre-Existing Relationships
- Equal Partners
- Management Similarities
- Shared Compelling Vision
- Shared sense of Urgency
Incentives and Support for Faculty Participants
Workable Academic Policies
Accessible and Appropriate Student Services
Supportive Financial Distribution Policies
Inter-Institutional Relations are “family-like.”

- Dense web of relationships among many people at partner institutions.
- Communication is frequent and intensive.
- Understanding grows between specific individuals.
- Relationships are frequently messy and emotional and involve “chemistry,” “hope,” “trust,” and “compatibility.”

The primary communications challenge for organizations today:

*Dealing with the short term memory lapses of middle aged managers.*

- Document things as you go.
- Send frequent reminders.
It takes a team--

Administrators must organize the working arrangements and Faculty must organize the educational components of the inter-institutional program.
Agree on Principles, then on Policies

- Behave as Equals
- Accommodate Institutional Cultures
- Simplify Student Access
- Low Input/High Impact Solutions
Alliance Leadership

- Avoiding conflict is **NOT** a noble gesture.
- Compromise results in “lowest common denominator” outcomes.
- Seek profoundly satisfying outcomes.
- Develop a leadership succession plan.
Inter-institutional programs must be managed institutionally.
Administrative Tasks

- Faculty Workloads
- Program Approval and Review
- Colleague Communication
- Policies and Practices
A rule is a rule. Why does the rule exist? Who owns the rule? Is it a real rule or tradition? WHAT IS THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE RULE?

Transfer Credit Policies
Residency Policies
Graduate Faculty Status

Or maybe not...
Every university rule comes with an address ...find it.
Partnership = Purpose + People + Policies
Services

• Program and Partner Identification
• Team Meetings
• Program Approval
• Program Costs and Pricing
• Policies and Procedures
• Inter-Institutional Agreements
• Marketing
• Inter-Institutional Student Database

• Web ksu.edu/iaa  Email iaa@ksu.edu

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