The Role of Institutions & Leadership in Increasing SS&H Impact

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Association of American Universities
AESIS Impact of Social Sciences & Humanities 2020
October 16, 2020

Association of American Universities

AAU = 65 Leading Research Universities

- Presidents & Chancellors are the members
- Historically have been involved in advocacy and trying to impact federal research and higher education policy and funding
- In recent years, more attention focused on institutional policy and promoting institutional and cultural change to increase impact

AAU Initiatives to Drive Change & Increase Impact

- Undergraduate STEM Education Initiative
- PhD Education Initiative
- Accelerating Public Access to Research Data (APARD)
- Golden Goose Award

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Key Levers for Change

- Convening power
- Identifying and sharing effective practices
- Utilizing ‘Coopetition’ as a lever for change
- In addition to top-down & bottom-up, also using *middle-out* & *sideways-in* levers

Association of American Universities

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Association of American Universities

Canada's universities:
Institutions, leadership and impact

AESIS Conference
October 16, 2020

Aïsha Dioury
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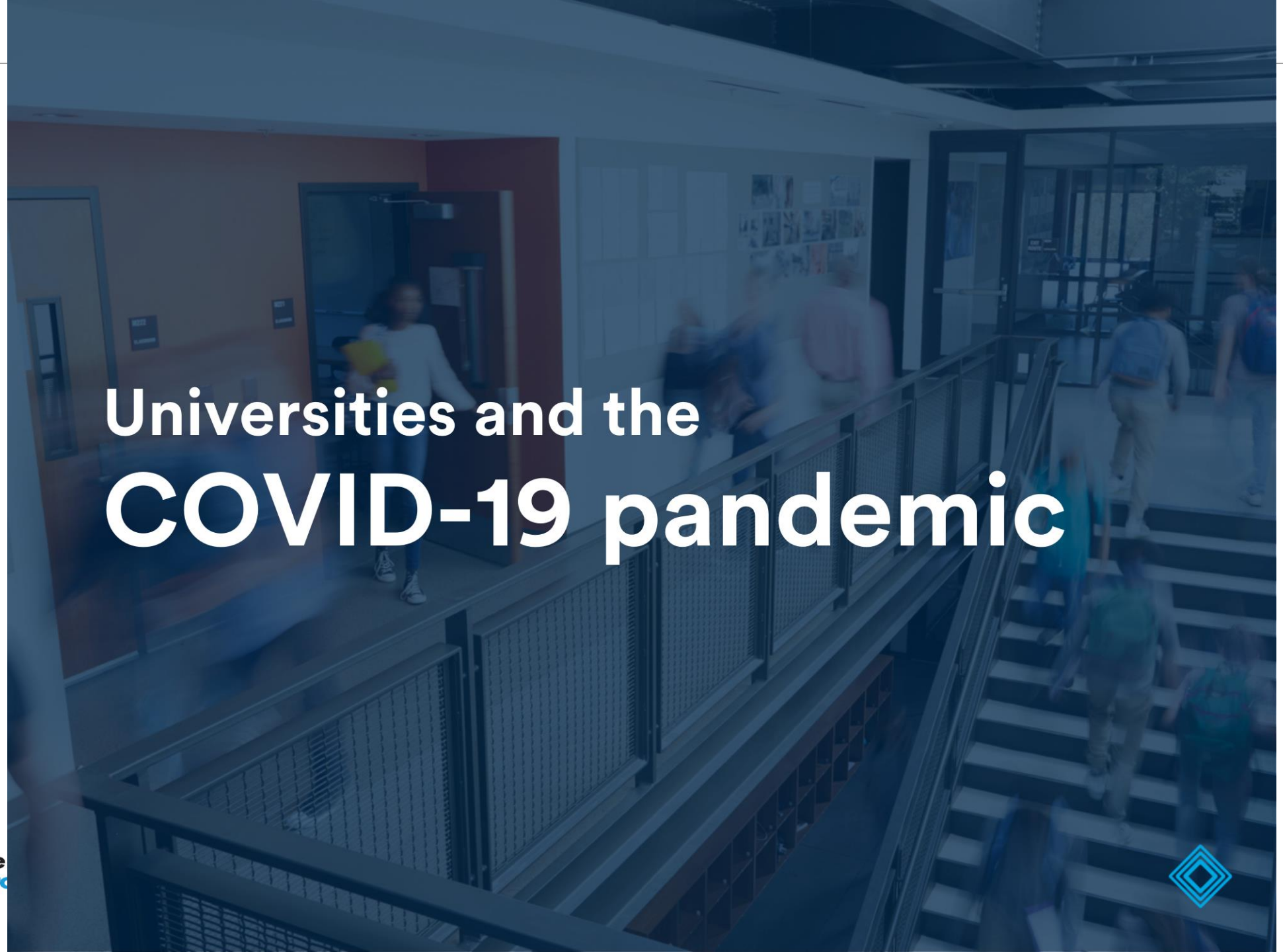
Universities Canada.

Universities Canada:
Who we are

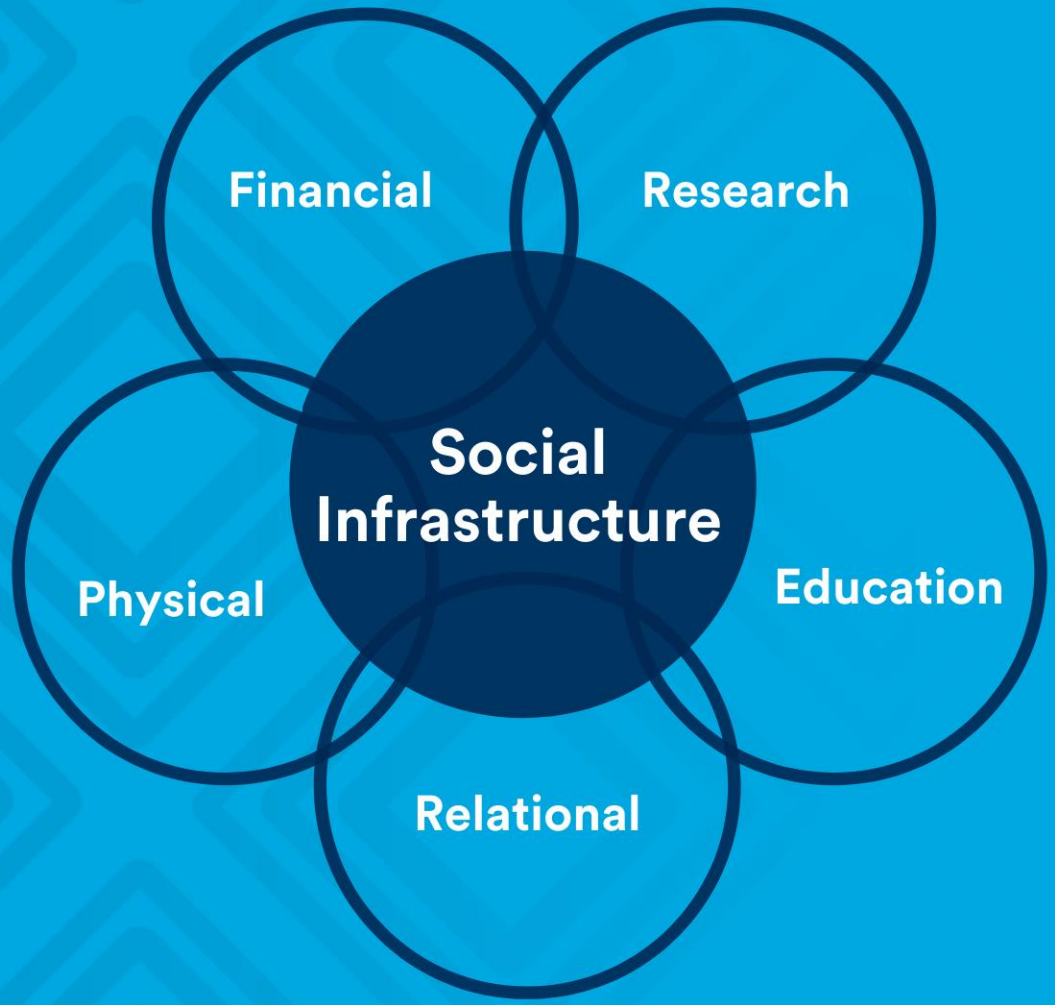


Universities and the COVID-19 pandemic

Building back better:
Advancing social impact

Social impact

Instruments for institutional engagement



Social Impact Continuum of Practice

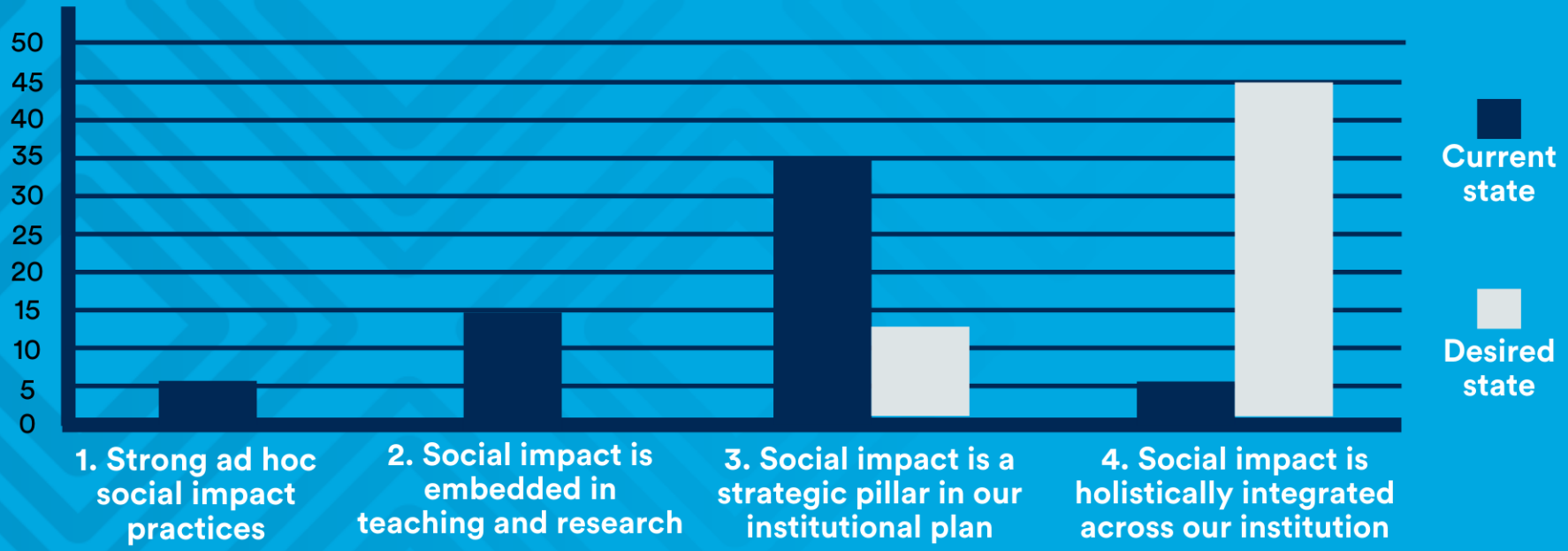
Our institution engages in strong ad hoc social impact practices.

Social impact is a strategic pillar in our institutional plan.

1 2 3 4

At our institution, social impact is embedded in teaching and research.

Social impact is holistically integrated across our institution's governance, relationships and roles.



Frameworks for measuring impact

1. National Survey of Student Engagement (67%)
2. Carnegie Community Engagement Classification (30%)
3. THE Impact Rankings (15%)
4. STARS (15%)
5. Ashoka U Changemaker Campus (11%)
6. 41% using more than one framework to assess impact

Thank you.
Merci.

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When you think of institutions that can influence the impact of social sciences and humanities on society, what kinds of institutions do you think of?

Do you have specific examples of institutions you can identify which have taken a leadership role in seeking to increase SSH impact?

What specifically have these institutions done that is working?

What are some institutional barriers that exist to increasing impact?

When we talk about “leadership” in the case of maximizing SSH impact, which is most helpful—individual or institutional? Academic scholars, institutional leaders, academic departments or units, or individual and/or institutions from outside of the academy? Some combination? Why?

- **Institutions can play an important role in increasing impact by serving as intermediaries between scholars in the humanities and social sciences and the practitioners and policy makers tasked with addressing major social issues. How can institutions best serve this intermediary function?**
  - Convene scholars and stakeholders around pressing social issues as they arise?
  - Provide regular forums for connecting the SSH scholars with those who might benefit from their work?
  - Provide better training and support for SSH faculty members that want to increase their impact?
  - Provide better training and support for current SSH graduate students regarding how to convey their research and scholarship in ways the maximize its impact.
  - Create a channel or clearinghouse that will better enable stakeholders to connect to scholars doing relevant work?
  - Something else not mentioned above?

The ability to have impact is often driven by a faculty member's ability to explain the broader societal impact of their research/scholarship and to engage the public and policymakers in it.

- What role should universities play in helping faculty to effectively engage with the public and policymakers to have a broader societal impact?
- How can institutions best serve as repositories of knowledge that will help speak to the impact of research many years after the team that compiled that research has dissolved?

Final Question:

- Based upon the preceding discussion, what recommendation or brief one sentence statement would the group like to make concerning the role that institutions can play to helping to facilitate and lead efforts to increase the societal impact of SSH research and scholarship?