

# Features of the Dialogic Model

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## There are Six Principal Features of a Dialogic Model

1. It is *proactive*. It brings Christ to the great issues of universities and the great issues to Christ
2. It nurtures Christian students *and* engages Christian faculty and staff
3. It is *comprehensive* – it reaches to teaching and to the curriculum, to research and to social and political engagement, to the classroom and all the supporting facets of a university administration. Every corner of the university in action has the light of Christ shone into it.
4. It respects the *intellectual* gifts of the students and faculty who inhabit the universities of every nation
5. It is *relevant*, insofar as it takes on the big conversations of the day at the very moment they are being formulated and debated at scholarship's frontiers
6. It *listens as well as speaks*, insofar it seeks to carry on respectful conversations with Christians and non-Christians alike
7. It celebrates *intellectual* community—the common cause of faculty and students—that is characteristic of great research universities. This might bring Christians into cooperation with non-religious or other religious communities on campus.

## Shifts in Orientation

It can be seen that there are fundamental shifts in orientation here from other models of university ministry.

- The Christian MIND is celebrated as enthusiastically as the Christian soul.
- The ministry moves from the EDGE of the campus into its HEARTLAND.
- The ideas and issues at the frontiers of learning and the leading edges of debate are celebrated for what they reveal of God and His work in the Kingdom.
- The barriers between students and faculty are overcome, in much the same way they are in research laboratories and advanced seminars and major research projects on those campuses and their research institutes.

Now, when I presented parts of this talk to the IFES World Assembly in Cracow, Poland, there were some strong reactions. Out of those reactions there have also been some exciting developments.

1. Dr. Femi Adeleye emphasized that all these models of ministry are ALL legs on a stool. The stool will not stand if any one leg is missing.
2. I focused in Cracow on research universities. Many others in Cracow and afterwards said, no. Engaging the whole university applies to every institution of higher education, even if the emphasis may shift, depending on the type of higher education institutions
3. I spoke mostly about advanced students and faculty. Afterwards, and on our IFES Engaging the University list serve, people said, no. Engaging the University means the WHOLE university—everyone on campus, including staff, workers, administrators, cooks, grounds workers, and cleaning crews.

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