Panel: ICIS 2021 Captains of the Business School/College Vessel: Women Steering through Storms

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Cindy Riemenschneider
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Panel

Introduction

The last 19 months have included a variety of grand challenges in Academe (i.e., Covid-19, cancelled international travel and study abroad programs impacting university income, unexpected expenses for constituent safety). Some questions that may have plagued leadership include: How do administrators ensure faculty are adequately trained for on-line course delivery? What options are available for maintaining university budgets with unprecedented expenses? How does a Dean navigate the storm waters of leading a school/college at the same time be supportive of mandates and leadership decisions from the President and Provost? How should the Dean navigate the increasing demands placed on faculty and staff considering elder and childcare during a pandemic?

Fortunately, we have several women who have taken the helm as deans of business schools during this time of grand challenges and are willing to share their experiences.

Issues

First, my desire for this panel is to have an interactive event with most of the time being allocated to audience questions. However, in the event, there is a time of pause, I will have several planned questions for the panelists. Some of the issues that could be discussed include insights gleaned from the careers and personal journeys of each panelist on her path to become a business school dean. Another question might call for helpful suggestions for navigating the IS discipline as a woman with leadership aspirations. Another possible question is what and who were the greatest influencers for each panel participant in her career?

Panelists:

The following women in the information systems discipline will be participating in the panel.

Dr. Monica Adya, Dean, Rutgers University School of Business – Camden in New Jersey, US.
Dr. Yolande Chan, Dean, Desautels Faculty of Management – McGill University in Montréal, Canada.
Dr. Anne Massey, Dean, Isenberg School of Management – University of Massachusetts, Amherst, US.
Dr. Erica Wagner, Associate Dean, Portland State University School of Business, Oregon, US.

Moderator: Dr. Cindy Riemenschneider, Professor, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Panel Structure: The timing for the session is 60 minutes and the following outline illustrates the time allocation.

7 minutes: Moderator introduction of each panelist and asking of the first question.

Floor open to audience questions. If there is a pause in audience questions, the moderator will follow the proposed agenda:

20 minutes Topic 1 – Path to Steer the Vessel

*Describe the activities that helped you become a business college dean. Are these activities still valid today?
*Identify the most important lesson you have learned during your academic career.

25 minutes **Topic 2 – Social Inclusion on the Business School Vessel**

- What advice would you offer a newly minted PhD in her first tenure-track position?

  Did you offer any special considerations for faculty enforced to telework or home school their children during the pandemic?

- How do you promote work-life balance for yourself?

- For non-majority IS faculty, it is often difficult to feel included and move into a position of leadership. What are your approaches to build social inclusion within your business school?

- What are activities that others can use to promote social inclusion in academe?

8 minutes – last question from audience, wrap up and gratitude to panelists

**Biographies:**

**Monica Adya** is Dean at the Rutgers School of Business–Camden. Her research interests include participation and experiences of girls and women in information technology careers and the design and use of decision aids with an emphasis on forecasting systems. Monica has published in IS, HR, and decision sciences journals including *Information Systems Research*, *Decision Support Systems*, *Information Technology & People*, and *Human Resource Management*. She has received recognition for her pedagogical innovations by the *Decision Science Institute* and *American Council of Education*. Monica has received grants to support her teaching and research from 3M Foundation and Naval Surface Warfare Center. She received her PhD in Management Information Systems from The Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University, served as chair of the Management department at Marquette University's College of Business prior to her current role. She can be reached at monica.adya@rutgers.edu.


**Yolande E. Chan** is Dean, Desautels Faculty of Management and James McGill Professor. She holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Western University, an M.Phil. in Management Studies from Oxford University, and S.M. and S.B. degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT. She is a Rhodes Scholar. Yolande studies digital strategy, knowledge strategy, digital innovation, and digital entrepreneurship, and publishes in leading journals such as *MIS Quarterly*, *Information Systems Research*, *Information Systems Journal*, *Journal of the AIS*, *Journal of Information Technology*, *Journal of Management Information Systems*, and *Journal of Strategic Information Systems*. Yolande has served as an associate editor for *MIS Quarterly*. She currently serves on the board of *Information Systems Journal*, is a senior editor for *MISQ Executive*, and is incoming co-editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Strategic Information Systems*. Yolande is a Distinguished Member Cum Laude and a Fellow of the Association for Information Systems.

**Anne Massey** is Dean and Thomas O’Brien Endowed Chair Operations & Information Management at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She received her Ph.D. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her research focuses on computer-mediated collaboration and the role of IT, including most recently enterprise social media and 3D virtual environments, on team performance; she is also interested in IT-enabled innovation and IT implementation processes. She has received research funding from industry and institutions such as the National Science Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and...
others. Her work has been published in *MIS Quarterly, Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Management Information Systems, Decision Support Systems*, and *Decision Sciences*, among others.

**Cindy Riemenschneider** is Professor of Information Systems in the Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University. She also holds the Helen Ligon Professorship in Information Systems. Her publications have appeared in *MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, Journal of Management Information Systems, Journal of the Association for Information Systems, Information Systems Journal, European Journal of Information Systems, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, and others. She currently conducts research on IT work force issues, women and minorities in IT, IT professional turnover and turnaway intention as well as ethical issues surrounding IT use. She served as 6.5 years as Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development during her time at Baylor University.

**Erica Wagner** is a Professor of Management and the Associate Dean of undergraduate programs. She earned her Ph. D. from the London School of Economics and has an undergraduate degree in accounting. Dr. Wagner previously taught at Cornell University and The London School of Economics. Her research interests focus on ways software is 'made to work' whether by studying organizational implementations, software developers, open-source community efforts, and more. She is particularly interested in how work practices are designed into artifacts, standard processes, and methods of accounting thereby leaving a 'digital footprint'. As a qualitative field researcher, she spends time observing work, speaking with folks, and reading IT manuals. Dr. Wagner’s research has been published in a variety of outlets including *The Journal of Management Studies, MIS Quarterly, Information and Organization*, and *Communications of the ACM*. 