THIRD MISSION APPROACHES AND INDICATORS
FRAMING THE PROBLEMS
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STARTING POINT:
variety of uses and different approaches

- Indicators are needed...
  - For analytical purposes
  - To support HEI knowledge transfer management
  - To inform policy definition and implementation
    - Evaluation
    - Distribution of resources
DIVERSITY OF OBJECTIVES LEADS TO AMBIGUITY

“Without detailed knowledge of the processes of knowledge generation and diffusion, politicians tend to define the formal objective of Third Mission initiatives in broad, ambiguous terms that are interpreted in different ways by different stakeholders.”
(Molas-Gallart and Castro-Martínez, 2007)

- Different
  - Data needs
  - Management requirements
  - Use of indicators for policy implementation

MUST THERE BE AN END TO CONFUSION?

- Alice Frost:
  Personally, then, I have come round to the view that the ‘third stream’ maybe has the merit of ambiguity for now – and that taxonomies need to be created not by national or central dictat, but by every HEI exploring and describing its own relationships in the world.
FOR WHOM COULD AMBIGUITY BE A PROBLEM?

- Analysts attempting to carry out international studies and/or comparisons
- For policy makers using international (or cross-institutional) data to design or support policy decisions
- For managers attempting to use benchmarking techniques...

A FURTHER WARNING: APPROACHES MAY BE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT

- Third Stream as a set of activities

The “Third Mission” refers to all activities concerned with the generation, use, application and exploitation of knowledge and other university capabilities outside academic environments.
Other approaches can be very different!!!