

UOC Scientific Commission

December 2013

Dear President and dear members of the UOC Scientific Commission,

Let me extend what Prof. Carnoy was saying today that there is no free lunch to something like there is no free dinner, and therefore, let me address a few words to you.

When we decided with Prof. Castells to set up this UOC Scientific Commission, meant to advise the Rector of the University on Research Strategy and to perform the evaluation of its research progress, we did it in the complete agreement that this Commission should be key for the development of the true Research University that we both wanted. I am grateful to Prof. Castells for accepting being the President and for gathering such talented group of experts as you are. It is for me and for UOC an honor and a privilege that you accepted to help us. I would like to thank you for your time and your involvement with our institution. You are very busy people with high responsibilities and some of you have travelled long distances to come over to Barcelona to devote your knowledge, expertise and time to our university. This is the reason why I feel very fortunate to sit with you tonight for dinner.

This morning I tried to put forward to you some questions that our team feels that your feedback will be decisive in building up our research strategy. UOC is a young university, 18 years old, just leaving adolescence and now is time to position its personality in the field of higher education and to perform as an international key player among universities. Your advice will undoubtedly be one of our major assets.

On the other hand, you are also here to evaluate our research activities. This year just related to those of IN3, but in the future those of the whole university. Let me say that our team at the Direction of UOC is “taliban” of evaluation. Science requires constant evaluation.

«Evaluation provides not only the necessary accountability about the progress of activities, but it also gives the tools for constant improvement.»

Your input will help us to position ourselves in the world. You come from different environments and backgrounds and we need your views in order to develop our best capacities and to achieve the goal of becoming a reference institution in terms of research. From the Direction of the university we have a lot of work to do in shaking and pushing the institution towards an integrated research mind of our professionals. The critical implementation of your inputs will be the fuel of the process.

«As Sir Winston Churchill used to say, a good talk should have a good start, a good end and both of them should be as close to each other as possible.»

I do not know whether I achieved the two initial goals, but at least I hope to have been able to achieve the third. Thank you very much.

Josep A. Planell