UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

IT strategy for a public university – why, what, when and how?

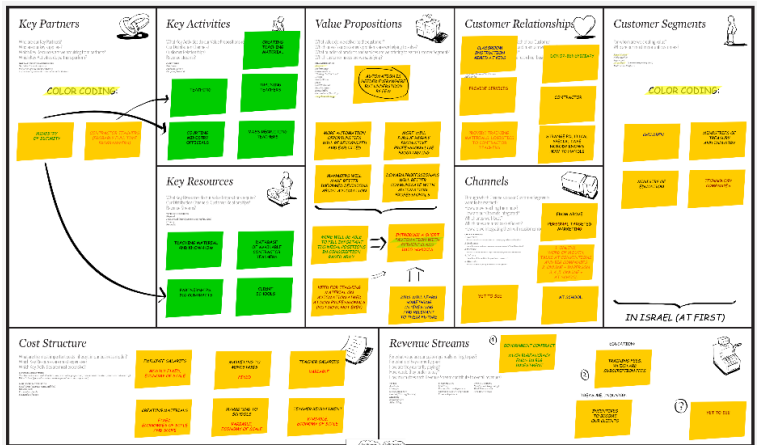
Soren Berglund, CIO
Umea university
Sweden

Why am I doing this presentation?

- A new IT strategy for the new university management autumn 2016
- I value your input on the challenges, the process and the content of an IT strategy

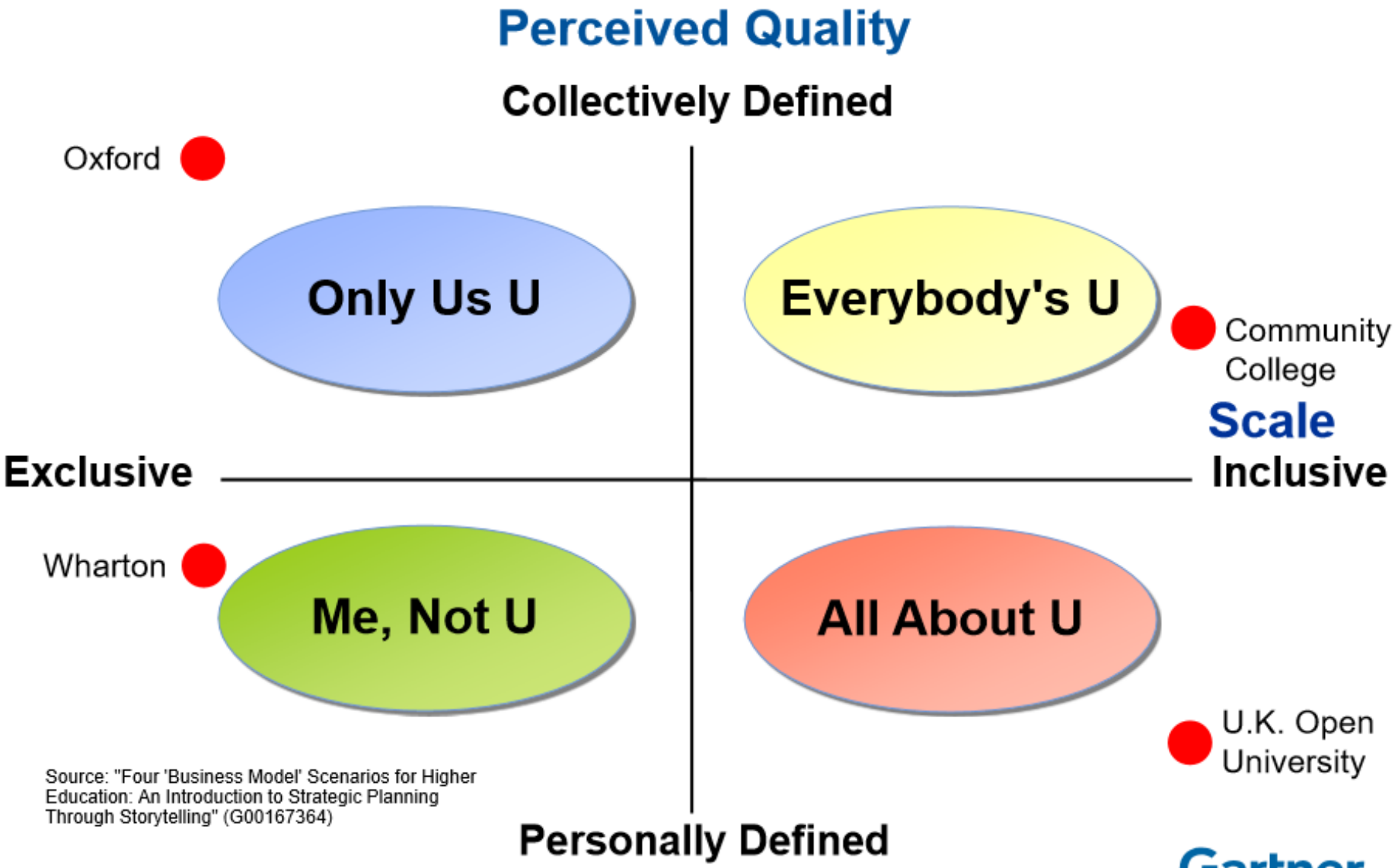
First, where is your insitution going? Your business model.

- Public – private
- Open to all - exclusive
- Focus on research
- Focus on education
- Run for higher ranking



- All this matters when you start your strategy work

Higher Education "Business Model" Scenarios — Technological Decisions by Storytelling



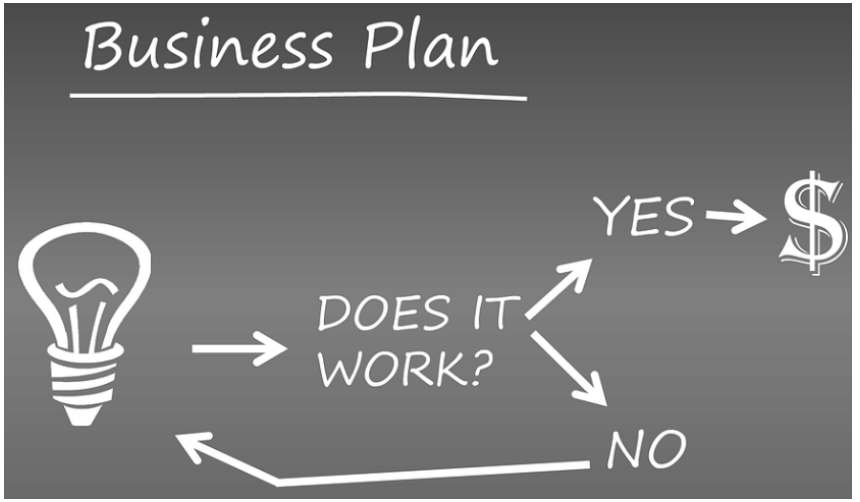
Source: "Four 'Business Model' Scenarios for Higher Education: An Introduction to Strategic Planning Through Storytelling" (G00167364)

© 2013 Gartner, Inc. and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Gartner

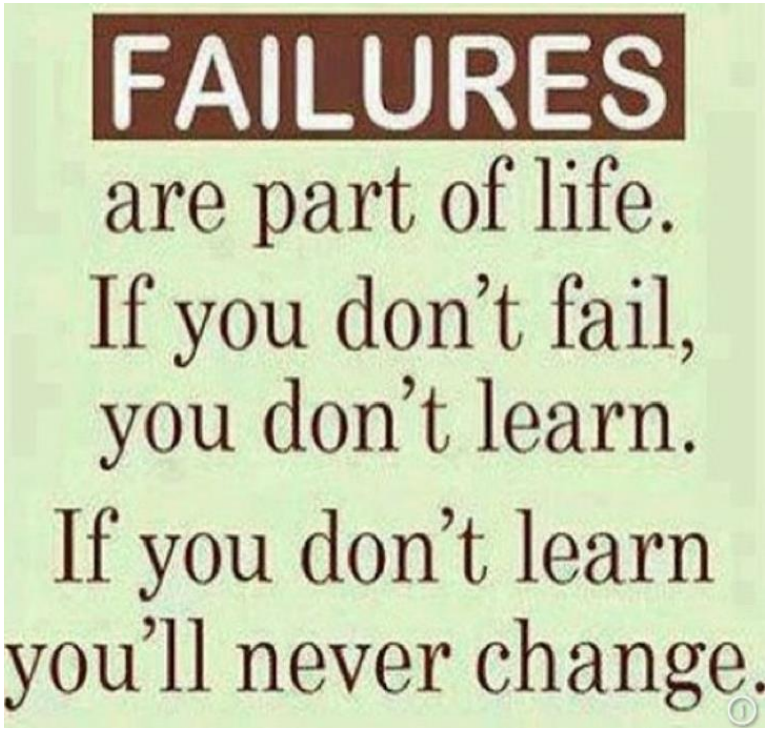
What is an IT strategy?

A **Technology strategy** is a particular generation of an organization's overall objective(s), principles and tactics relating to the technologies that the organization uses.



Your challenge

- An IT strategy for an academic institution may be one of the hardest task to prepare and implement for a CIO



What is an IT strategy?, cont.

- A book – a novel
- A sheet of paper - a formal document
- An idea in your head

- A revolution or refactoring
- Changes in directions?

- It is institutional politics ….

What should an IT-strategy be?

- Your IT-plan for the future, max 3 years

- Easy to understand
- Accepted by your institution and peers
- Plans and later follow-up
- Have goals related to plan

- Story-telling works !

A new IT-strategy can be a shift

- On prem - Cloud first
- Computer labs - BYOD
- Openess – tighten IT-security
- DIY – carefully prepared IT support
- Open Source - Market Solutions
- Get your own software – Campus Licenses
- Freedom - standardization

What is most important in a IT strategy for an institution?

- Network and IAM (Identity and Access Management)
- Basic services (Webb, mail, HR, Finance, Student Records)
- IT security
- Reliability and Performance
- Stability and Innovation
- Cost and benefit

My IT strategy

- You do have an IT strategy
- It is explicit - or not
- Nevertheless, you do have a strategy
- Are you in control of the IT strategy?

How is your IT-strategy accepted?

- By collegial acceptance
- By bureaucratic procedures
- By firm leadership, i.e. You

- Does anybody care?
- What are the expectations?
- Do people do what you tell them to do?

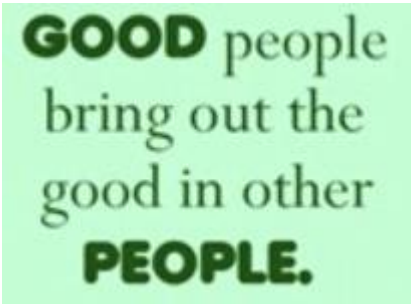
When to implement a new IT-strategy

- There is funding – there is no funding
- Change in management
- External or internal incidents
- Mergers or splits

- Changes are sparks – potentials for change

How to implement your IT strategy?

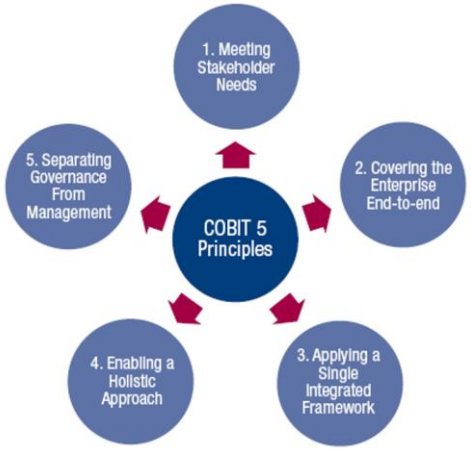
- Select carefully your wars
- Find supporters in your institution
- Support from faculty is a big plus
- Find good people to work with
- Find good suppliers



- Remember: Things tend to go slower than you wish

I need help. What to do?

- Talk to your peers in EUNIS
- Talk to your management
- Listen to your faculty
- Speak to Students
- Discuss with pros (ex. Gartner)
- Search Educause/Ecar for material
- Read best practice, COBIT



KEEP
CALM
AND
MAY THE FORCE
BE WITH YOU