

The Risky Academy: Environmental Scan for August 2015

ACADEMIC & FACULTY QUALITY

Accreditation is at a pivotal point, facing growing scrutiny about its effectiveness in assuring quality and its relevance in an era of change. [What the Public Wants From Accreditation](#)

In pre-assessment days, what mattered was what professors taught, defined as what was covered in their course syllabi. [Does Assessment Make Colleges Better? Let Me Count the Ways](#)

Of the 2.9 million “good jobs” created, 2.8 million have gone to workers with at least a bachelor’s degree. [Almost 97% of the Good Jobs Created Since 2010 Have Gone to College Grads](#)

In contrast to white and Asian households, the net worth of college-educated black and Hispanic families fell significantly between 1992 and 2013, while their debt hit high levels even before the financial crisis. [Racial Wealth Gap Persists Despite Degree, Study Says](#)

Instead of relying on wages to demonstrate the value of a college education, a “social-utility index” calculates the social good of degrees that lead to low-paying jobs that are important to communities. [College System Measures How Low-Paying Degrees Serve the Public Good](#)

The University Learning Store will provide students with credentials that are much shorter and cheaper than conventional degrees. [Establishment Goes Alternative](#)

The College Board is becoming an unelected national school board, setting curricula and replacing states and localities as the shaper of both textbooks and teacher training at the high school level. [How Zinn Gets In: Road to a National Curriculum](#)

Kids from families with an annual income of less than \$36,000 may want college. But they are not likely to succeed there: their K-12 education has not prepared them to do college level work. [The heartbreaking story of kids least likely to succeed in college](#)

Ball State and other colleges are experimenting with ways to secure better outcomes for low-income students, who are increasingly being admitted and enrolling but have far lower graduation rates. [How an App Helps Low-Income Students by Turning College Life Into a Game](#)

You don’t check a box when you apply that says you have a child. And some students with children are hiding their circumstances because of the stigma attached to being a student parent. [Single Moms and Welfare Woes: A Higher-Education Dilemma](#)

Even as policy makers recognize the significance of demographic change, few are making the hard choices necessary to meet the needs of current students, let alone future ones. “You never hear a university say they want to be the top institution in the country for graduating poor students.” [As the Face of the Student Body Changes, State and Campus Policies Lag Behind](#)

The use of success coaching has grown in higher ed in recent years, as colleges—under growing pressure to retain and graduate students, for financial reasons and to better fulfill their

missions—look for additional ways to help students. [Casting Its Lot With a Start-Up: These Groups Are Hoping To Help First-Generation College Students Make It To Graduation](#)

The factors composing the dilemma we face—tuition hyperinflation, burdensome student-loan debt, and poor student learning—are found in the well-intentioned but what has proved to be catastrophically naïve assumption that virtually all high school graduates should go to college. [Higher education's faulty economics: How we got here](#)

Rather than trying to protect students from words and ideas that they will inevitably encounter, colleges should do all they can to equip students to thrive in a world full of words and ideas that they cannot control. [The Coddling of the American Mind](#)

Make experiential learning a required class for every student during their first year of college to give them a vision of their future and get them excited about a specific field of study up front. [The Secret To Getting A Job After College: Pick A University That Offers Experiential Learning](#)

More and more public schools are starting, expanding, refining and successfully promoting honors programs, and particularly honors colleges, that give students some of the virtues and perks of private schools without some of the drawbacks. [A Prudent College Path](#)

Wisconsin legislators have begun discussing how the state's 42 public colleges—the 26 UW System campuses and the 16 technical colleges—might be realigned to deal with dwindling state aid. [With State Support Shrinking, Wisconsin Lawmakers Float the Idea of Campus Mergers: Wisconsin schools—which just absorbed a \\$250M funding cut—might be forced to merge, too](#)

Women made up 37% of all computer science graduates in 1984. Today, that same figure is less than 18%. Only 3% of the 1.4 million computing jobs will be filled by women at the current rate they are entering the tech profession. [Why Aren't There More Women in Tech?](#)

Individuals from lower-income households tend to choose “useful” studies—like physics, math, and computer science—while those from the higher end of the socioeconomic scale tend to choose fields such as performing arts, English, and history. [What do rich kids study in college?](#)

Tenure runs up costs—especially because of the 1994 Congressional ruling that banned mandatory retirement ages for faculty. Nearly 75% of faculty intend to retire much later than the average worker—or at all. In tenure's place, long-term contracts would provide much of the same benefits. [College Tenure Has Reached Its Sell-By Date](#)

We have departments that have more tenured faculty than we presently have a need for. There are other departments, which are rapidly growing, where we need additional faculty. [Should tenured profs be allowed to teach as long as they want?](#)

Faculty recruitment is “completely disrupted” but the scandal is unlikely to hurt enrollment or fundraising. [Illinois Flagship Endures a Year of Tumult, but Lasting Damage Is Unlikely](#)

Psychologists shall not conduct, supervise, be in the presence of, or otherwise assist any national-security interrogations for any military or intelligence agencies, including private contractors working on their behalf, nor advise on conditions of confinement insofar as these might facilitate such an interrogation. [American Psychological Association Bans Members From Military Interrogations](#)

Peer review manipulators are a growing problem in academic publishing. Springer has retracted 64 articles from 10 of its journals after discovering that their reviews were linked to fake e-mail addresses. [Major publisher retracts 64 scientific papers in fake peer review outbreak](#)

ADVANCEMENT

The theme of disintermediation, or the thought that social media and other technologies have decreased alumni's "need" for their alma mater, is often misused as an excuse for why our programs are dying. [Disintermediation: The Changing Demands of Alumni Relations](#)

A growing number of universities now seek bigger impacts—and substantial financial returns—with a strategy known as "ESG" or Environmental issues, Social responsibility and corporate Governance. [More colleges investing with impact](#)

As part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Congress should require universities with endowments in excess of \$100 million to spend at least 8% of the endowment each year. [Stop Universities From Hoarding Money](#)

ATHLETICS

The National Labor Relations Board has ended an attempt by Northwestern football players to unionize, declining to assert jurisdiction in the case. [NLRB's Northwestern Ruling Sets a High Bar for Approving Student-Athlete Unions](#)

Two recent changes in NCAA rules are resulting in major-college athletes receiving nearly \$160 million a year in additional benefits. [College athletes cashing in with millions in new benefits](#)

While the additional money going to the student athletes is nice, schools have a responsibility to educate and advise their athletes on how to use the additional financial aid wisely. [Strong wants schools to advise athletes getting additional money](#)

Georgetown announced the resignation of its director of men's and women's track and field and cross-country teams, as well as self-imposed sanctions against the program, in the wake of two separate investigations launched after allegations of sexual misconduct and racial bias. [Head Coach Resigns After Probe of Georgetown U.'s Track Program](#)

The athletics director at Minnesota-Twin Cities resigned amid reports he had sexually harassed employees. [U. of Minnesota's Former Athletic Director Drew Gender-Bias Complaints: Two University of Minnesota employees sexually harassed by Norwood Teague come forward](#)

The University of Illinois has fired its head football coach after allegations that he mistreated players who were injured and threatened to take away their scholarships against school policy. [U. of Illinois Football Coach Is Fired Over Allegations He Mistreated Players](#)

A 19-year-old sophomore defensive back died after being shot inside a car dealership as police officers responded to a security company's report that someone had crashed a car through a window of the dealership. [Angelo State U. Football Player Is Killed by Police in Dallas Suburb](#)

In preparing to release emails from the academic-fraud scandal, UNC uncovered additional examples of possible instances of improper academic assistance provided to a few former women's basketball players. [U. of North Carolina Reports New Potential Violations to NCAA](#)

AUXILIARIES

A townhouse that burned, killing a Georgetown graduate, marked the 4th fatal off-campus fire at a U.S. college in the academic year. An average of 3,810 campus housing fires occur each year, resulting in 170 campus-related fire fatalities since 2000. [Is Your College Campus Fire Safe?](#)

The U of Hawaii sophomore who lived in a 14th-floor campus apartment where a man fell to his death from a window ledge while trying to stop a suicide, recalls watching both men plummet. [Hawaii Student Describes Men's Plummet From 14th-Floor Dorm](#)

Campus dining programs can offer appealing options for upperclassmen, faculty, and staff living off campus through a new initiative designed to facilitate on-demand delivery from on-campus venues to on and off-campus customers. [Tapingo unlocks new revenue stream for universities](#)

While not disputing that the sticker price of college course materials has risen, average spending on overall course materials is down. That's because students these days are "savvier shoppers," taking advantage of other options. [College Textbook Prices Have Risen 1,041 Percent Since 1977](#)

CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE

Take a quiz to learn how your identity may have been stolen in major hacking attacks over the last 2 years. [How Many Times Has Your Personal Information Been Exposed to Hackers?](#)

Careless employees leave confidential documents in plain view, share passwords, bypass security procedures, become victims of phishing scams, and transfer sensitive data to the public cloud without company approval. [Employee Negligence Leading Cause Of Insider Threats](#)

San Francisco's Bay Area has suffered more than a dozen intentional attacks on its fiber optic infrastructure over the past year, slowing Internet service and disrupting financial transactions and emergency phone calls. [Attacks on Fiber Networks in California Baffle FBI](#)

Mergers and acquisitions among higher-ed-related companies have reached their highest peak in two and a half years. [Following the Money in Ed-Tech Investment: Number of Mergers Grows](#)

ENGAGEMENT & COMMERCIALIZATION

Gallup found that the mission, purpose or vision statements of more than 50 higher ed institutions share striking similarities and offer little guidance to students who are trying to select one institution over another. It's time to get serious about defining purpose, identity and culture. [It's Hard to Differentiate One Higher-Ed Brand From Another](#)

When it comes to selling a college's image, officials have room only for words that will fit on a brochure, or a billboard, or a banner. The result is a genre of marketing rhetoric that is lofty, predictable, and numbing at a certain dosage. [88 College Taglines, Arranged as a Poem](#)

ENROLLMENT

Academically overqualified students who enroll at colleges with lower admissions standards are less likely to earn a degree than if they attend a selective university. [Finding the Right Match](#)

In general, the more Pell recipients an institution enrolls, the lower their chance of graduating within six years. [Billions in Pell dollars go to students who never graduate](#)

Up to 40% of low-income students accepted to college never make it to the 1st day of class—stymied by tuition sticker shock, Kafkaesque paperwork, and a feeling they don't belong. [Why are low income students not showing up to college, even though they have been accepted?](#)

The U of Louisiana and Southern U systems experienced attendance losses and a failure to meet national enrollment growth averages after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. As local jobs disappeared, fewer families could afford to pay for a college education. [Louisiana's settlement with BP has not resolved claims filed by two public university systems](#)

Over the past decade, the land grant university has transformed from a majority-resident campus to one that now enrolls more out-of-state and international students. [Purdue University tuition freezes squeeze out in-state students](#)

The DoE issued a warning that some colleges are “unnecessarily restricting applicants’ access to aid” by asking them to “justify” their status rather than simply prove they are homeless or at risk of becoming so. [How to Help the Students With No Homes?](#)

Most public discussions about the use of race and ethnicity in higher ed admissions decisions ignore targeted recruitment and some of the other strategies that have been used most often to increase campus diversity. [Do debates about college diversity policies miss the point?](#)

FINANCE

Lumina Foundation is offering up a simple (and, they admit, somewhat simplistic) framework for concretely defining what is reasonable for the typical college student and her/his family to pay for college. [Defining College Affordability](#); [Lumina Issues Affordability Benchmark to Reset National Conversation About College Affordability](#); [A New Way to Define ‘Affordable’ College](#)

Universities will get to the point at which students and families simply don't value higher ed enough to pay any more. When the perceived value of a college degree equals current cash outlays plus whatever burden students associate with future loan paybacks, prices will stabilize. [As Federal Aid Goes Up, College Costs Rise Enough to Gobble It All Up](#)

Between 2013 and 2014, the education-related category on GoFundMe saw a 280% increase in donation volume. A search of “college tuition” on the platform will turn up more than 30,000 current campaigns. [Kickstarting college: Students use crowdfunding to help pay for school](#)

Purdue is rethinking financial aid after the nation's class of 2015 was named the most indebted in U.S. history. The Purdue Research Foundation is seeking a partner firm to establish and manage income share agreements. [Purdue preparing novel way to fund college](#)

The number of students at public research universities who receive Pell Grants has increased by 8% over the past 5 years. About half of all undergrads at those schools take out loans; of those who borrow, 33% borrow less than \$10,000 and 70% owe less than \$25,000 at the time of graduation. [Public Research Universities Are Improving Access and Affordability](#)

The percentage of federal student loan debtors who are behind on their payments is declining, due to an improved job market, more alumni taking advantage of income-driven repayment plans, and colleges' efforts to assist graduates in navigating repayment options. [Yay! Now Only 1 In 5 Student Loan Borrowers Are Behind](#)

Defaults are concentrated amongst the millions of students who drop out without a degree, and they tend to have smaller debts. Yet, they are struggling to find well-paying work to pay off that debt. [Why Students With Smallest Debts Have the Larger Problem](#)

College students this past fall likely borrowed the least amount for higher ed in 5 years, amid declining overall enrollment and a drop in lending to students at for-profit schools. [Borrowing For College Set To Hit 5-Year Low](#)

About \$175B in grants would go to states that guarantee students would not have to take out loans to cover tuition at 4-year public universities. In return, states would have to end budget cuts to increase spending over time on higher ed and slow the growth of tuition. [Hillary Clinton to offer plan on paying college tuition without needing loans](#); [Clinton's Big Plan for Higher Ed](#)

The cost of pension and retirement benefits at universities will be thrust into the spotlight by new accounting rules just enacted by a board overseeing local and state accounting standards. [Pensions: The next funding crisis in higher education?](#)

Universities across the country have found ways to meaningful supplemental core revenue. While not every idea is suitable for every institution, there are a host of strategies for business leaders to explore. [Alternative Revenues in Higher Education](#)

Most companies are seeking growth outside their core business, but over time, companies' aspirations to grow through these activities have produced only modest financial results. Few have the right practices in place to support such growth. [Growing beyond the core business](#)

UNI will tighten internal controls and conduct independent reviews of deposits after the state auditor uncovered thousands in undeposited or improperly deposited collections in the College of Education. [University of Northern Iowa urged to tighten financial controls](#)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Research-related compliance costs account for approximately \$117M. Complying with higher ed-specific regulations and maintaining accreditations cost approximately \$14M, and complying with general regulations that apply to all sectors, such as human resources, immigration, finance, etc., accounted for an additional \$14M. The combined cost represents ~11% of the university's overall expenses, excluding its medical center's patient care and clinical operations. [Assessment estimates cost of federal regulation compliance at Vanderbilt](#)

Unfortunately, universities may now face potential TCPA liability for auto-calls or auto-texts placed to cell phone numbers no longer held by the individuals who initially provided them to the institution. [Limited Relief from FCC Ruling on Auto-Dialing/-Texting](#)

Phyllis M. Wise, chancellor of UIUC, resigned her post following a controversial year; the Board declined to accept her resignation, began proceedings to fire her, and then allowed her to resign. [Chancellor's Surprise Resignation May Not Quell Controversy at Illinois](#); [No Golden Parachute: Avoiding a Showdown, U. of Illinois Accepts Resignation of Chancellor Phyllis Wise](#); [Former U. of I. Chancellor Phyllis Wise to get faculty job, no big bonus](#)

UIUC senior administrators used personal email accounts to discuss sensitive and controversial issues, and then failed to disclose the records when they were requested by the public. [U. of Illinois Officials Kept Secrets by Using Personal Emails](#)

The University of Illinois clearly has too much money. Look at what it squanders. [The U. of Illinois' scandals and sweetheart deals](#)

A \$556 olive jar purchased for U of Akron president Scott Scarborough's university-owned home now has a Facebook page, a Twitter handle, and is the subject of a call for a rally. [Fear the olive jar: Decoration for University of Akron president's bedroom becomes flash point](#)

The deal to ease the departure of the president's exit from the scandal-ridden College of DuPage, which is now also under federal and state investigation for misdeeds including falsifying enrollment figures, has focused attention on a range of lavish perks given to university administrators. [College Presidents Rake in Big Perks on Top of High Salaries](#)

Behind nearly every failure of governance and leadership at higher ed institutions is a breach of fiduciary duty. [AGB Board of Directors' Statement on the Fiduciary Duties of Governing Board Members](#); [Governance Group Urges Board Members to Be Loyal and Obedient](#)

HEALTH SERVICES

Student medical records should stay private with only a few specific exceptions in cases where colleges that are sued need the information to defend themselves. [Education Dept. Seeks to Clarify Privacy of Students' Medical Records](#); [Dear Colleague Letter to School Officials at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

A medical school being discussed for Syracuse would be a niche school that specializes in training doctors to treat veterans, and would have students leave town after 2 years to finish at VA hospitals out of state. [Syracuse University's medical school would send students out of state](#)

Undercover videos of Planned Parenthood officials and partners bluntly discussing the harvesting and sale of fetal body parts has stirred a national backlash. Some argue fetal tissue helped develop treatments for diseases such as polio, but that scientific advancements now allow the use of stem cells instead. [Planned Parenthood fallout puts fetal tissue research in jeopardy](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Wright State was aware of allegations that not all H-1B employees they sponsored were actually working there. [Wright State U. Seeks to Fire Provost and 2 Others Amid Visa Investigation](#)

The number of wage and hour lawsuits filed under the FLSA has been steadily on the rise for most of the past 25 years. [FLSA Rising: Fair Labor Standards Act lawsuits up sharply, still surging in federal courts](#)

Rogue employees can wreak more damage on a company than competitors. Consider: the fraudster, the vandal, the high-flying trusted employee, the low-level employee who publishes embarrassing content on the Internet, and the insider who colludes with an outsider to embarrass or defraud his employer. [The enemy within](#)

INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE

Sixty cases of mumps have been linked to the UIUC campus. Most are up to date on their measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, but it is not 100% protective, and is less protective against mumps than the others. [60 reported cases of mumps at University of Illinois since April](#)

Two National Rifle Association-backed proposals failed to pass the House and Senate in 2015. Lawmakers filed them again this week for the legislative session that starts in January. [Florida lawmakers renew push for concealed guns on college campuses](#)

Washington College is assessing damage and making plans for continuity of primary services such as student technology, Internet access, and payroll after a fire destroyed most of a building that housed the Business Office and IT staff. [Four Alarm Fire Damages College Building](#)

Savannah State was placed on lockdown after a student was shot during an alternation at the student union building. [Student killed in shooting at Savannah State University](#)

INTERNATIONAL

To impose a duty on schools to warn about or protect against risks as remote as tick-borne encephalitis might discourage trips that serve important educational roles. Public policy may thus require that participants bear the risks of unlikely injuries and illnesses. [Appeals Court: \\$41.5 Million Jury Award in Study-Abroad Case Could Discourage School Trips](#)

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Michigan has 30 significant projects approved or under construction, all of which carry price tags of at least \$2M, and the scope ranges from roof repairs to the construction of a \$261M biological sciences building. [UM's \\$1.6B construction bill is higher than 18 countries' GDP](#)

RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

The Hipps' claims paint a picture of a toxic mix of forces—self-governance, secrecy, and the lure of tradition—that allow dangerous behavior to persist at fraternities and draw undergraduates like Tucker to them in the first place. [The Death of Tucker Hipps](#)

House moms—or at least, live-in housing directors—could be making a comeback at Michigan's fraternities. Administrators want to see more experienced adults involved in the day-to-day life of Greek organizations. [Bring back frat mom? University of Michigan wants it](#)

Few anticipate the demise of fraternities. While fewer than 400,000 college undergraduate men, about 11% of full-time students, are members, the Greek system as a whole is a national force. [Do Fraternities Have a Place on the Modern Campus?](#)

RESEARCH

“Since it was all based on work done entirely by my research team, and neither supported financially nor with significant intellectual input from the university, I assumed that the grant funding would all move with me.” But NIH awards its grants to institutions, not to individual scientists. [A Rancorous Feud Over a Research Grant Leaves a Professor With No Regrets](#)

The goal of the project was to attempt to replicate findings in 100 studies from three leading psychology journals published in the year 2008. Only 39% of the studies withstood that scrutiny. [The Results of the Reproducibility Project Are In. They're Not Good.: Many Psychology Findings Not as Strong as Claimed, Study Says](#)

Researchers object to powerful lawmaker's bill that would require NSF to stipulate how each award relates to “national interest.” [New Way to Hinder Social Science Grants](#)

Kansas State—where a controversial \$1.25B biosecurity lab is under construction—secretly faced federal sanctions last year after repeatedly violating safety regulations during its research with bioterror pathogens. [Secret sanctions revealed against university hosting \\$1.25 billion biolab](#)

Northeastern improperly accounted for research funds awarded over a 10-year period to a physics professor, with some of the money being used for personal expenses. Northeastern also waited more than two years after discovering the problems to notify the NSF. [In the NSF's Priciest Grant-Fraud Settlement, Northeastern U. Will Pay \\$2.7 Million](#)

Wheeling Jesuit will pay \$2.3M to settle claims it misused NASA, NSF, and Department of Labor grant funds, mischaracterized costs, and incurred impermissible costs, from 2003 to 2010. [Federal grant fraud claims settled with Wheeling Jesuit University](#)

STUDENT LIFE

Overwhelmed by demand for mental-health care, colleges face conflicts in choosing how to respond. [An Epidemic of Anguish](#)

For the last four years, the Office of Civil Rights has forced far-reaching changes in how universities police, prosecute and punish sexual assaults on campus. [How a little-known education office has forced far-reaching changes to campus sex assault investigations](#)

The dizzying list of requirements is typical of agreements the OCR is slowly striking with colleges it investigates under Title IX. No one argues with the goal of preventing sexual assault, but when, campus officials wonder, will they have done as much as they can? [Colleges Under Investigation for Sexual Assault Wonder What Getting It Right Looks Like](#)

Students returning to class at the U of Texas System's campuses this fall will be participating in the nation's most comprehensive study on sexual assaults ever conducted in higher ed. [UT System to launch comprehensive higher ed sexual assault study](#)

The U of Tennessee at Chattanooga erroneously shifted the burden of proof onto the accused, when the ultimate burden of proving sexual assault remained on the charging party. [Judge Faults University for Requiring Student to Prove He Was Innocent of Sexual Misconduct; Judge rules university can't shift burden of proof onto the accused](#)

The U of Oregon will “continue to pursue a policy change requiring all transfer applicants to report any disciplinary history they have at their current or prior schools” and to allow the university to see it, and will waive the alleged victim's tuition, housing, and student fees for four more years. [Woman Who Alleged Rape by 3 Oregon Athletes Will Get \\$800,000 Settlement; The University of Oregon settles high-profile rape lawsuit](#)

New bills pushed by national fraternity organizations and opposed by higher ed groups would not allow colleges to punish a student for sexual assault unless the alleged victim agrees to report the attack to police. [Fraternity groups push bills to limit college rape investigations](#)

When it became clear to me that being Dean of All Students was no longer possible without the constant threat of litigation, media coverage and Internet trolls, I thought it best to be dean of none. [The Dean of Sexual Assault](#)

Colleges want comedy so thoroughly scrubbed of barb and aggression that if the most hypersensitive weirdo on campus mistakenly wandered into a performance, the words he would hear would fall on him like a soft rain, producing a gentle chuckle and encouraging him to toddle back to his dorm, tuck himself in, and commence a dreamless sleep. [That's Not Funny!](#)

The economy undoubtedly played the largest role in the increase of college food banks, along with a greater number of older students returning to campus without much family support, and a higher number of foreign students who have limited access to federal assistance. [Rise in college food banks linked to the economy and campus demographics](#)

NEW ERM RESOURCES

In a global survey involving 275 board members and executives across a broad range of industries, one of the top 10 risks cited was that resistance to change may restrict an entity's ability to make necessary adjustments to its business model and core operations. Facing change with confidence is vital to the long-term survival and prosperity of any enterprise, whether public, private, or non-profit. [Does Your Organization Face Change With Confidence?](#)

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 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!