



# Essential Elements in Leading Universities Toward Greater Social involvement

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# Universities and Social Change: Moving from Rhetoric to Reality



# Essential Elements in Leading Universities Toward Greater Social involvement

1. Institutional Framework (Rhetoric)
2. Groundedness in the Reality of Universities
3. Creative and committed change agents



# Essential Element #1: Rhetoric

- Slogans
  - Persons for Others
  - Professionals for Others
- Strategic Plans
  - Discipline-based social formation
- Institutional Mandates



# Essential Element #2: Designing within university parameters

- Formation of students
  - Classroom sessions
  - Formation sessions
  - Extra-curricular activities
- Research
- Service



# Formation of Students

- Graduates as Products
  - Conscientization through academics
  - Conscientization through social formation activities
- Social Formation at the Ateneo de Manila
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year: Half day exposure trip
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year: National Service Training Program (80 hours service)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year: Labor trials (16 hours working with)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> year: Immersion (60 hours living with)



# Social Formation for Pragmatic Students

- Movement into service-learning/  
discipline-based activities
  - Discipline-based: social formation activities that are related to their chosen discipline
  - Service-learning: discipline-based social formation activities that require output for an academic course



# Designing Discipline-based Formation for Pragmatic Students

- Semestral schedule is a constraint to continuous intervention
- Reliance on partnerships
- Contributing to non-essential functions





# Social Formation for Pragmatic Students

- Providing models of professionals for others



# Designing Discipline-based Formation for Pragmatic Faculty

- Demand-driven service-learning
- Possibilities for research and conference presentations
- Additional compensation
- University needs to provide staff and institutional support



# Extra-curricular activities

- Student organizations as voluntary activities
- Disaster relief and maybe eventually mitigation



# The (Lack of) Impact of University Research

- (Growing) Chasm between academic research and external needs
- Useful commissioned research that may not be publishable as academic research



# University Extension

The University is NOT an NGO.

- University NGOs (and research centers) have a tenuous relationship with their universities
- Possible areas of strength: training, science communication



## Essential Element #3: Creative and committed change agent

- (Grounded,) Creative and committed
- Does not even have to be top leadership



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1. Institutional Framework (Rhetoric)
2. Groundedness in the Reality of Universities and Social Change
3. Creative and Committed Change Agents



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