The International Debate on Higher Education: The Sustainable Development Goals

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Founded in 1841 – recently celebrated our 175th anniversary.

15,000+ students from more than 70 countries.

Three Undergraduate Colleges:
• Gabelli School of Business (Undergraduate )
• Fordham College – Rose Hill
• Fordham College – Lincoln Center

Seven Graduate & Professional Schools:
• Gabelli School of Business (Graduate)
• Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
• Graduate School of Education
• Graduate School of Social Service
• Graduate School of Religion & Religious Education
• School of Law
• School of Professional & Continuing Studies
International Association of Universities

Created in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO

An independent international NGO

An official partner of UNESCO and it is based at its headquarters in Paris

A membership organization comprising more than 650 universities and associations of universities worldwide.

Promoting HE that is values-based, appreciative of diversity, committed to solidarity and social responsibility
Contextual Forces Driving Change in Higher Education

✓ **Knowledge** is at the center of economic development

✓ Growth and **economic development** are main paths to success

✓ Globalization brings unprecedented levels of **interconnectedness** in all spheres of life

✓ More multipolarity and greater regionalization is leading to **increased competitiveness**

✓ Growing recognition of **unsustainability** of current higher education models promoting economic growth
Contextual Forces Driving Change in Higher Education (cont.)

- **Inequalities** both among and within nations bring unforeseen consequences such as populism, protectionary policies and new alliances
- Significant **demographic trends** impacting both North and South
- Continuous and rapid innovation in technology effecting higher education delivery and format
- Higher level of **insecurity** due to greater geopolitical tensions between and within nations
- Increased **volatility, complexity and unpredictability** as we approach change in higher education
Higher Education Agenda Going Forward

Higher Education Institutions are expected to:

- demonstrate **quality and relevance**
- contribute to national competitiveness, ensure **individual employability**
- advance knowledge and **solve local and global challenges**, real world problems
- offer access to quality and affordable HE and ensure success of all learners
- be **innovative**, engage in research, knowledge transfer, enhance entrepreneurialism, link with community and industry
- **anticipate** and offer unbiased critique of current developments
- demonstrate **social responsibility, locally and globally**
- **prepare graduates** to be world ready, culturally sensitive and discerning

Do all of this with less and less financial support from the public purse
Global Trends in Higher Education

1. Expansion and growth – primarily in emerging economies
2. Increased focus on quality and accreditation
3. Paradigmatic shift from teaching to learning – and learning outcomes
4. Priority given to employability with an overwhelming focus on STEM
5. Local and global competition for excellence, defined by international rankings and pursuit of World Class status
6. Increasing share of private funding in higher education – including private funding of public higher education, private-for-profit and cross border providers
7. Growth of online and distance education alongside traditional higher education
The 17 SDGs are all interconnected: solutions need to be holistic in nature.

None of the goals can be achieved without involvement – through research, education and outreach – of higher education institutions.

None of the SD goals can be achieved without international collaboration and commitment.
Priorities for HE Development and Inter-university Cooperation

**Leadership**
*Promoting values-based leadership in higher education*

**Internationalization**
*Remaining a leader for inclusive, fair and ethical internationalization of higher education*

**Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development**
*Integrating sustainable development fully into higher education strategies*

**Information & Communications Technologies**
*Using ICTs to improve access to knowledge*
Conclusion: Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development

What to do going forward?

✓ Develop & share expertise on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with colleagues and partner institutions

✓ Encourage peer-to-peer learning institutionally

✓ Monitor trends and issues related to higher education sustainable development

✓ Provide capacity building and networking services

✓ Map and analyze assessment tools related to higher education sustainable development

✓ Enhanced initiatives in higher education sustainable development around the globe
Thank you for your attention

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