## The Grand Challenges – HUR?

Professor Matti Pursula Aalto-Universitet, Finland NORDTEK konferens 2011 Åbo 18.06.2011



### **The Grand Challenges – HUR?**

- Genom att göra vårt eget arbete så gott som möjligt för att kunna ta ansvaret och rollen som vägledare för utvecklingen mot en bättre värld
  - För att lyckas måste vi se kritiskt på våra egna aktiviteter och attityder och omformulera våra mål, strategier och arbetssätt, där det behövs



## **Meeting the Grand Challenges**

#### **The Lund Declaration 2009**

- Strengthening frontier research initiated by the research community itself
- Taking global lead in the developing of enabling technologies
- Bringing together supply side and demand side measures to support both business development and public policy goals
- Excellence and well-networked knowledge institutions
- The creation and maintenance of world class research infrastructures
- A risk-tolerant and trust-based approach in research funding



## The areas of change

## According to the Lund declaration the universities have to reassess

- their missions, management and structures
- their approaches to education and facilitating learning
- their pursuit of research
- their involvement in innovation activities and regional and national development

#### The internal needs for reassessment include

- A new multidisciplinary approach in teaching and research
- The new ways of learning
- Internationalisation



### Tekniska högskolornas roll

- Vetenskap och teknik har traditionellt sett haft en avgörande roll i lösningen av de stora utmaningarna
- För att kunna ha en märkbar insats måste offentliga och privata organisationer samarbeta för att skapa en välfungerande kunskapstriangel
- Det är viktigt att förstå, att de stora utmaningarna är anknutna med människornas beteende och strävan efter ett bättre liv
- Därför behöver de tekniska högskolorna ett vidsynt och mångsidigt arbetssätt med samarbete mellan offentliga och privata organisationer och med andra vetenskapsområden, såsom beteendevetenskap, ekonomivetenskap, design, osv.



## Aalto University - Where Science and Art meet Technology and Business



### **Aalto University: An example of change**

#### A merger of three leading Finnish universities operative 1.1.2010

#### Art & Design founded 1871



Science & Technology, founded 1849



Economics, founded 1911



### **Aalto University: Reassessing the Mission**

Aalto University will strive to change the world through

- top class interdisciplinary research,
- pioneering education,
- continuous renewal, and
- bold surpassing of traditional boundaries

We will educate responsible and broad-minded experts with wide perspective to act as future visionaries in the society



### Values

Passion to explore boundaries.
Freedom to be creative and critical.
Courage to influence and excel.
Duty to care, accept and inspire.
High ethics, openness, and equality





### **Aalto University**

### **Reassessing the management and structures 1**

#### Governance system

- Aalto University is a foundation
  - Capital of 700 million euro is given by the State (500 million) and the private industries and private persons (200 million)
  - Increased yearly funding for 10 years to give a good start
- Strategic Board
  - Seven members coming from outside the university
  - The board nominates the President, Vice Presidents, Deans and Directors of service functions
  - Board decides the yearly budget and strategic guidelines
- The board is nominated by the University's Committee on Academic Affairs



### **Aalto University:**

Reassessing the approach to education and facilitating learning

- The goal is to create a new type of learning and student centered academic culture in research and education
  - Better commitment of students and personnel
  - Learning outcomes based approach
  - Strengthening the Bologna model
  - New approaches to teaching (Factories)
  - Increased involvement of students to research
- An international peer evaluation of teaching and learning (TEE) in all the six schools has been started now after the RAE



### **Aalto Factories**

#### **Multidisciplinary Opportunities**

Expertise workshops and the first new platforms for collaboration within Aalto University

- Design factory
- Media Factory
- Service Factory

**The factories are environments** for learning, teaching, research and co-

creation between universities, companies and society.



### **Aalto Design Factory**

- An interdisciplinary product design and learning hub uniting students, teachers, researchers and industry (operating 24/7)
- An experimental platform (started in Autumn 2008), a constantly developing physical, social and mental environment (3 000 square meters), aiming to support interdisciplinary and international co-operation between parties interested in design and development.
- The Factory hosts a number of courses, research projects and start-up companies, as well as some other co-operation projects.



## **Aalto-Tongji Design Factory ATDF**

- Joint project between Aalto University and Tongji University
- 1000 m2 of creative, transformable space bringing together students, research, industry & society
- Passion-based co-creation platform for interdisciplinary collaboration
- Opened 25.05.2010









#### Aalto in Solar Decathlon 2010: Zero energy wooden house Luukku An example of multidisciplinary approach



#### LUUKKU TALO



vuoden puurakennepalkinto 2010

Aalto-yliopisto

Solar Decathlon Europe 2010 18.-27. June 2010, MADRID

kilpailussa 5. sija arkkitehti, energia-, talo- ja rakennetekniikan alan opiskelijoista koostuvalle 5 hengen joukkueelle



#### The Luukku house





### Aalto on Tracks

#### An example of student enthusiasm

- Aalto on Tracks took 83 Aalto students (and a few members of staff) from Helsinki to Shanghai by train 14.5. - 24.5.
- Aalto on Tracks was a joint project of the Aalto-community : Aalto University, Aalto University Student Union, Aalto Design Factory in Shanghai ja Aalto Entrepreneurship Society
- The project was planned and realized by student volunteers
- The aim of the project was to make Aalto University, Finland and Finnish education known to the World, and to offer the participants cross-disciplinary learning experiences



## Aalto University: Reassessing the pursuit of research

- An international Research Assesment Exercise (RAE) was done in all schools in 2009 as a starting point for development
- Research strategy focuses on current strenghts and areas seen important to the university and society
- The university supports excellence and ambition
- A tenure track system is created as a central strategic tool in the creation of focus in research and education
- Creating strategic partnerships with universities and industry on a global scale
- Internationalisation of the staff and student population



### **Aalto University:**

**Reassessing the involvement in innovation activities** 

- Reorganisation the innovation activities and research support services of the former three universities
- Spontaneous self-organisation of students to Aalto Entrepreneurship Society with already more than 3000 members
  - Aalto Garage for start-ups
  - Boot Camps for students planning to start an entreprise of their own



#### AALTO CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ACE)



**A?** 



#### AALTO**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**SOCIETY

"Community-driven growth entrepreneurship catalyst at Aalto University."



Foster an entrepreneurial culture at Aalto University

Make resources available for Aalto startups



Grow Entrepreneurial Leaders

#### http://facebook.aaltoes.com/



### **Aalto Venture Garage for Startups**

- Aalto Venture Garage is the hub for entrepreneurs and startups located on <u>Aalto University's</u> campus near Helsinki
- This 700 sq meter industry hall is an open work space where entrepreneurs gets support from the <u>Coaches</u> and work together to grow their businesses
- <u>Bootcamp</u>, run four times a year, gathers up the best early stage startup founders to learn from the best serial entrepreneurs and investors from the region



### **Aalto University:**

## Reassessing the involvement in national and regional development

- Active cooperation of the former three universities with regional and national organisations continues
- Cooperation agreements with the cities in Helsinki region
- Active partner in forming the Metropolitan development strategy
- A shareholder in local and regional development companies



### Espoo City strategy – "T3"

Inspired by the idea of Aalto University





### **University as a Value Co-creation Platform**

- The goal of the T3 -project is to connect and facilitate interaction between the university, corporate research and living / commercial centers of Espoo.
- Aalto University is the value cocreation platform in city scale, facilitating the discussions and development through research and education, enabling new areal learning process to take place.





#### Summary:

# Maintaining and raising the quality is the key issue for the future success of universities

- The external and internal challenges ask for new approaches in university education and research
- Renewal of governance, management, teaching and research are needed
- Focusing to the essential is needed
- Local and international networking are essential elements the development of research, education and the third mission
- There are different ways to make the change based on the cultural and institutional framework
- Aalto University is just one example of a total approach to maintaining and upgrading the quality in education and research



## Aalto University - Where Science and Art meet Technology and Business

