How can universities integrate social entrepreneurship into their agenda?

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The main goal of higher education is still an ongoing debate: whether it should be training for jobs or preparing students to become stewards of the earth and participants in democracy for global social justice. This panel will be a continuation of this debate given the specific case of social entrepreneurship.

Considering the problems world is facing today, universities need to respond to new challenges. Nobody can deny the growing role of social entrepreneurs in economy such as Muhammed Yunus who is founder and manager of Grameen Bank and its growing family of social venture businesses and was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

A social entrepreneur recognizes a social problem and uses entrepreneurial principles to organize, create, and manage an enterprise to make social change. Whereas a business entrepreneur typically measures performance in profit and return, a social entrepreneur assesses success in terms of the impact on society along with profit and return. While social entrepreneurs often work through nonprofits and citizen groups, many are now working in the private and governmental sectors and making a real impact on society.

This panel will bring insights in many respects, including:

- curriculum changes in order to accommodate courses to prepare their students to become social entrepreneurs
- support mechanisms for academic research directed towards the problems of social entrepreneurs
- innovative means to develop and maintain relationships with social entrepreneurs and third sector organizations such as social networking software
- a number of vivid examples, frameworks, and strategies for helping students create a life of service and fulfilment
- the challenges and opportunities that social entrepreneurs face when launching and growing technology-based social enterprises
- strategies for universities to effectively engage with the social sector
- a sense of accountability to the constituencies students and academicians serve
- graduates with moral and civic responsibility necessary to support a democratic society
- creative and innovative technological innovations that seek to further engage individuals in service, cultivate a cultural of collaboration within the s