

# The Risky Academy: Environmental Scan for February 2015

## ACADEMIC & FACULTY QUALITY

President Obama's budget increases spending on higher ed; reaps government savings by changing student loan and repayment options; includes free community college; streamlines tax breaks; and rewards colleges graduating low-income students. [Obama Seeks Funding Boost](#)

While the Postsecondary Institution Ratings System's goals are laudable, the framework for implementing the plan is not feasible and could have serious unintended consequences. [ACE, Higher Education Groups: Administration's College Ratings Plan Framework Is Not Feasible](#)

The criteria for a federal ratings system—access, affordability and outcomes—are important, but there will be enormous and unavoidable difficulties in comparing institutions based on these criteria. And what about personal determinations of value? [College ratings plan not the answer](#)

Schools could see a negative effect on their federal rating if significant numbers of students transfer before graduating. [College students' transfer plans could affect Obama ratings](#)

The adoption of outcomes-based funding will continue to spread and evolve, because states will have to invest the funds they have in a much more strategic manner. [Performance-Based Funding for Higher Education: What You Need to Know](#)

Early on, rankings weren't that significant a factor in students' application decisions, but by 2012 two-thirds of students bound for 4-year colleges were taking rankings into account. Among students with the highest SAT scores, it was 85%. [The Ever-Growing World of College Rankings](#)

The professor at the heart of a rankings scandal at the U of Missouri Bloch School of Management has resigned. [Professor at Center of Rankings Scandal in Missouri Resigns](#)

Providing job skills and job placement assistance, along with a solid education, should take priority over potential micro-aggressions. And, colleges must make a real effort to make college affordable to the middle-class. [A Perfect Storm Is Heading Toward Higher Education](#)

In addition to arguing passionately that research universities in particular and higher education in general deserve greater state support, what else should we be doing? If we don't get more money...What is Plan B? [Higher Education for the Future: Plan B - Where Art Thou?](#)

The unemployment rate of workers who hold a bachelor's degree or higher sank to 2.8%, its lowest level since September 2008. That compares with a jobless rate of 5.7% for the overall population. [Pretty Soon the U.S. Might Run Out of College-Educated Workers](#)

As the cost of college continues to rise and the economy slowly comes out of the recession, today's graduates might not get as much bang for their buck. [College Grads Question How Much a Degree Is Worth; More than half of all graduates say grads will see a lower return on ROI](#)

Women say that intellectual and cultural goals are a very important factor in their decision to go to college. [Why men vs. women decide to go to college: intellectual curiosity, money, marriage](#)

U.S. millennials ranked lower than their international peers, tying for last among 22 countries in numeracy and technology skills, and 16th in literacy. Bottom-scoring Americans ranked among the lowest. [U.S. Millennials Rank Among Lowest-Skilled Tech Workers in the World](#)

In Alabama, 32% of state college students who graduated from public schools last year needed to take at least one remedial class. [Alabama updates remedial education stats](#)

Two law schools will begin accepting applicants who have not taken the LSAT. [The first two law schools to drop the LSAT could be just the beginning](#)

Some law schools are going after large numbers of transfer students, seeking out new revenue and students with LSAT scores that won't count in the rankings game. [Poaching Law Students](#)

Out-of-state colleges are luring would-be graduate students with better-paid teaching and research jobs than Utah's two state research universities can offer. [Utah is losing its researchers](#)

Nearly two-thirds of Gen Z students want to learn about entrepreneurship in college, including how to start a business. More than 4 in 10 expect to work for themselves at some point. [New wave of students wants to design own college plans](#)

Education researchers need to be heard or advocacy groups will dominate and distort their field's policy debates. [Do the Loudest 'Expert' Voices on Education Have the Least Expertise?](#)

87% of scientists agree "Scientists should take an active role in public policy debates about issues related to science and technology." [How Scientists Engage the Public](#)

U of Denver moves to new titles, a career path and multiyear contracts for those off the tenure track. Could this be a model for other institutions? [More Than Adjuncts](#)

Colleges have become increasingly dependent on full-time non-tenure-track instructors, helping cause the ranks of part-time faculty members to ebb after decades of rapid growth. [In Faculty Hiring, Temporary Less Often Means Part-Time](#)

Getting a job in academia is notoriously difficult. But the odds are especially bad for aspiring professors who didn't earn their PhDs from a select few universities. [18 universities produce half of US and Canada's computer science professors; Closed Networks](#)

An advisory panel of UNC's Board of Governors has recommended closing 3 academic centers. [Ideology Seen as Factor in Closings in University of North Carolina System](#)

The University System of Georgia is combining more of its institutions in the nation's most aggressive campus consolidation program. Around the country, institutions are merging at a slower pace. [Georgia leads college consolidation movement](#)

The percentage of institutions offering a MOOC seems to be leveling off, at around 14%, while suspicions persist that MOOCs will not generate money or reduce costs for universities—and are not, in fact, sustainable. [The MOOC Hype Fades, in 3 Charts](#)

## **ADVANCEMENT**

Charitable giving is expected to grow 4.8% in 2015 and 4.9% in 2016. [The Philanthropy Outlook](#)

Megagifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations reached their highest level in 16 years, with 43 donations of more than \$50M. [Mega-Gifts on the Rise at Colleges, Study Says](#)

A 98-year-old man says Chapman U took advantage of his old age to secure a \$12-million donation. [98-Year-Old Donor Sues to Get His \\$12-Million Gift Back](#)

## **ATHLETICS**

Syracuse banned its men's basketball program for this postseason as part of its pending case, which includes academics, before the NCAA Committee on Infractions. [Syracuse self-imposes postseason basketball ban](#)

A jury declined to indict a U of Kentucky football player suspended from the team last fall after being charged with rape. [Grand Jury Declines to Indict U. of Kentucky Athlete on Rape Charge](#)

## **AUXILIARIES**

Amazon@Purdue opened. [Amazon launches first-ever staffed campus pickup, drop-off location](#)

Wright State's president and its dining services company apologized for a Black History Month menu that included fried chicken, collard greens, and cornbread, and offended some students and staff. [Wright State U. Apologizes for Black History Month Menu Featuring Fried Chicken](#)

## **CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE**

The National Association of the Deaf and 4 individuals filed federal class action lawsuits against Harvard and MIT, charging discrimination by failing to caption the vast and varied array of online content they make available to the general public, including massive open online courses (MOOCs). [NAD Sues Harvard and MIT for Discrimination in Public Online Content; Harvard and M.I.T. Are Sued Over Lack of Closed Captions](#)

Though many colleges have procedures for converting traditional teaching materials into accessible formats, colleges are still figuring out how to adapt online materials. [As High-Tech Teaching Catches On, Students With Disabilities Can Be Left Behind](#)

## **ENGAGEMENT & COMMERCIALIZATION**

Indiana's life sciences exports accounted for \$9.8 billion, the second highest in the U.S. The combination of jobs, exports and local research, development and manufacturing contributes a \$59 billion total impact for the state. [Study Tallies Life Sciences' Multi-Billion Dollar Impact](#)

The first analysis to measure the statewide impact of the UNC system, the state's community colleges, and the 36 private colleges in North Carolina found a \$63.5 billion impact on the state's economy. [Study finds higher education adds \\$63.5 billion to NC's economy](#)

We should be encouraging more startups and investment by helping international students learn about the E-2 visa and providing entrepreneurial support to help them launch their businesses. [The Resource We're Throwing Away: Entrepreneurial Immigrants](#)

As the Baby Boomers transition toward traditional retirement ages, what effect will it have on entrepreneurship? [Infographic: Boomer Entrepreneurs and the State of Entrepreneurship](#)

Universities have entrepreneurship programs to encourage students & faculty to turn promising ideas into companies. Now, an increasing number also give money to help those businesses get started. [Universities are venturing into new territory: Funding start-up businesses](#)

Universities wrote to the Senate's Judiciary Committee with concerns about pending legislation that would go "well beyond what is needed to address the bad actions of a small number of patent holders." [Universities Urge Lawmakers Not to Make Patent Defense Too Costly](#)

## **ENROLLMENT**

Indiana receives high marks for its alignment of high school graduation and college admission requirements. [Multiple measures for college readiness](#)

Reaching children years ahead can seed brand awareness. [Is Your First Grader College Ready?](#)

International enrollments in American colleges may have soared in recent years, but despite public concern, there's little to indicate that students from Beijing and Shanghai are displacing those from Buffalo or Santa Fe. [Foreign Students Aren't Edging Out Locals, Numbers Show](#)

An investigation of the U of Texas at Austin finds the president swayed admissions decisions to aid well-connected applicants. Everybody does it, President Bill Powers said. [In Texas, Questioning Powers](#); [For Admissions Officials, Texas Controversy Highlights Dangers of Clout](#)

## **FINANCE**

Standard & Poor's issued a negative outlook for nonprofit higher education for 2015. Colleges and universities will continue to struggle to balance their rising costs with student affordability, and increased competition within the industry will require even stronger in-house management. [Education Funding Taking Hits Nationwide](#)

The U of Illinois would suffer a 31.5%, or \$209 million, reduction in state funding under a proposed budget. [Illinois university leaders decry Rauner's state funding cut proposal](#)

UConn would be \$40 million short of what they need to operate under a proposed state budget. [Malloy proposes significant cuts for higher education](#)

A legislative panel stunned and angered supporters of South Carolina State University by passing a measure that would shut the institution down for two years. [Clean Slate or Death Sentence?](#); [Its Future in Doubt, South Carolina State Ponders Its Disastrous Recent Past](#)

Ohio's 14 public universities have more than doubled the debt they owe in recent years to an unprecedented \$6.5 billion. [Debt of Ohio public universities tops \\$6.5B](#)

Colleges and universities last year paid for operations with bigger chunks of their endowments to compensate for declines in key sources of revenue. [Higher ed taps deeper into endowments](#)

Banks will measure colleges and university credit card activity based on transactions campus wide rather than by treating each department involved in processing credit card payments as an individual merchant. [PCI compliance crackdown](#)

The responsibility-center approach gives academics a financial incentive to cut costs and think more strategically. [Colleges 'Unleash the Deans' With Decentralized Budgets](#)

A former U of Kentucky professor pleaded guilty in federal court to purposely defrauding UK and another employer of more than \$62,000 by creating fake invoices and double billing for his expenses. [Former U. of Kentucky professor pleads guilty to defrauding UK](#)

The director of financial aid for North Idaho College has been arrested after a Craigslist.com post was discovered that offered grant money to students in exchange for sexual favors. [Former NIC admin facing felonies for indecent Craigslist proposal](#)

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Over time, federal regulation has expanded in ways that undermine the ability of higher ed institutions to serve students and accomplish their missions, mainly through costly compliance measures. [Colleges Are Buried In Red Tape](#); [Congressional Report Blasts 'a Jungle of Red Tape' That Ensnarers Colleges](#); [Chancellors Urge Congress to Ease Costly Rules on Colleges](#)

Mary C. Willingham, the literacy specialist who blew the whistle on academic fraud at UNC-Chapel Hill, will receive monetary compensation but will not be reinstated as she had originally sought. [Whistle-Blower in Chapel Hill Scandal Reaches Settlement With University](#)

A former U of Louisville executive filed suit against the school's board of trustees, alleging he was fired because he spoke out about health insurance bidding issues and racial discrimination of employees. [Fired University of Louisville Executive Sues School, Alleges Retaliation](#)

A wrongfully convicted man filed a lawsuit against Northwestern, a former journalism professor, a private investigator and an attorney, accusing them of framing him for a double murder to get another man released. [Exonerated man files \\$40M lawsuit against Northwestern](#)

Even when a university can restrict all displays in certain areas, or restrict them in a content-based but viewpoint-neutral way, restrictions on "controversial" displays would generally be unconstitutional. [University's excluding display because it "advocates for a position that involves political and social controversy" would violate the First Amendment](#)

The predictions for the biggest potential reputation-related crises for 2015 will all play out online: 1) CEO and top leadership gaffes. 2) Social media-fueled crises reflecting public opinion on those gaffes. 3) Grassroots criticism of corporate behavior will focus on issues related to diversity and sexual harassment. 4) Internet-related security. 5) Internet-related company policy. 6) Brand boycotts. [The New Reputation Risks: What You Need to Know for 2015](#)

The collision of technological disruption, rapid emerging-markets growth, and widespread aging will produce change so significant that much of the management intuition that has served us in the past will become irrelevant. [Management intuition for the next 50 years](#)

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

A second case of meningococcal meningitis was confirmed in a Providence College student as the school unrolled its effort to vaccinate the entire student body. [Thousands vaccinated as second meningitis case is confirmed](#)

A measles outbreak in the United States is causing alarm, and at least 4 colleges have students with the disease. [Responding to Measles Outbreak](#); [Vulnerable to Measles](#)

Campus outbreaks of easily spread but preventable diseases have forced colleges to review their immunization policies. [Outbreak forces review of college vaccination mandates](#)

Schools across the country have been developing emergency plans to deal with Ebola, but the most common communicable disease they must address is the flu. [Contagious on campus](#)

Criminal attacks on health-care organizations increased 100% between 2009 and 2013. [Why hackers are targeting the medical sector](#)

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Part-time professors nationwide push to increase workplace rights for the instructors who play an increasingly important role in higher education. [Adjuncts at Boston U. Vote to Form a Union](#)

Purdue is replacing a "complicated" system for calculating how many paid days off employees receive, but the "simplified" system is less generous than the current one. [When Less Is Less](#)

The relatively steady annual growth rate for higher ed job postings compared to the lower rate of growth for employment could indicate that colleges are experiencing higher overall employee turnover for a variety of reasons. [Employment in higher education remains stable](#)

## **INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE**

Indiana businesses and college students are counting on drones to be legally flying into our everyday lives. [Drone technology encounters controversy and opportunity](#)

The Board of Governors, police chiefs and the 12 public universities expressed opposition to a legislative proposal that would allow people with concealed-firearms licenses to carry guns at state colleges and universities. [Florida's university system takes aim at guns on campus](#)

Will arming female students help reduce sexual assaults? An IU senior who recently became the first woman on Students for Concealed Carry's national board believes she should be able to carry her licensed pistol on campus. [A Bid for Guns on Campuses to Deter Rape](#); [Concealed Handguns Mainly Miss the Mark as an Answer to Campus Rape](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

The U of Massachusetts Amherst will roll back a policy banning Iranian nationals from graduate studies in chemical, computer, and mechanical engineering, just days after enacting the prohibition based on U.S. sanctions against Iran. [Some Iranian Graduate Students Are Barred From UMass-Amherst](#); [UMass-Amherst Reverses Ban on Some Iranian Graduate Students](#); [Sanctions Put Academic Freedoms to a Test on a Campus Far From Tehran](#)

## **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

The developers of a failed \$1.3 billion plan to build a data center and power plant at the U of Delaware have sued the university. [The Data Centers sues University of Delaware](#)

The DoE is investigating whether Boston College makes accommodations for its disabled students after students set up a website and Facebook page airing concerns about impassable areas of the campus. [Boston College Faces Investigation Over Access for Disabled Students](#)

## **RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

An embattled astrophysicist has routinely listed himself as representing "the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics" but he has never had a Harvard appointment. [A Climate Crusader Melts, Exposing a Profitable Link to Harvard's Name](#)

Clemson officials suspended the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity chapter. [Clemson suspends fraternity for five years in wake of student death](#)

Members and alumni of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Wesleyan have filed a discrimination lawsuit against the school over a recent decision that requires all residential fraternities to become coed. [Wesleyan Fraternity Sues University After Being Forced To Accept Women](#)

## **RESEARCH**

Obama's budget proposal would increase federal spending on research and development by 5.5% across a series of agencies. [Replenishing Research](#)

Better times are ahead for the NIH and medical researchers after a decade of tough budgetary constraints. [Video: NIH Director Sees Gradual Brightening for Medical Research](#)

Basic science is still supported, but it feels like the idea of science for discovery's sake has lost nearly all its gravity. [To Win Funds, Scientists Pursue Sweeping Solutions to Social Ills](#)

Prosecutions of scientists are on the rise. We should expect that some accused of scientific misconduct will fight back. [Danish high court clears Pedersen in misconduct case](#)

## **STUDENT LIFE**

This year's freshmen believe the main benefit of a college education is to increase their earning power, but their emotional health has hit a new low. [College Freshmen Seek Financial Security Amid Emotional Insecurity](#); [More College Freshmen Report Having Felt Depressed](#); [Fragile Mental Health](#); [How The Press Distorted A 'Statistical Selfie' About Collegiate Mental Health](#)

Two campuses that have been praised for their mental health services struggle to respond to multiple student suicides in the same academic year. [Suicide Clusters](#)

At least 11 Wesleyan University students were being treated at hospitals after apparently overdosing on MDMA, a synthetic party drug also known as ecstasy or Molly. [11 Wesleyan Students Are Hospitalized With Symptoms of Drug Overdoses](#); [4 Wesleyan Students Arrested](#)

With colleges under growing pressure to reduce alcohol-influenced misbehavior, Dartmouth will ban hard liquor on campus. [Dartmouth Cites Student Misconduct in its Ban on Hard Liquor](#)

Some North Carolina universities are attempting to change the preconceived notion that underage drinking or substance uses are a rite of passage for college students. [Underage drinking pilot program launched at six North Carolina universities](#)

Colleges employ student-run intervention programs to combat high-risk drinking and sexual assault. [At Several Campuses, Student Party Monitors Watch Over the Revelry](#)

U Penn brought on staff a sex-crimes investigator from the district attorney's office. Ohio U and Southeast Missouri State recently advertised investigator jobs. At Harvard, a specially trained team hears sexual-assault cases. A retired Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice has presided over hearings at Swarthmore. [Colleges Call in Legal Pros to Handle Sexual-Assault Cases](#)

The new version of the proposed Campus Safety and Accountability Act is strengthened with additional input from sexual-assault survivors, students, colleges, law enforcement, and advocacy groups. [Senate's Revamped Sexual-Assault Bill Puts More Pressure on Colleges](#)

The number of sexual assaults reported by universities increases by 44% while they're under review by the DoE. [Colleges Underreport Sexual Assaults, Even After They're Fined, Study Concludes; When the feds leave, colleges go back to underreporting assaults](#)

Institutions are requiring all faculty to report sexual misconduct to designated persons. But while faculty overwhelmingly support transparency and accountability goals, many feel that mandatory reporting will hurt more than help. [Endangering a Trust](#)

Paul Nungesser was cleared of a rape charge but faced a harsh trial-by-media. Now, as new details come to light, he's speaking out and fighting back. [Columbia Student: I Didn't Rape Her](#)

"What I said is when women drink a little bit, get a little tipsy, have consensual sex with a man they know they shouldn't have had sex with, and wake up in the morning and think, 'Oh, my God, what did I do?'—that is not rape. It's a learning experience. It's a wake-up call to use better judgment moving forward. To call it rape is an insult to victims of actual rape." [Alumni Slam 'Princeton Mom' Over Comments About Rape](#)

Dozens of posters plastered across the U of Michigan caution students not to say things that might hurt others' feelings, part of a new "Inclusive Language Campaign." [Public University Spends \\$16K on Campaign To Warn Students To Watch What They Say](#)

## **ERM EVENTS and MEETINGS ATTENDED BY IU STAFF**

Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), Indianapolis Chapter, February 10 – Topic: ERM Panel

## **NEW ERM RESOURCES**

While almost 60% of participants believe that the volume of complexity of risks have changed greatly in the last five years, only 23% describe their organization's level of risk management as mature. Many organizations continue to struggle to integrate ERM and strategic planning. [2015 Report on the Current State of Enterprise Risk Oversight: Update on Trends and Opportunities](#)

*This monthly publication is being sent to all IU Risk Owners and others participating or interested in the IU Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) initiative by Merri Beth Lavagnino, Chief Risk Officer for IU, in order to increase awareness of current trends affecting enterprise risk in higher education. Please reply to her at [mb1@iu.edu](mailto:mb1@iu.edu) if you would like to be taken off the mailing list, or if you have others you would like to add to the mailing list. Thank you!*