MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN 21ST CENTURY SOCIETY

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“Universitas”

- Universities: nearly 1,000 years of history
- “The whole, total; the universe, the world”
- Specialised associations of students and teachers
- Academic freedom
- Explosion of universities
- 21st Century definition?

The nature of universities

- Public – Private
- Education – Research
- Business – Charity
- Diverse – Specialised
- Entrepreneurial – Social
- Local – International
- Real – Virtual

Key drivers

- Globalisation
- Competition and student consumerism
- Demography
- Technology
- Collaboration with industry

Stakeholders

- Students and their families
- Governing entities
- Employees
- Funders
- Donors
- Communities
- Regulators

UK universities

- 165 publicly funded institutions and 1 private
- £26 billion expenditure in 2009/10
- In 2009/10 UK: 2.5 million students
- Massive expansion
- Significant challenges

Universities and education

Educare: To bring up, to train, to teach

Students as customers…..or partners?

Fair access

Expectations

Students of the future

- Local, distant, global
- Part-time, full-time, young, mature
- Life-long learning
- Partnerships
- Payers
- Open access
- Expectations
- Wider skills

Nature of a university education

- Discipline based vs wider education
- Academic, professional
- Local vs distant
- Part / full-time
- Lifelong learning
- Partnerships between institutions
- Education “for life”

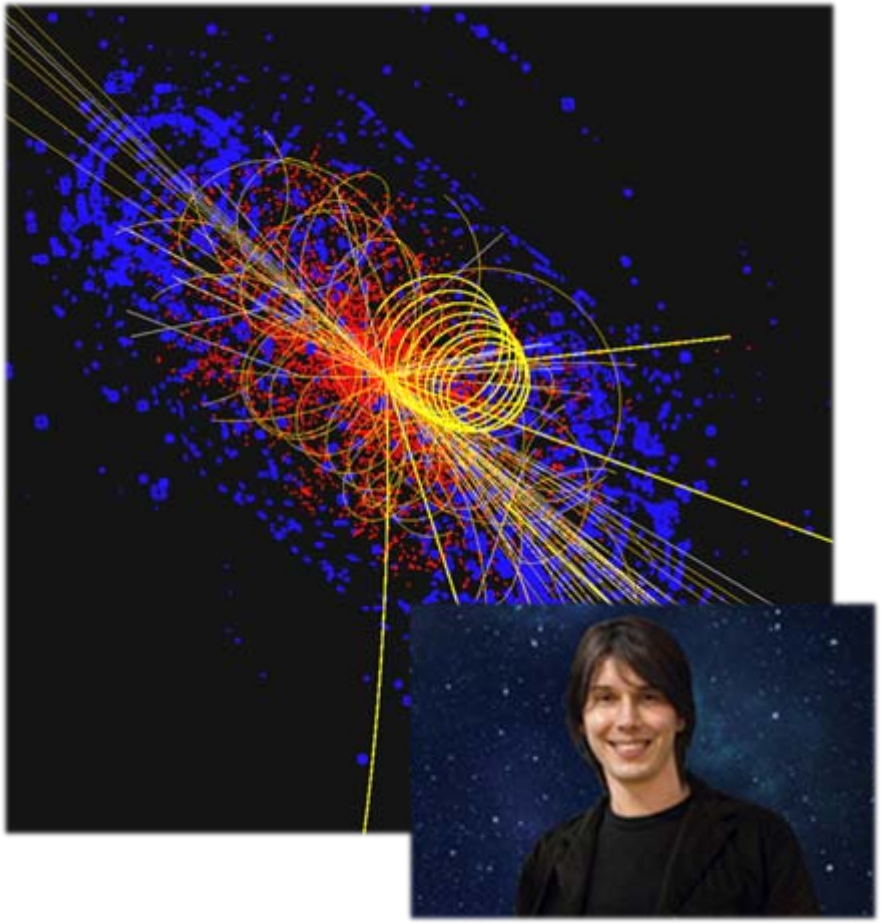
Universities and Research

- Interaction between research and teaching?
- Partnerships
- Funding – new sources
- Basic vs application

"*Teaching and research are synergistic for the individual researcher-teacher as well as the institution and its students*" – *David Botstein*

Impact

- Making a difference
- Fundamental research
- Application
- Awareness of Impact
- Public engagement



Academic Freedom

"The freedom to research in subjects of as yet unrecognised importance, the freedom to question received wisdom, and the freedom to be protected from direct and narrow political interference by the government of the day. This is what we mean by academic freedom – not a licence to brood comfortably [in] ivory towers."

Professor Sir Mark Richmond
January 1988

Universities as businesses?

- Most are not commercial organisations
- Need to be more efficient – output driven
- Improved innovation and application
- Value of IP
- Contracts with commerce

Commercialisation

"Don't turn great universities into second rate companies"

R & D Director,

Major pharmaceutical company

Who owns the research?

- Researchers
- Universities
- Funders
- Public
- Open access

Universities and social responsibility

- Accessibility
- Citizens for the future
- Community engagement
- Addressing global challenges
- Contributions to society

Manchester Leadership Programme

- To produce graduates who understand key leadership challenges of 21st Century
- Launched 2005 with 75 students, today 1,300 students from all academic schools
- 30% students are international – 72 different nationalities

What are Universities for?

"Pointless studies are the key to evolution"

David Mitchell,
Observer, 2009

What are Universities for?

- Out of the box thinking
- Constructive challenges
- Unlikely connections
- Transformative experience

Above the political landscape

- Academic community
- Transcending national boundaries
- Global community
- “Conscience of society”

The future for universities

- Diversification
- Adaptable and flexible

...but rigorously defensive of core missions and values

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Thank You