ICT in Higher Education at AdeKUS:

Experiences, Opportunities & Strategy

Dr Ryan Sidin
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AdeKUS at a glance

Faculties (3):
- Medical Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Technology

Programs: primarily at BSc-level, start-up of several MSc-programs

Institutes (15):
- MWI: Medical Sciences
- IMWO & others: Social Sciences
- INTEC & CELOS: Technology

Student population: approx. 4000

Funding: primarily government funded

National partners: Staatsolie, EBS, Telesur, Central Bank of Suriname

International partners: several, a.o. Univ. of Brasilia (Brasil), Univ. of Matanzas (Cuba), UWI, Univ. of Tulane (USA), VLIR (Belgium)
ICT at AdeKUS: Facilities

Hardware:
- Lecturers provided with desktop/laptop PC’s
- Limited availability of PC’s to students
- PC’s interconnected via intranet
- Good internet access provided by TELESUR through fibreglass or wireless network
- Facilities for video-conferencing
- Limited number of supporting hardware (beamers/digital boards) available
- Digital library

Software:
- Microsoft software suite
- University wide: Moodle as teaching platform
- Skype

Organization:
- Dedicated unit for ICT support (UCC)
- Local support at faculty level
ICT at AdeKUS: Experience

Moodle teaching platform:
Moodle teaching platform:

- Platform online since 2006
- Currently, 30–60% of all courses using Moodle (Faculty-dependent)
- Past:
  - No stringent policy on integrating Moodle within teaching environment;
  - Limited internet access (limited bandwidth);
  - Limited hardware resources;
  - Majority of teaching staff belonging to "chalk and board" generation;
  - Teaching staff stretched to limits;
  - Student access to internet limited
- User feedback:
  - User training necessary
  - Only fraction of possibilities is used
  - More interaction between lecturers and students
  - Platform enhances lectures, but only sporadic actual measurements on improvements carried out

Student score vs. Moodle score graph
ICT at AdeKUS: Experience

Digital library:

- Catalogue accessible via internet
- Limited availability of e-books
- Access to journals through sponsoring or collaboration with partner institutes
- Services offered by library on par with demand from faculties, shifting gear in near future
ICT at AdeKUS: Opportunities

Education:
- Collaboration with partner universities:
  - Exchange of lecturers & students
  - ICT bridges time and distance between institutes: time & cost efficient
  - Larger part of teaching staff willing to participate in virtual exchange program
  - Possibility of developing joint programs
- Increased efficiency of educational processes:
  - Off-campus virtual teaching eases pressure on lecture facilities
  - Level of student more efficiently probed during course of lecture
- AdeKUS programs offered to foreign students through model of distance education

Research & Consultancy services:
- Exchange of information and scientific discussions via digital highway
- Consultancy services possibly available to a larger group of customers
How to proceed?:

- Embed ICT in strategic development plan: Devise clear policy on ICT!

- Identify critical success factors for transformation to digital academic culture:
  - Involve stakeholders
  - Identify AdeKUS needs
  - Evaluate existing physical infrastructure
  - Evaluate manpower availability and level of proficiency
  - Build on experience

- Learn from more experienced partners!