



Acting Together in the New Abnormal

Challenges and Opportunities for Research Universities

Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista
APRU Panel, Senior International Leaders Meeting
7 October 2020

1

Agenda

Nuance	some of the challenges in the context of research universities in unequal societies with significant poverty;
Point	to some developments catalyzed by the pandemic;
Identify	some opportunities for collaboration in the new abnormal;

2

Immediate Impact of the Pandemic on Research Universities

- Salience of the University's teaching function vis-a-vis research;
- Salience of national interest in the prioritization of research – e.g. focus on COVID-related research

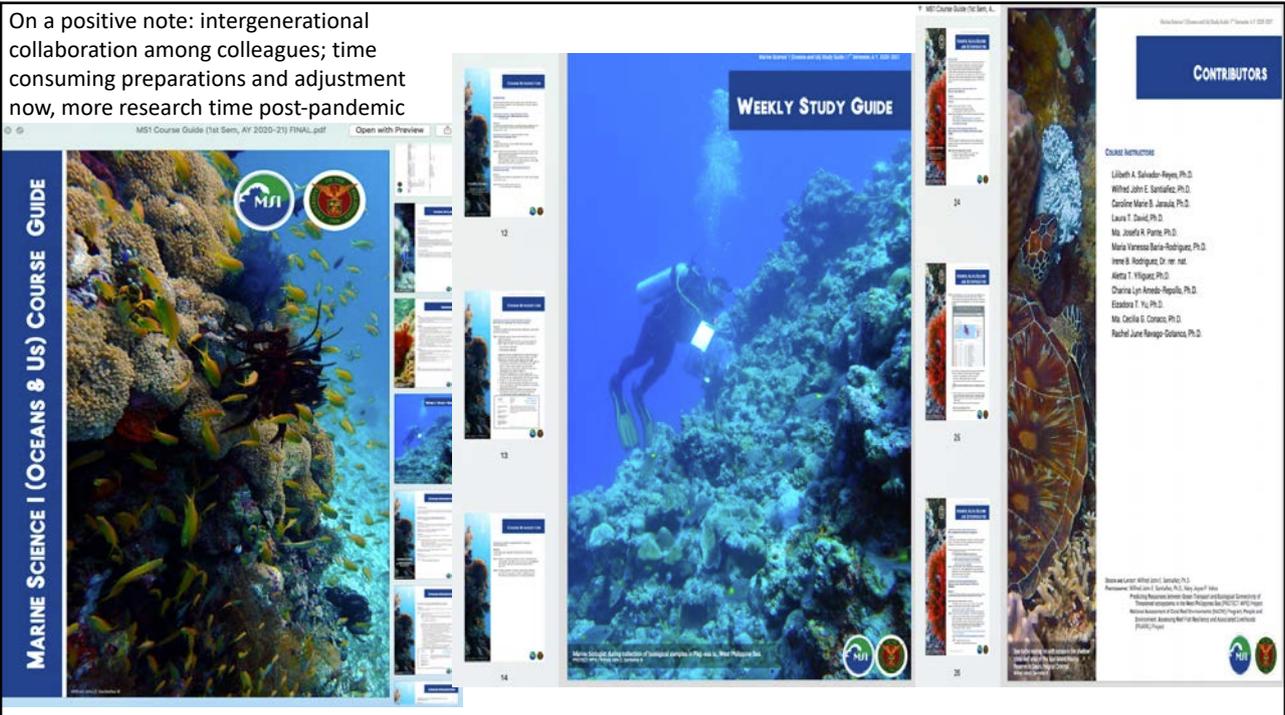
3

Why Teaching eclipsed research during the Pandemic:

The Challenge of Remote Learning

- From online to remote learning: diverse students in terms of connectivity and access to gadgets/computers for online learning;
 - Time-intensive preparation of course packs complete with study guides for uploading in Learning Management Systems and physical distribution to students with poor connectivity;
 - Time-intensive monitoring of diverse students;

4



5

Some Research Challenges

Why Teaching eclipsed research during the Pandemic:

- Decreased access to laboratory space
- Delayed fieldwork and experiments
- Funding delays
- Procurement issues (e.g. equipment, reagents)
- Travel restrictions for researchers
- Cancellation of scientific research
- The challenge of mentoring the next generation of scientists

6

Developments Catalyzed by COVID-19

- Fast-tracking of systems, processes, and capacity building that enable universities to operate on virtual mode;
- Shift from face-to-face (lecture dominated) course delivery to virtual delivery to a mix of face-to-face, virtual/immersive and experiential learning;
- Research towards the development of educational technologies/apps;
- Virtual International conferences and less costly participation of
- Virtual Visiting Professorships
- Greater access to expertise for advice, lectures, training at lower cost

7

Opportunities for Collaboration for APRU Members

- The usual Joint programs and collaborative research
- Virtual student mobility
 - Online student exchange (for credit)
 - Attendance in a specific module of a course
- Virtual research apprenticeships
- Meetings/webinars for research sharing along APRU's thematic areas
- APRU webinars for sharing best practices and technologies for teaching; mentoring young generation of researchers; managing specific university administration issues

8

