

## Aligning student learning with a sustainability mindset

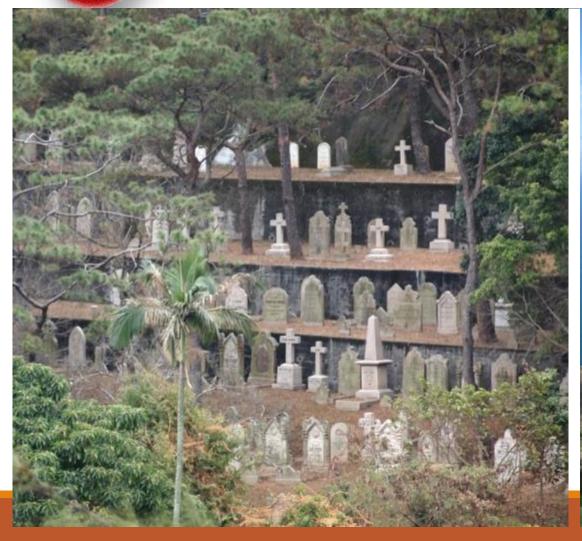
Davis Bookhart, Head, HKUST Sustainability Unit



## About Hong Kong

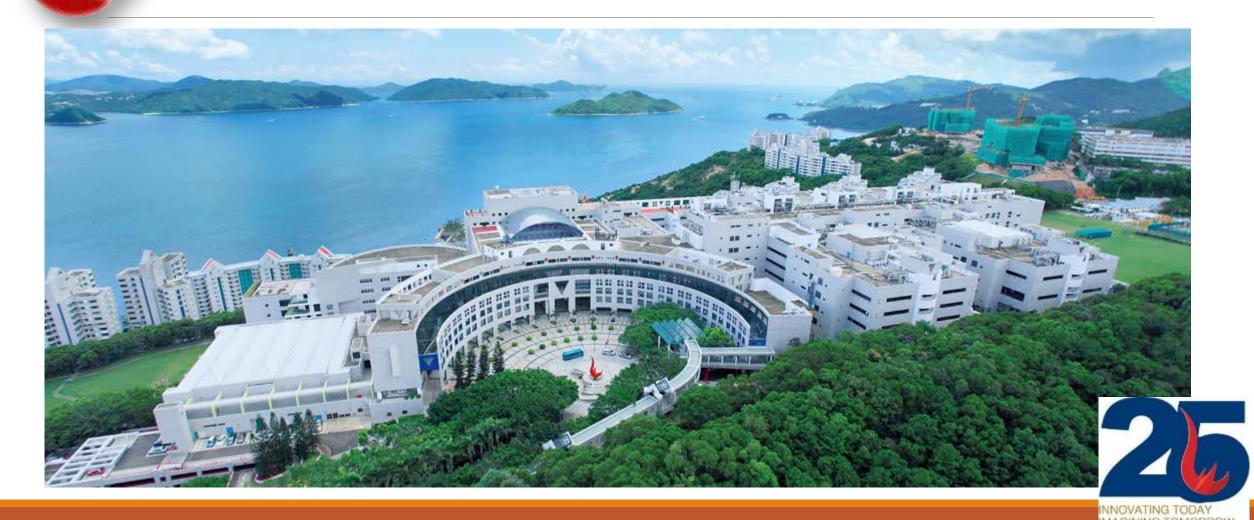


## About Hong Kong





## Hong Kong University of Science and Technology









# Foundation of a Sustainable Campus



FOCUS ON SURROUNDINGS AND LIVABLE SPACES





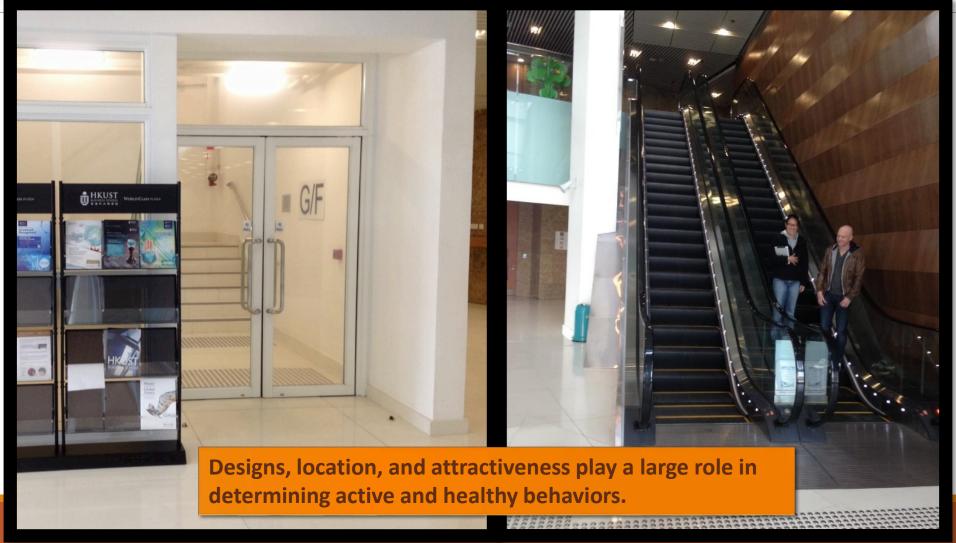






## Campus Design Choices









## Sense of Place - Conclusions

Surrounding have strong influence on our ability to <u>understand</u> sustainability

Surroundings influence **behavior** 

Surroundings influence our **social lives** 

Campuses are perfect places to create good <u>examples</u> for sustainable surroundings

Campuses are perfect places to create good examples for sustainable surroundings





## Gaining Alignment

SUSTAINABILITY MINDSET
STUDENT LEARNING
CAMPUS OPERATIONS



## Changing landscape

#### 69% of students\*

consider green campus attributes when deciding

#### 82% of young Millennials\*\*

 consider a company's CSR commitments when deciding what job to take

#### 74% of Millennials\*\*

 say they would volunteer for a cause supported by a company they trust (vs. 56% U.S. average)

#### 1 of 3 Students today

Will be alive in the year 2100

## -WHAT'S A-MILLENNIAL



<sup>\*</sup> Source: Princeton Review

<sup>\*\*</sup> Source: 2015 Cone Communications Millennial CSR Study



## Student Influence on Process

#### THE COLLEGE **SUSTAINABILITY** REPORT CARD

A Review of Campus & Endowment Policies at Leading Institutions Published by Sustainable Endowments Institute









GREEN MBA GUIDE

Poplar Green MBA Guide 2013:

POPLAR









**TOP 25** 

a program of aashe









## Current Snapshot:

Strength in four areas where the university is making significant contributions

## Research and discovery

Leveraging university resources and human capital to solve pressing problems for human society

#### **Campus operations**

Transitioning towards a campus that becomes an integral part of the learning experience and training of the students.

#### **Education**

Preparing students for careers and social interaction within a 21<sup>st</sup> century environment (resource-constraints, rapid and unpredictable technology changes, globalization)

## **Collaborative** impact

Contributing to the advancement of the HKUST community, Hong Kong, and the world ("spilling out")

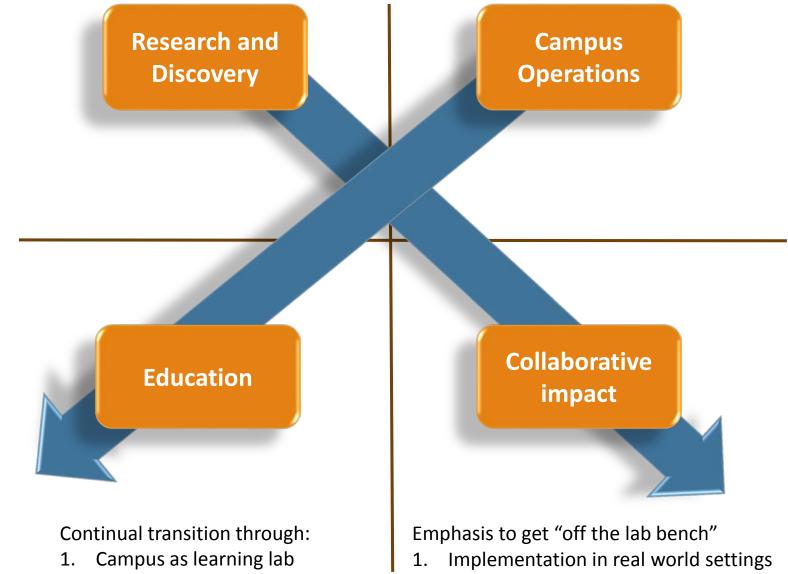
## Directional Movement

#### Campus operations -

Continues integration in student training

#### Research and discovery -

Continues transition towards tech transfer

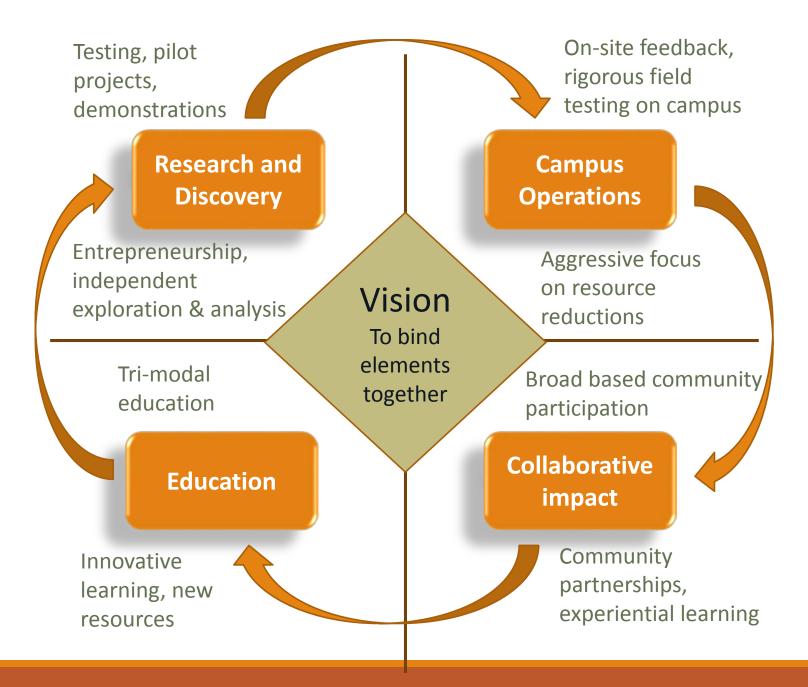


Demonstrating by doing ("walking the walk") 2. Integrated / cross-disciplinary / cross-sector research



## Perspective

A sustainability vision can bind existing elements together in new and interesting ways





## Alignment – Some Thoughts

Universities must to **change rapidly** to keep up with student needs

Alignment requires **flexibility and adaptability** 

Alternative approaches are needed to build meaningful **experiential learning** 

Sustainability can play a role in generating experiences that provide learning platforms for students









# How does this look in the context of students?

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SURVEY

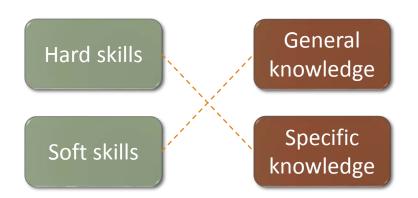


## Can We Confirm Any of This?

#### **Current research project**

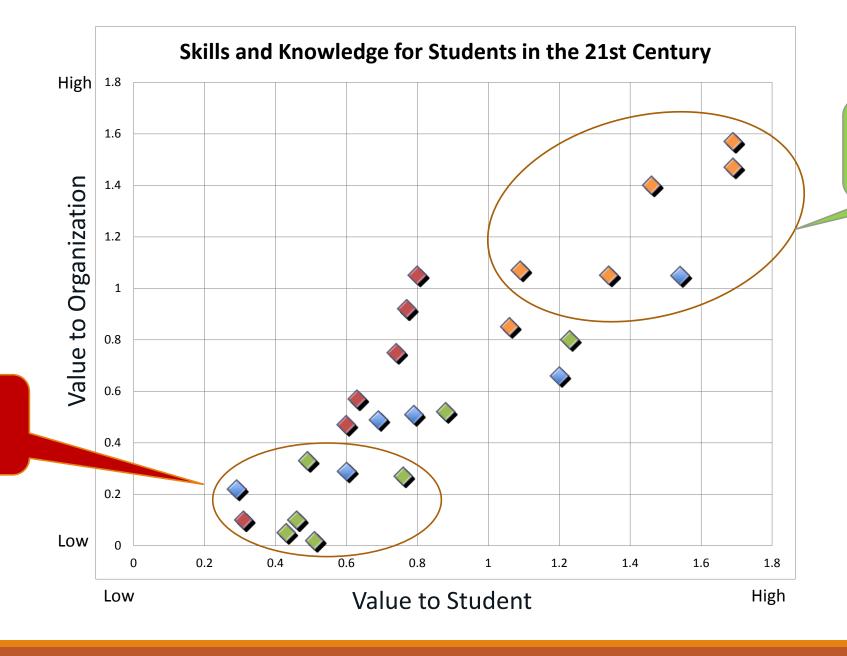
Focus on employers in Hong Kong

- 1) What advice would you give to a student?
- 2) What is important to your business?



Sustainability Knowledge and Skills Survey





Taught hard

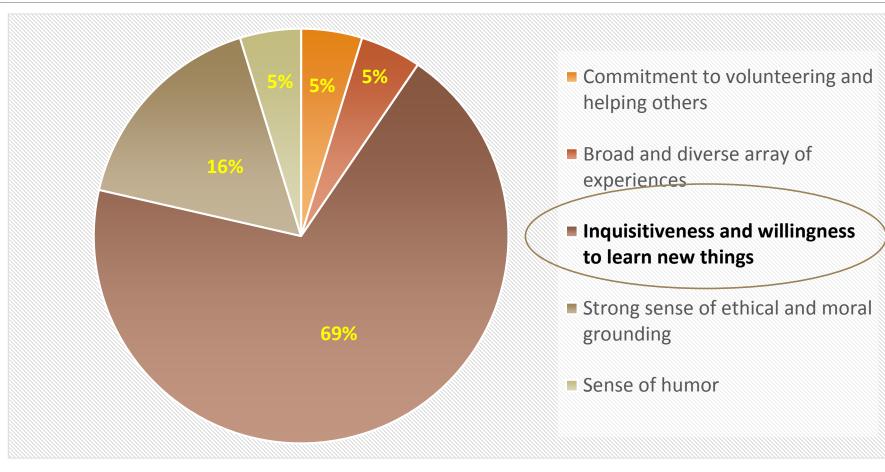
skills and

training

Learned soft skills and experience

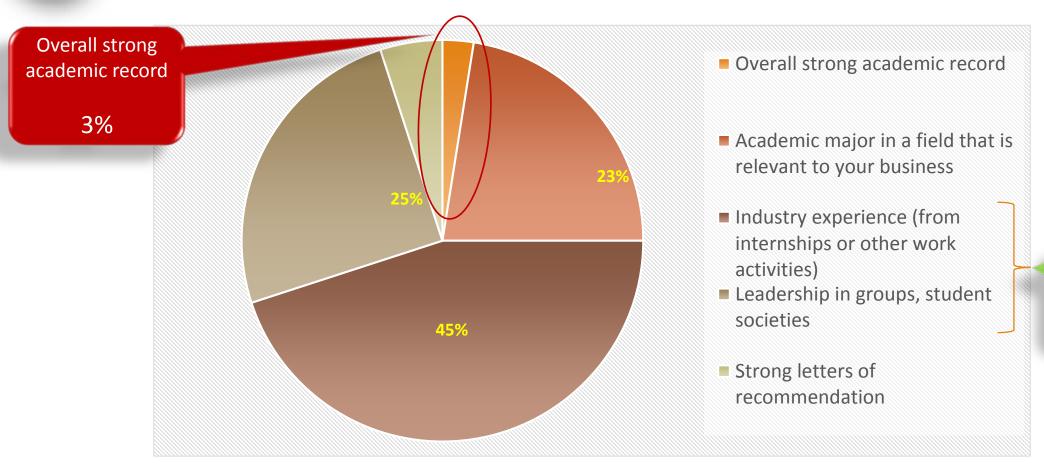


## Important Attributes in Employees





## Important Attributes for Applicants



Learned soft skills and experience



## **Brief Conclusions**

#### **Experiences matter**

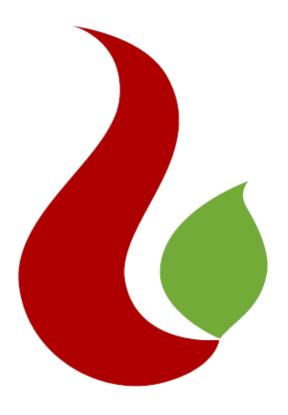
How can we best utilize the campus as a learning lab?

#### Interpersonal and social skills mean everything

How do we create vibrant spaces that foster interconnections?

#### Inquisitiveness opens the world

How can we foster a life-long love of learning?





Questions?