INCREASING STUDENT INTERACTIONS ONLINE

- Increase student interaction by establishing student-led discussions. Split the Discussion Board into groups.

- Require comments/responses to other students’ Discussion Board posts. Pose guided questions (with web-based links/literature as needed to supplement the topic), require that each student post an initial post by a given due date. Then require them to post at least 2-3 additional responses to their peers’ posts by a later due date. Make sure to remind students about respect for individual thoughts and opinions.

- Split students into smaller groups a few times in the semester to encourage more intimate discussions amongst themselves. Groups can discuss different case studies or they can discuss different concepts using the same real-life example.

- Actively involve yourself in Discussion Boards. Add thought-provoking questions, or add additional material for issues mentioned in students’ posts. Students whose names are mentioned by the professor are likely to pay attention and add even more follow-up comments. (“Jamie made a very interesting point here which we should explore further. What about….”)

- In synchronous lectures, consider adding a Breakout Session on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. There is a feature where instructors can assign students into groups by dragging the names of the attendees.