



University Leadership in a time of complexity

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND
JOHANNESBURG



Professor Tawana Kupe
Vice-Principal & Deputy Vice-Chancellor



Universities caught in a perfect storm



A perfect storm

- Heightened critical needs for knowledge, training & skills
- Ever declining funding
- Add now in uncertain inadequate funding model
- Ever rising expectations for access
- Demands for deep transformation
- Cycles of disruptive student protests
- Now an uncertain political situation – electoral calendar
- Era of global competitiveness
- And stir

So how to lead differently...

- Locating the challenge correctly – a societal problem not only a problem of the universities
- Linking the university dilemma with other social issues e.g. health
- Re-communicating the value of universities & university education to society
- Rethinking the universities' relationships with society
- Difficult multifaceted engagements with university communities in their diversity
- Navigating out of an insular bubble into global comparisons

