



## **Institutional Consortium Potential Functions**

### **A. Governance and Membership Functions**

1. Behave as a membership organization, where the members decide the focus and scope of the consortium's functions and an appointed/elected advisory board of members has the authority to make decisions for its members
2. Allow voting privileges for all members on specified matters, and voting and representational privileges for advisory board members
3. Serve as an "umbrella" organization for a number of educational functions to be determined by its members
4. Provide options for institutional participation, from agreement to endorse an instructional product selected by consortium members to participating in joint purchases of instructional materials to providing opportunity for collaboration on joint educational projects, the scope of which is defined by participants
5. Allow members to contribute by providing materials for consortium use or purchase or adopting materials used/endorsed/purchased by the consortium membership
6. Be unlimited as to the nature and kind of instructional collaborations the consortium might choose to pursue on behalf of its membership

### **B. Legal and Archival Functions**

1. Provide templates for engaging in cross-institution collaboration so that members do not have to start from scratch to establish legal parameters for such arrangements
2. Create the legal basis for a not-for-profit membership organization of non-profit higher education institutions
3. Assure the continued availability of course wares or other educational products by securing permissions or holding copyrights and licenses to materials incorporated into course wares generated or endorsed by the consortium membership
4. Negotiate bulk contracts for the delivery of course wares and related services for consortium members
5. Serve as a secured repository for course wares materials

6. Create templates for establishing agreements about the handling of intellectual property produced by individuals or held by institutions
7. Serve as a repository for—and licensing use of—student data gathered from course ware materials used by consortium members
8. Through a functional board with proportional voting authority, efficiently conduct legal negotiations for the consortium on educational matters limited by its membership and board
9. Provide legal protection for collaborating institutions to help them avoid roadblocks within anti-trust legislation

### **C. Cross-Institutional Collaboration and Cost-Saving Functions**

1. Provide the potential to members to purchase high quality courseware at low cost through guaranteeing large mass enrollment among partner institutions
2. Organize demand for educational products from internal or outside vendors to make demand more predictable and thus ensure that vendors produced quality products at lower costs
3. Through “power in numbers” reduce threat of aggressive pricing of course wares materials by for-profit vendors
4. Assure the appropriate handling of intellectual property produced by individual collaborators

### **D. Courseware Selection, Design, and Improvement Functions**

1. Streamline approval processes for course curriculum by presenting institutions with rubrics for working with local faculty groups
2. Identify and screen vendors of existing course wares or of course design development services
3. Gather and share reviews and evidence of the effectiveness of course wares and designs, helping members select suitable materials and providing feedback to ensure improvement
4. Influence and guide the development and refinement of existing course wares in response to organized demand for improvement or expansion
5. Identify and evaluate those educational materials that are available electronically that can serve the needs of consortium members
6. Provide a mechanism for identifying and rectifying a weakness or deficiency in educational products used by or endorsed by the consortium membership
7. Solicit member interest in courseware development for specific subject areas on an on-going basis
8. Organize a coordinated response to course wares developed in response to consortium solicitations

9. Create the opportunity for collaborative design, selection, and review of any number of courseware types and models, from those supporting a “course emporium” approach, to those organizing course re-design, to those providing a Mass Open On-line Course (MOOC)

#### **E. Faculty Engagement Functions**

1. Encourage faculty to connect with one another across the consortium, emphasizing its joint-ownership function
2. Vigorously promote the formation of communities of scholars and provide the platform for continuing dialog about a range of gateway subject areas by these communities
3. Create templates for organizing faculty collaboration across institutions that assist them in doing this work efficiently and effectively
4. Create templates to help faculty governing bodies (departments, senates) assess and approve educational materials for institutional adoption efficiently and effectively
5. Provide guidelines for creating faculty reward systems that recognize collaborative work and contributions to collaborative development of instructional material
6. Provide feedback mechanisms that assure faculty about the quality of work produced through or endorsed by the consortium
7. Cultivate communities of interest that faculty members can join across institutions to collaborate on the production of instructional materials and improve student learning
8. Demonstrate how faculty collaboration can help faculty members lower personal investment of time in developing and reviewing course wares
9. Provide templates for and establish career awards for faculty members who contribute significantly to the collaborative development of high-quality educational materials

#### **F. Public Relations Functions**

1. Through the backing of prominent systems or institutions, assure the public of quality behind products produced by or endorsed by the consortium
2. Provide quality endorsement for educational products from a trusted source
3. Serve as a vehicle to demonstrate institutional and faculty commitment to collaboration across institutions and educational sectors
4. Cultivate communities that are interested in improving student learning
5. Recognize outstanding collaborative programs, educational products, and individual developers for their impact across several institutions to better serve their constituencies
6. Assure the public, legislators, and institutional governing boards of the educational quality of educational materials adopted by an institution