

Some Futuring

1890

The Situation

- fewer refrigerators than cars
- less than 25% of homes had indoor plumbing
- less than 10% graduated from HS
- still an agrarian society
- university as an intellectually coherent community of shared values and responsibilities

Things Happening

- industrial revolution was taking hold
- colonial colleges were about to awake
- landgrant colleges were being mobilized
- faculty leadership was stirring
- foundations for research university were being laid

30 Year Time Frame

- massive growth in enrollments, degrees
- evolution of open merit-based institutions
- teaching research service conglomerates
- broad portfolio of teaching at UG, grad, prof level
- shift from transmission to search for knowledge
- importance of government patronage
- research library

1945

The Situation

- universities emerging from depression and WWII
- Ivys still elitist
- few world-class public institutions

Things Happening

- returning veterans
- booming economy
- role of university in national defense

30 Year Time Frame

- age profile of population and faculty
- distribution of enrollments between publics and privates
- importance of federal government financing
- geographic distribution of students and institutions
- spectrum of scientific and scholarly opportunities
- nature and extent of public relations
- public attitude toward higher education

Office of the President

Fall, 1991

1990

The Situation

- US universities are best in the world...best financed, most respected
- 1980s have been a period of stability...stable enrollments, modest growth in faculty, stable federal aid
- expenditures per faculty (and student) have been rising continuously
- massive proliferation of research universities (with even more aspiring to this status)

Things Happening

- chronic perceived shortage of resources
- public concern about cost and price of education
- perceived unpredictability of resource flow
- rigidity of disciplinary structure
- difficulty in reaching agreement on evaluation standards
- shift away from UG to grad/prof and research
- short time frame between basic research and application
- public concern about "what is going on on the nation's campuses"

30 Year Time Frame

- multiculturalism?
- globalization?
- age of knowledge?
- global change?
- US ---> Europe and Japan?
- ubiquitous computing?
- genetic engineering?
- international conflicts?
- space colonization?
- "progress" or "steady state"?

10 Year Time Horizon

30 Year Time Horizon

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