



OBSERVATORY

MAGNA CHARTA UNIVERSITATUM

Towards a new Magna Charta Universitatum

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Presentation Outline

- Why values are important for universities
- The 1988 Magna Charta Universitatum
- The Magna Charta Observatory
- Why a new MCU?
- The drafting process so far
- Drafting group areas of emphasis
- Consultation questions
- Group conclusions

Why values are important for universities

- Faster pace of change, globalisation, more diverse expectations from wider range of stakeholder
-  greater uncertainty
- Values guide universities' development and enable creation of the future they want
- Values translate into how the university is run
- Values transfer to students and their futures
- Based on international experience built up over centuries
- Magna Charta Universitatum



The 1988 MCU Fundamental principles

1. The university is an autonomous institution which produces, examines, appraises and hands down culture by research and teaching.
2. Its research and teaching must be morally and intellectually independent of all political authority and economic power.
3. Teaching and research must be inseparable if tuition is not to lag behind changing needs, the demands of society, and advances in scientific knowledge.

The 1988 MCU

Fundamental principles 2

4. Freedom in research and training is the fundamental principle of university life, and governments and universities must ensure respect for this fundamental requirement.
5. A universityshould attain universal knowledge;transcend geographical and political frontiers, affirms the vital need for different cultures to know and influence each other.
6.  Act with integrity



The Magna Charta Observatory

- Promotes the fulfilment and defence of institutional autonomy and academic freedom
- ‘Global guardian of fundamental values’
- 906 signatory universities from 87 countries
- Works by:

Gathering Information	Projects E.g. Living values
Monitoring and Research	Expressing Opinions
Preparing Publications	Making Presentations
Conferences and workshops	Partnering with Kindred Bodies
Website	Working with Signatories

Global spread of signatories



Why a new MCU ?

- Much has changed over 30 years
 - External contexts in which universities operate (autonomy and academic freedom being challenged in old and new ways)
 - Expansion and diversity in terms of institutions worldwide
 - Change within universities themselves – more diverse and larger student body, different expectations, demands and needs in teaching and research, Open Data/Open Science for example.

Why a new MCU 2

- Much has changed over 30 years
 - Universities operate more internationally
 - Greater use of advanced technologies and wider range of modes of delivery
 - Demands and needs of sustainability (UN SDGs)
 - Expectations for more financial independence
 - Exigency of more equity in access and success
 - Serving a wider range of local, national and international stakeholders



Magna Charta Observatory - Change in orientation

- MCO evolved towards a more globally focused and committed organization aiming to be more globally relevant, more globally representative and globally owned
- Recognition of original MCU as an essential, clear and elegant statement of fundamental principles that define and ideally (but not always and everywhere) characterize the European traditional university
- Decision of MCO Council to respond to changed context by drafting an MCU 2020 that reflects university aspirations and responsibilities in the 21st Century

Towards MCU 2020

- A more inclusive drafting process – an international drafting group, chaired by MCO president and made up of HE leaders, students, experts
- Includes perspectives from Asia, Africa, Europe the Americas
- Drafting group has met 3 times so far
- Web consultation based on a draft MCU 2020 held in June-Sept. 2019



MCU 2020 drafting process

- Responses analysed and a new draft issued for consultation
- Identification of additional values beyond the fundamental principles enshrined in the original MCU that are essential in 2020
- Consultation workshops held with European Students Union, at Higher Education conferences (Canada, Colombia) and now Puebla at the IAU International Conference
- A final draft will be submitted to MCO Council in March 2020
- The new MCU 2020 ready for signature on 17 September 2020 – MCO Anniversary Conference at the University of Bologna

11/14/2019

Drafting Group emphasis for MCU 2020

- **Re-affirm the fundamental principles of original MCU – not a dilution or renegeing on their central importance**
 - Academic freedom and institutional autonomy continue to require protection
- **Introduce a better balance between university rights and their responsibilities**
 - Universities take up and fulfill duties, responsibilities and civic role to benefit humanity and contribute to sustainability
- **Identify the key changes that impact on and bring new challenges to universities globally in the 21st Century**
 - Increased number and diversity of institutions and students, technology, sustainability, globalization, erosion of trust in expertise
- **Emphasize additional values that universities need to uphold**
 - Scientific integrity and ethical conduct, principles of equity and fairness to protect diversity and inclusiveness, education as a human right,



Questions for discussion

(also circulated in summer of 2020)

1. Is the link to the existing MCU clear and strong enough?

- MCU 2020 is a complementary text, not a replacement

2. Does the landscape described reflect changes which you have seen?

- Changing circumstances and new challenges in different regions have led to the new MCU

3. Does the MCU 2020 recognise and fit with the mission of your university?

- University missions are diverse and multiple and their responsibilities locally and globally differ too

4. (For current signatories) is it your view that your university would be content to sign (actually or virtually) the new MCU?

- Both new and former signatories are welcome, especially as new leadership's renewed commitment is important

5. Are there additional comments that you would like the drafting group to consider?

- Values that need to be underlined, stakeholders that need to be mentioned, responsibilities that need to be added

11/14/2019



Thanks for feedback

More information available from

www.magna-charta.org

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