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Call for a New Paradigm in Education

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HAGENBERG | LINZ | STEYR | WELS



UNIVERSITY
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Higher Education Institutions in the Middle of **Economic, Social and Political** Pressures



Global Trends in Higher Education – Key Realities of the 21st Century

- Massification and widening participation
- Requirements of the global knowledge economy
- Digital transformations
- Globalization



Ideology-Driven Agendas

Economy-Driven

- Entrepreneurial
- Innovative
- Economic growth
- Knowledge economy
- Autonomy from State

Open Society

- Grand challenges
- Interdisciplinarity
- Democratic action
- Free enquiry
- Objective knowledge

Political Agenda

- common name
- Governing board
- Similar objectives
- Funding on expected outcomes



Transformations

Gone are the days

...

were HEIs can afford
to maintain the **status quo**.

Gone are the days

...

were HE was
reserved to the elite.

Gone are the days

...

were **intensive specialization**
was the most appropriate
answer to multidimensional
challenges





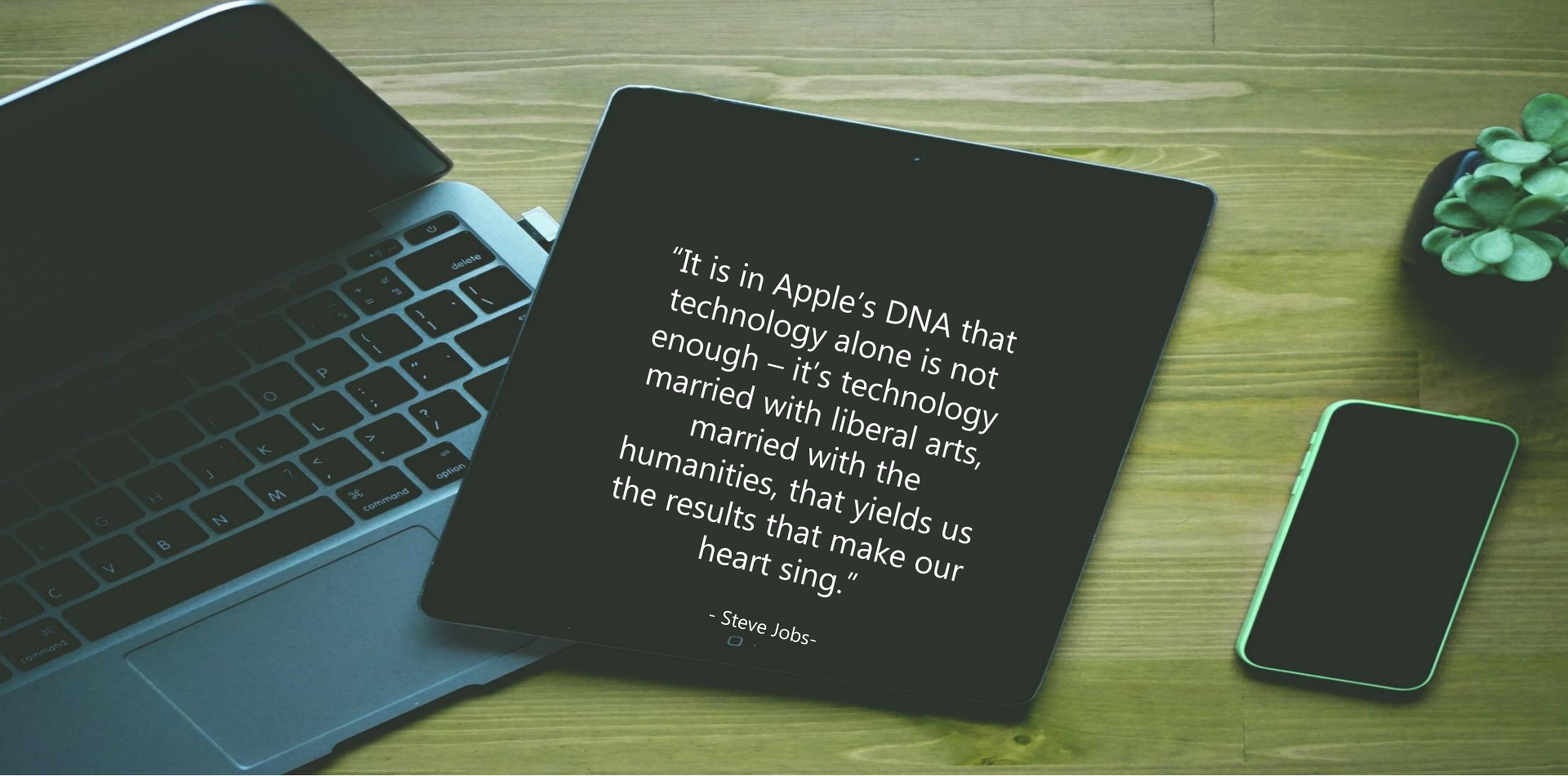
Economic Pressures

- Organizational shift from Humboldtian university to **entrepreneurial** university
 - **Institutionalized** industry-university connections
 - **Rationalized** academic structures
 - **Standardized** teaching and research criteria
 - **Growing** financial pressure, accountability
 - Graduate employability (disciplinary and transversal skills)



Social Pressures

- **Grand Challenges** (17 SDGs – UNO)
 - **Interdisciplinary** cooperation
 - **Concerted** action and **democratic** engagement
 - **University 4.0**
 - Close cooperation in line with societal and corporate needs (‘**third mission**’ activities)
 - Integration of new technologies and social communication networks
 - Lifelong Learning (continuous further education, global citizenship, open society)



"It is in Apple's DNA that
technology alone is not
enough – it's technology
married with liberal arts,
married with the
humanities, that yields us
the results that make our
heart sing."

- Steve Jobs-



Political Pressures

- **New public management and managerialism**
 - Rhetoric of marketization leads to more political **control**
 - Budget constraints foster privatization, **competition** and **industrial ties**
 - Performance targets, **accountability**, restricted budget allocation
 - Excellence initiatives **versus** massification
 - Differentiation of HE sector



European HE landscape

- **Most diversified and most integrated**
 - Bologna process (EHEA) intergration of over-regulated systems
- **Paradoxical developments**
 - **Knowledge economy** –human capital as enabler for economic growth
 - HEIs as **transversal problem-solvers** (grand challenges)
 - **Europeanization** phenomenon (innovation, competitiveness)



Latin American HE landscape

- **Massification** From small elite to increased access
- **Privatization** New types of post-secondary providers (worldwide the highest)
- **Diversification** Wide range of programs (Short-cycle to PhD)
- **Accreditation** No standardized practices, many international accreditation bodies



A New Paradigm in Education?

- paradigm shift
- based on **conflicting** interest (academic, economic, social, political)

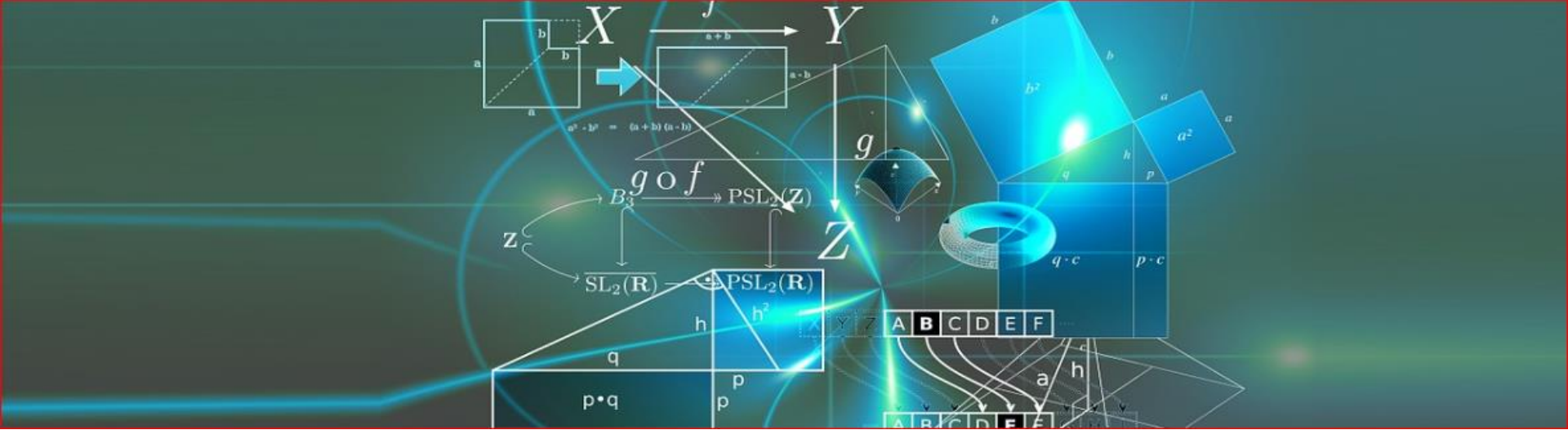




„... an **academic revolution** has taken place in higher education in the past half century marked by transformations **unprecedented** in **scope** and **diversity**.“


UNESCO Report 2009

- Aims and goals in HE
- Composition of student population
- Structure and types of universities
- Delivery modes of teaching
- Pattern of funding
- Each institution needs to find its individual **legitimacy**



**„We cannot solve our problems with the same
thinking we used when we created them“**

- Albert Einstein -



Let's head for new shores....

Thank you for your attention

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