



Knowledge, Communities and Engagement

A view from the
Universities

The challenge of our times

- 0 Persistence of complex and 'wicked' problems
- 0 Recognition that the university monopoly on knowledge production has ended
- 0 Acknowledgement that the kinds of knowledge that is needed to tackle today's issues comes from community organisations, social movements, local government and local economy
- 0 Students and academics themselves calling for new ways to engage with society

Higher Education responds

- 0 UNESCO Communique on Higher Education and Social Responsibility
- 0 GUNi World Report 5
- 0 Association of Commonwealth Universities
- 0 The Talloires Network
- 0 Global Alliance of Community Engaged Research
- 0 Living Knowledge Network
- 0 PASCAL
- 0 National and regional networks

Community University Engagement

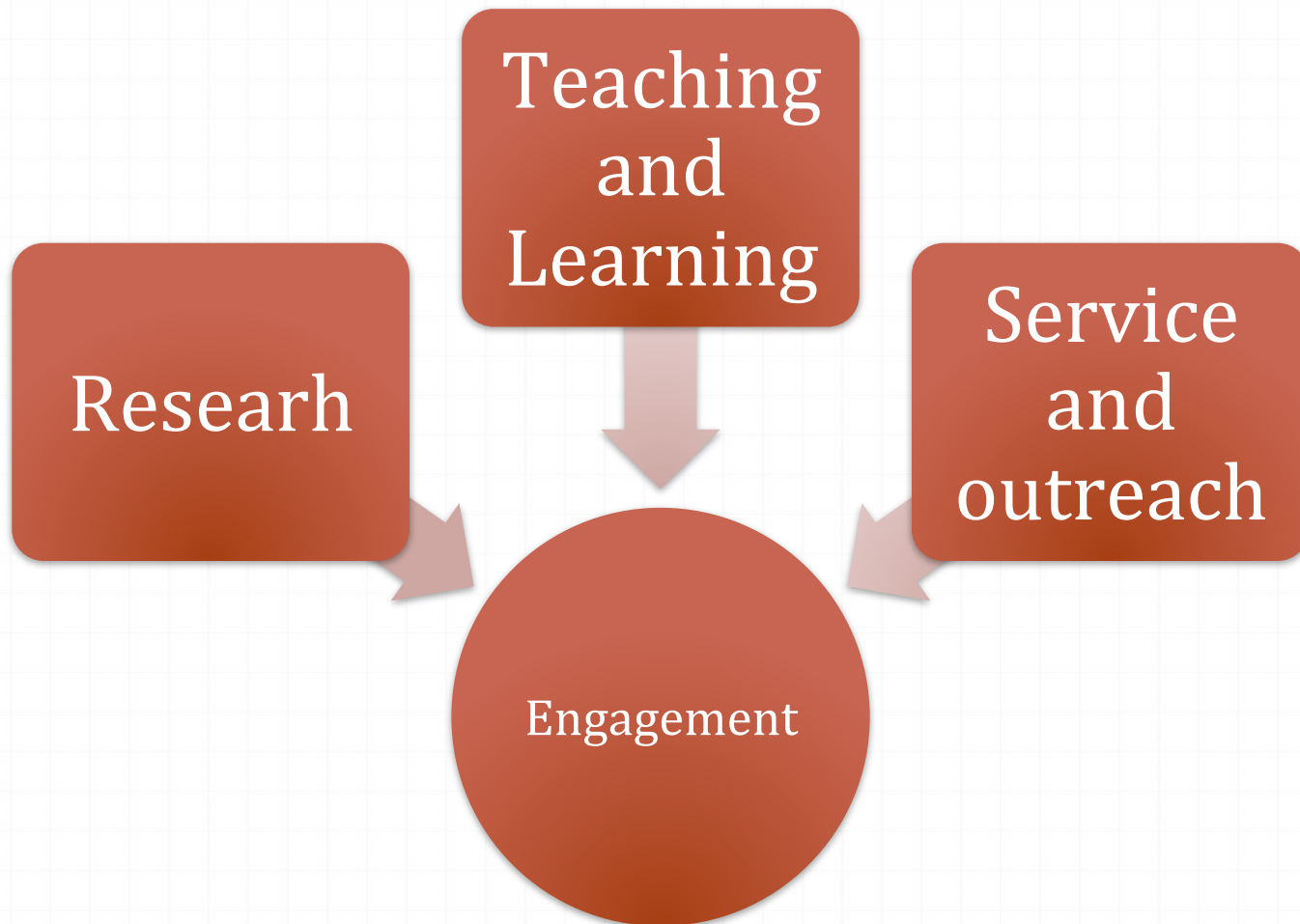
“Strenuous, thoughtful argumentative interaction with the non-university world in four spheres; universities’ aims and purposes, relating teaching and learning to the wider world, a back and forth dialogue between researchers and taking on a wider responsibilities as a neighbour and citizen”

Association of Commonwealth Universities

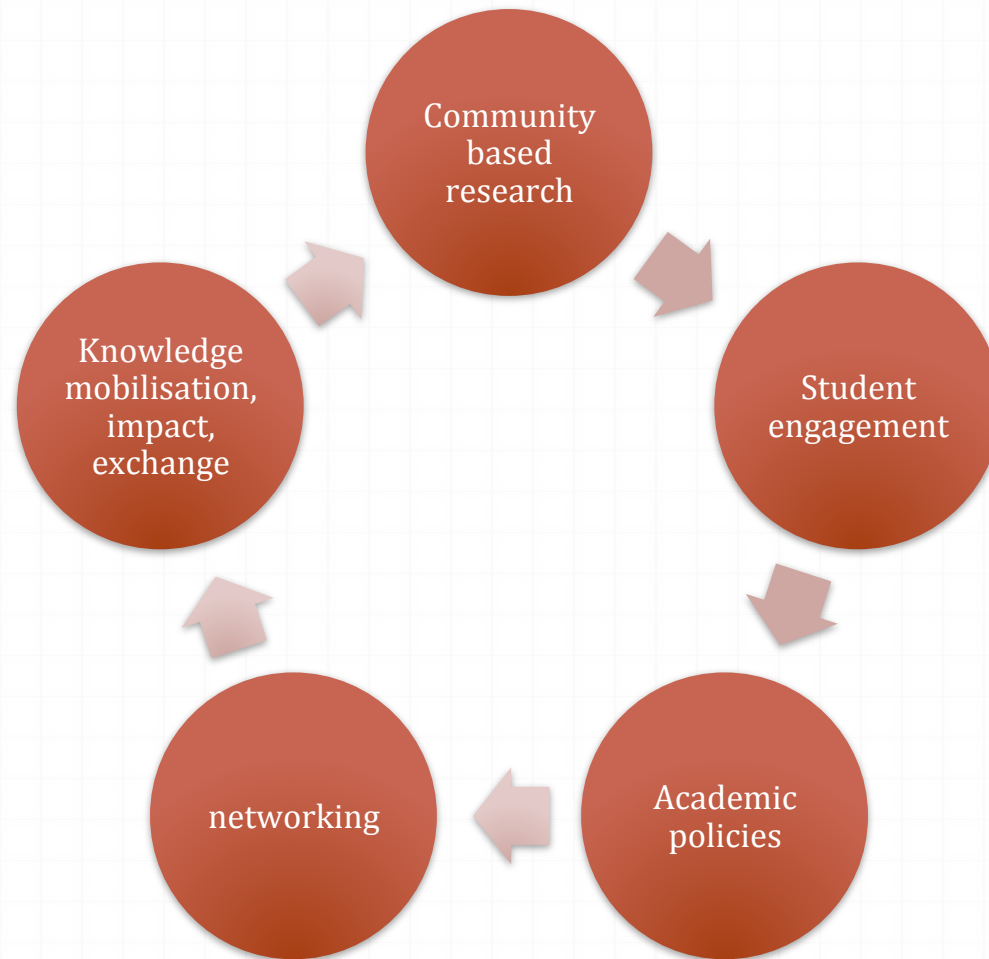
How is this being done?

- Creating new structures to facilitate community university engagement and research partnerships
- Incorporating the language of engagement into the strategic planning in our HEIs
- Examining our internal policies on career advancement re engaged scholarship
- Encouraging trans-disciplinary approaches to problems
- Creating local and national networks of support
- Linking with global networks of change

CU Engagement



Forms of CU engagement



Challenges

- Reduction of funding of HE by the state
- Diverse expectations on the role of HEIs
- Organisational culture of universities
- Persistence of disciplinary knowledge structures
- Differences in knowledge cultures between university and non-university settings
- Northern and English language bias of information

Rich sources of ideas

- 0 Growing academic and profession literature
- 0 GUNi-The World Report on Higher Education 5
- 0 Scores of good practices to examine
- 0 Innovation in every nation of the world
- 0 UNESCO Chair in CBR
- 0 European Science and Society Research

And also

- Our communities, our countries and our globe needs us!
- Our students are seeking more 'real world' experiences
- Many of our younger scholars want recognition for this kind of work that they are already doing
- This is a strong global movement in higher education

Futur Futuro

