Sharing Lessons Learned for an International Multi-Institutional Course

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses lessons learned for developing an international multi-institutional course designed to prepare engineers for the global workforce. The course specifically focused on sharing global construction engineering and management practices and included partnerships with seven universities located in the U.S., China, India, Canada, Chinese Taipei, and Northern Ireland. Students were presented with a critical body of knowledge related to international construction management practices and developed an appreciation for designing and building projects in a multinational, multicultural, and multilingual environment. Content was delivered using a combination of live and pre-recorded lectures or presentations. A description of the challenges is provided as it relates to identifying partnership opportunities with international institutions, addressing different semester schedules and time zones, determining appropriate content, identifying suitable domain experts, addressing intellectual property rights, working with different technology platforms, teaching in both synchronous and asynchronous modes, and non face-to-face student interactions where English was not the first language. Key recommendations are provided for others interested in offering a similar course.