I believe the new Accord is an opportunity to revamp Austria's universities. Therefore, I propose the following:

1. Universities should focus on the three pillars: research, teaching and service/engagement. Appropriate financial incentives should be provided for all 3.

2. Research should be funded appropriately at all universities.

3. Basic research requires additional attention and funding since it underpins all scientific progress.

4. Research should be at the center of government. Therefore, it should not be relegated to the outer ministry but rather be at the heart, eg in a Ministry for Universities that spans research, teaching and service/engagement. Obviously, research occurs in settings other than universities but most will not mind being associated with a uni.

5. Reporting has become a real chore at universities. We are spending public funds and should be accountable. However, the currently associated bureaucracy should be streamlined since it currently takes up way too much time during the blowout in the last decade if not more, being mindful of being accountable for public dollars spent.

6. Academics should be freed from bureaucratic tasks to focus on the 3 pillars: research, teaching and service/engagement.

7. Regional universities operate in unique settings. Funding should be appropriate.

8. University governance may also warrant a look. It seems fairly unresponsive to me to outside and inside issues.

9. Academic freedom must be expressly guaranteed.

10. Last but not least, universities are an engine of social change and knowledge growth through research, teaching and service/engagement. Their accomplishments should be routinely celebrated, incl. by government, the media (eg the tax-dollar funded ABC) etc.