BUILDING A REPUTATION OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE THROUGH GRANTSMANSHIP AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Prof. Charles Ayo
CIS Department
Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria

A Presentation @ the 2016/2017 Executive Advance
Outline

1. Introduction
2. Research Excellence Framework
3. Lessons from ACE
4. Grantsmanship & Industry Partnership
5. Concluding Remarks
Introduction
Introduction

Research Excellence/Reputation is a vital component of THE Ranking parameters:

- Teaching (the learning environment) – 30%
- Research (volume, income and reputation) – 30%
- Citations (research influence) – 30%
- International outlook (staff, students and research) – 7.5%
- Industry income (knowledge transfer) – 2.5%
Introduction

Research Component is further broken down to:

- **Research Reputation** – 18%
  - A measure of Research excellence among peers (Survey)
- **Research Income and reputation** – 6%
  - Research Income per staff
- **Research Reputation** – 6%
  - No of papers published per scholar indexed by Scopus
Research Excellence Framework
✓ Every nation of the world formulates a Framework for Measuring Excellence in Research

The British Model

➢ *It used to be known as Research Excellence Assessment (REA)*

➢ REF is the current system for assessing Research Quality among the British Higher Education Institutions
REF Cont’d

✓ REF is responsible for:

- Selective allocation of Research Funds HEI

- Establishing Reputation yardsticks as well as benchmarking parameters
REF – Criteria for Ranking

1. Quality of research outputs
2. Impact of research (beyond the University)
3. Vitality of the research environment
REF – Criteria for Ranking

Panels judged the overall quality of each submission

- **65%**
  - Quality of research outputs
    - Publications and equivalent. Maximum of 4 outputs per member of staff

- **20%**
  - Impact of research on society
    - Impact case studies and impact template. One case study per ten members of staff.

- **15%**
  - The research environment
    - E.g. Research strategy, support for staff, research income, infrastructure
REF – Criteria for Grading

- **Four star:** Quality that is world-leading in originality, significance and rigour.

- **Three star:** Quality that is internationally excellent in originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.

- **Two star:** Quality that is recognised internationally in originality, significance and rigour.
REF – Criteria for Grading Cont’d

▪ **One star**: Quality that is recognised nationally in originality, significance and rigour.

▪ **Unclassified Quality**: that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work.
Self Appraisal

- What’s the quality of our research as an institution?
- What impact have we made or are we making on global issues?
  - Food Security, global warming etc
  - Diseases and Control (HIV/Aids, Ebola, Malaria etc)
- Any National, Continental and Global recognitions?
Lessons from the: African Centres of Excellence
ACE - Objectives

➢ To promote regional specialization among participating universities within areas that address regional development challenges; and

➢ To strengthen the capacities of these universities to deliver high quality training and applied research.
ACE - Overview

Scope:
- CoE on a specific development challenge
- Science, Tech, Eng, Math, Agriculture, and Health Sciences
- 15 CoE grants @ max US$ 8 million
- Regional competitive selection
- Bottom-up approach – university led

Center Activities:
- Outreach and impact on society
- Build education capacity
- Build research capacity
- Partnerships academic and industry
- Improve governance and management of the institution

Results: Increase
- Regional post-graduate students
- Regional Faculty qualifications
- Meet international quality standards of education
- Research publications
- Internships and industry linkages
- External Revenue Generation
- Improve learning resources
- Institutional Fiduciary capacity and governance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Challenge / Development challenge</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genomics of <strong>Infectious Diseases</strong></td>
<td>Redeemers University, Ogun State, Nigeria</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAN African Materials</strong> Institute</td>
<td>African University of Science and Technology, Abuja, Nigeria</td>
<td>STEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences et Technologies de l’Eau, l’Energie et l’Environnement</td>
<td>Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (2iE)</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for <strong>Agricultural Development</strong> and Sustainable Environment</td>
<td>Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West African Center for Cell Biology of <strong>Infectious Pathogens</strong></td>
<td>University of Ghana</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neglected Tropical Diseases</strong> and Forensic Biotechnology</td>
<td>Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training plant breeders</strong>, seed scientists and seed technologists</td>
<td>University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences <strong>Mathématiques</strong> et Applications</td>
<td>Université d'Abomey – Calavi (UAC), Bénin</td>
<td>STEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for <strong>Oil Field Chemicals</strong></td>
<td>University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria</td>
<td>STEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water and Environmental Sanitation</strong></td>
<td>Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana</td>
<td>STEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technologies de l’information et de la Communication, <strong>TIC</strong></td>
<td>I 'Université de Yaoundé I, Cameroon</td>
<td>STEM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRANTSMANSHIP AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS
We have laid foundations for:

✓ Grants proposal writing
✓ Industry partnership already launched
✓ Research partnership (thru our Visiting Profs.)

THE QUESTION IS WHERE ARE WE????
ACE Awardees:

✓ **ABU, UI, FUNAAB, UG, KNUST, …**

- Public, older, experienced in research, and recognised.

✓ **RUNs and AUST ..**

- Private and young.

- What played out is collaboration, focus and partnership
GIP Cont’d

The way forward:

✓ More partnership with experts
  ◆ Profs. Mbarika, Ogi, Ogunfunmi, Odedina, Ikhide etc

✓ Build more capacity in our areas of Niche

✓ A few are ongoing with Harvard, Cornell, etc.
GIP Cont’d

✓ --Recognitions:
   -- *Bio Sciences: Dr. Eni, Adebayo, etc*
   -- *CIS: Prof. Adebiyi*
   -- *Eco: Dr. Evans, Okodua, etc*
   -- *Other ones not known to me.*
Concluding Remarks

Lessons from the UNESCO Chairs

✓ Requirements include:
  -- Objectives and Scopes
  -- Collaborations with Industry and Academia
  -- Schedules and Cost
Concluding Remarks Cont’d

Lessons from the UNESCO Chairs

✓ The submissions could be Templates for the future

✓ After 3 months of submission, you will discover a lot of errors and inconsistencies

✓ Heads of units should be more committed to quality

✓ All clusters should get their PG students involved in the activities of the cluster
The quality of our research and impact, partnership with Industry/Government and Researchers will qualify us for super Grants as well as International recognitions
Thank you For Listening