


INNOVATION FORUM 09

Change and innovation in Higher Education extracurricular activities: Students in the director's seat



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HE institutions in the 21st Century


Are we there yet?

A. What is (usually) the role of HE institutions (even) in the 21st Century?

- Source of knowledge
- Source of social networking

B. What should the role of HE institution be, then?

- Facilitate student employability
- Provide work-like opportunities

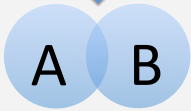


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HE institutions in the 21st Century

How to get from what HE institutions currently do to what HE institutions should do?

Changing, adding and innovating



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What should be changed, added and innovated?

Currently ...

Traditional academic norms and trends

- Lectures
- Master Classes
- Residential learning
- Student is Passive

Common Technology


- Social Networking
- Web-based applications (with learning purposes)
- Web-based social interaction

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What should be changed, added and innovated?

What is needed...


- **Updated academic norms**
 - Workshops (Flexible learning)
 - Conferences, extra curricular activities
 - Work-related environment,
 - Student is Active
- **Common Technology** (remains but needs to be repurposed)
 - Social Networking
 - Web-based applications (with learning purposes)
 - Web-based social interaction



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What should be changed, added and innovated?

- **The role of the students should be changed**
- **Institutional support should be added**
- **Ways of interaction should be innovated**




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Why changing, adding and innovating?

Because there are two mismatches:


- What university gives and what students need
- Technology teachers/universities use and Technology students use (and the way they use it)



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Mismatch between the University offerings and the Students needs

- HE Students are used to the 2.0 trend, where, in most of the cases, they are the centre of the paradigm...
 - ... in University they are not
- HE Students need to be prepared for the employment
 - ... University does not provide work related opportunities (on daily bases)
- HE Students need to take the initiative
 - ... University determines who takes the initiative



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Mismatch between the Technology teachers use and the Technology students use



- HE institutions and teachers normally:
 - use repositories
 - use LMS
 - use Blogs
 - virtual communities
- HE Students normally:
 - contribute, read or author Blog posts
 - use, manage cms
 - nurture their Social Networking Sites and other web profiles
 - use Web 2.0 services, email, virtual worlds, VoIP
 - use handheld devices

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... then what?



- Extracurricular activities
 - Activities driven by the students...
 - where the students use the technology as they are used to
 - where they have access to work related environments
 - where they face work-related problems to solve
 - where they use the HE institution as support and infrastructure
 - where they emulate work-related environments
 - where they run societies and clubs
 - where the clubs and societies have voice within the university
 - where they can interact with students of other universities
 - Technology should be used to empower students and to help them achieve what is needed (Thus, they should have the infrastructure and support)

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What kind of student societies?



- Student run Media Production Unit
 - TV
 - Radio
 - Newspaper
- Theme oriented societies
 - Young entrepreneurs
 - Economics
 - Writers guild
- Soft skills oriented societies
 - Debating
 - Toast Master
- Volunteering unit
- Plus sport, cultural and entertainment clubs

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Conclusion



- Empowering students by allowing them to run activities with the appropriate institutional infrastructure and support is likely to shorten the gap between:
 - What students need and university gives them, and
 - What employers need and the average graduating student profile