Back & Forth, Challenges in Designing of eLearning System in Makerere University

By

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Presentation Focus

Quick Statistics
Historical Perspective of e-learning
The Current Status
Enabling Environment
Prospects
Facts and Figures 2009

- It has been in existence for over 87 years
- It has 22 faculties/schools/institutes + constituent and affiliate colleges
- A student population of 18,091 female, 20,601 male undergraduate & 718 Female and 1,201 Male graduate students.
- Conducts a Dual-mode delivery of content.
- It has 81 degree programs, 42 of which are in sciences.
- Approximately 1,161 faculty teaching staff
# Infrastructural Support & Connectivity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connectivity</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Internet Kiosks</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Data Points</td>
<td>7838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Computers/Laptops</td>
<td>5191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Hotspots</td>
<td>2 (being increased to 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Internet bandwidth is 20 mbps</td>
<td>20 mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. University wide Optic Cable network</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. llabs in Collab. with MIT</td>
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History of E Learning @ Makerere

- 1997 – (AVU) pilot project
- 2002 Co-curriculum Development Project
- Another initiative with Tufts University (TUSK)
- Partnership with University of Western Cape (KEWL)
- 2002 – NUFFIC e-Learning Project
- 2004-2009 Carnegie e-Learning Project (Phase 1, 2 & still counting)
- E-Learning and Teacher Education (ELATE) project – Mak + Open University
- Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)- on going

- Strengthening Agricultural & Environmental Capacity (SAEC-DE) – Mak, UON, Univ of Florida, CIAT with USAID Funding
- **EDULINK** and other s based at the Faculty of Agriculture

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**New Initiatives**
- Development Partners Concern
  - Carnegie Corporation, SIDA
  - RUFORUM
  - SUCAPRI
  - PHEA concerns
  - Webometrics ranking
Implementation Methods

- Policy
- Leadership & Governance
- Stakeholders
- Support Systems
- Change Management
- PHEA Projects
The Strategic Plan 2008/09- 2018/19

The Strategic Plan is based on the need for Makerere University to reposition itself to meet emerging challenges:

- To provide innovative teaching, learning, research responsive to national and global needs.
- The goals and objectives are premised on the core functions of teaching & learning, research & innovation & knowledge transfer partnership and networking.
- To operationalise the support functions
  - Develop her infrastructure to match her functions
  - Consolidate the ICT enabling environment.
Institutional Policy (cont’d)

The ICT support framework in Makerere has the following objectives:

- To enhance the quality and scope of ICT services in Makerere University by the end of 2013.
- To promote effective and appropriate utilization of ICT resources by the end of 2013.
- To improve the electronic visibility and services of academic programs in the University by the end of 2013.
- To increase the University’s intellectual output on the University website by the end of 2011.
- To mainstream ICT functions of the University.
Makerere University ICT Policy

E-Learning policy is embedded in the Master ICT Policy

- **Goal 1**: To improve the quality of graduates, by utilizing modern instructional materials and methods, including increased use of ICT in teaching and research.

- **Goal 2**: To provide greater access to university education, by developing capacity for increased enrolment through non-conventional approaches in teaching and learning i.e. Distance education and virtual university
E learning Plans

• Leverage faculty/unit effectiveness by using ICT in instruction, learning and Research.

• Create organizational and technical conditions assuring continuous in-house e-learning training capabilities in the long-term.

• Ensure and require that all students and academic staff are trained on a continuous basis
E Learning Plans Cont’d

• Develop university wide and global e-learning networks based on academic interest groups and research collaborations.

• Establish the appropriate common DLE infrastructure and software responsive to academic needs through the designated central technological unit.
Leadership & Governance

– The technical aspect
– The pedagogical and androgogical aspects
– The Research aspect
– The Quality Assurance
– The Gender mainstreaming aspect
– The financial aspect
– The e-resources

Council Committee on ICT provides governance on E-Learning
E-Research Group at Faculty of Computer and Information Technology
E-Learning Faculty Committees at Faculty level
E-Learning Coordinators at Faculties and Departments in the University
E-Learning Unit
Stakeholders

The fact that e-learning needs to be managed in a multi-pronged approach implies there are many stakeholders:

- The technical group
  - Technical backup
  - The educational technologists
- The Users
  - Lecturers
  - The Students
  - The support staff
- The service providers
  - Providers of band width
- The Financial support
  - Software & hardware
  - Sustainability
- Quality Assurance
  - Best Practices
  - Benchmarks
- Management Commitment
  - Attitude
  - Ownership
  - Change management
  - Infrastructure
- Human Resource
  - High attrition rate
Support Systems

- Information;
- Materials Online;
- Research Component
- Communications
- Collaboration-
- Administrative Resources
  - Network
  - Student Support
  - Content delivery
  - Administration

- Web Interact System (WebIS)
- IM
- Materials Support system
  - Reusable Learning Objects
  - Evaluation
Managing Change

• Establish a sense of urgency
  • Commitment from top leadership
  • Political propaganda must be initiated
  • The dynamics of large institutions should be understood (it has barriers of traditionalism)
  • Stop excuses because it bogs down everybody.
  • Work out realistic objectives
  • Activate, Accelerate, Achieve & Assess (Hyatt, 2009)
Create coalitions & share it

• Which **coalition** will best serve the purpose
  • Voluntary
  • Participatory
  • Shared vision
  • Is it a **MICE** Structure?

• Reward structure must be kept close to the strategy.

• Consolidate and share the successes
PHEA AREAS

• Educational Technology Strategy
• 3 Projects
  • Ilabs
  • E-Content development
  • E-Portfolio
• Research with Gender bias
• 15 others have been given to Planning & Development Unit
Points to Ponder

Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.

Goethe, author, poet, scientist
Is yours a **milestone** or a **Port town**?

"I snuck out of the Change Seminar, too. I'm too unique for that stuff."
Thank You for Your attention