

The Risky Academy: Environmental Scan for October 2015

ACADEMIC & FACULTY QUALITY

Mr. Duncan was arguably one of the most powerful education secretaries in history due to his personal ties to the president and the billions of dollars that came to the DoE as part of the fiscal stimulus program. [Arne Duncan, Education Secretary, to Step Down in December](#); [What Arne Duncan did to American education and whether it will last](#); [Tough on Colleges, Arne Duncan Bequeaths Record of Advocacy for Students](#)

John B. King Jr., who will take over for Arne Duncan in December, isn't well known in higher-ed circles. But his track record offers some clues about how he will lead the Education Department. [5 Things Colleges Should Know About the New Secretary of Education](#)

The DoE unveiled the Educational Quality through Innovative Partnerships (EQUIP) program that makes federal financial aid dollars available to nontraditional providers of postsecondary education, such as short-term certificate programs and massively open online courses (MOOCs). [ED Unveils New Initiative to increase Federal Financial Aid to Nontraditional Programs](#)

"Noninstitutional providers" have become popular with lawmakers, who see them as a way to get more students to earn credentials more quickly. [A Boon to Boot Camps? U.S. Extends Aid to Campus Deals With Nontraditional Programs](#)

The more the federal government subsidizes higher ed, the more expensive higher ed becomes. The HERO Act lets states define their own accreditation standards to include alternatives to traditional 4-year degree programs. Accreditation reform will help lessen rising tuition and student loan debt. [Making higher education truly debt-free](#)

The First Lady launched an initiative to inspire every student to complete his or her education past high school. [The First Lady announces "Better Make Room" campaign](#); [What's the First Lady's New Public-Awareness Campaign All About? And Could It Work?](#)

The big change won't be the digitization of college—it will be the unbundling of the college degree into discrete, focused chunks, which Udacity calls nanodegrees. If employers accept nanodegrees, they will become a path to a full and successful life without the expense and time commitment of college. [Cheaper and Smarter: Blowing Up College With Nanodegrees](#)

Colleges explore the competency-based approach to learning in hopes it can fix one of their most-pressing ailments. [How a 40-Year-Old Idea Became Higher Education's Next Big Thing](#)

ACE announced the pool of courses selected as part of its Alternative Credit Project, a groundbreaking initiative to boost the ability of millions of nontraditional learners to gain a college degree. [American Public University System announces course pool for ACE](#)

To appreciate the role that community colleges can be expected to play in reforming higher education today, Americans would do well to consider their long history of innovation. [How Community Colleges Changed the Whole Idea of Education in America](#)

Professors can use standardized metrics to assess coursework of students across schools and disciplines and measure how well they do in critical thinking, written communication, and quantitative literacy. [How colleges can measure up in teaching 'critical thinking'](#)

Students' critical-thinking skills do improve in college. The difference is comparable to a student whose critical-thinking skills start at the 50th percentile and, after 4 years in college, move up to the 72nd. [Yes, Colleges Do Teach Critical-Thinking Skills, Study Finds](#)

Unlike many European and Asian countries, which are awash in academic competitions, Olympiads, and other status-laden contests that bright students vie to win, American K-12 education has relatively few that anyone notices. [America's abandoned smart kids](#)

Gamification has been taken up by pedagogical early adopters, but the phenomenon seems poised to spread. Soon students everywhere will be on semester-long quests and will be earning a million points per exam. [The Looming Gamification of Higher Ed](#)

Students who do well in the free online courses enhance their chances of being accepted into a supply-chain-management program. [MIT Master's Program to Use MOOCs as 'Admissions Test'](#)

MSU's Global Impact Initiative will bolster areas such as plant science, engineering, physical science and STEM, while expanding research in genomics, cybersecurity, computational science and precision medicine. [MSU to accelerate key research areas with Global Impact Initiative](#)

The drop-off in new teaching credentials creates an opportunity to raise teacher quality through another channel: improvements in student teaching. [Student teaching: Can we leverage the recent teacher "shortage" to students' advantage?](#)

Michigan's Deborah Ball has had a big influence on the national conversation about teacher quality. [Teaching Teachers to Teach: It's Not So Elementary](#)

Unfortunately, new research also shows that academia has itself stopped short in both the understanding and practice of true diversity—the diversity of ideas—and that the problem is taking a toll on the quality and accuracy of scholarly work. [Academia's Rejection of Diversity](#)

The 2015 Buckley Free Speech Survey reveals some alarming insights into the anti-free speech mentality on college campuses today. [New Survey Exposes Threats to Free Speech on Campus](#)

"From sociology to politics to computer science, almost every student I've encountered can share a story about a time they were forced to feel belittled, humiliated and hindered by tenured professors." [Race and Slurs in the Classroom](#)

Proposals for a new Connecticut State union contract, including the transfer of tenured faculty to another university and expanding the grounds for dismissing tenured professors, read like an attack on faculty rights. [An Attack on Tenure From a Democratic Administration](#)

A significant proportion of faculty isn't going anywhere. A third are 55 and older, compared with 20% of the rest of the workforce. [On Campus, Older Faculty Keep On Keepin' On](#)

Faculty over all aren't actively engaged in their work. Those at smaller, private institutions tend to be the most emotionally and intellectually connected to what they do. Many faculty have

major concerns about academic freedom, job security, compensation, and other measures of job satisfaction. [Going Through the Motions? The 2015 Survey of Faculty Workplace Engagement](#)

An acclaimed astronomer has been found guilty of violating the sexual harassment policies at Berkeley by engaging in inappropriate behavior with students. [Geoffrey Marcy, Astronomer at Berkeley, Apologizes for Behavior; Charges of Harassment by Famous Astronomer Prompt Soul-Searching About Sexism in the Sciences](#); [Geoff Marcy, Berkeley Astronomer Accused of Serial Harassment, Resigns](#)

Many professors and observers have decried Berkeley's failure to quickly dismiss Marcy; some called for the university to revamp the process for dealing with cases of faculty misconduct. [Why Colleges Have a Hard Time Handling Professors Who Harass](#); [Enough Time for Justice](#)

A lawsuit that caused the resignation of the dean of the Stanford Graduate School of Business has brought to light other management issues, including some at the Hoover Institution. [At Stanford, Relationship Reveals Accusations of Discrimination](#)

A former graduate student filed a federal lawsuit against the U of Miami for mishandled her sexual-harassment accusations against a leading philosophy professor on its faculty. [U. of Miami Faces Lawsuit Over Response to Colin McGinn's Alleged Sexual Harassment](#)

A grand jury has indicted the U of Arizona's dean of pharmacy on felony sexual assault charges. [Woman told detectives she 'blacked out' at UA dean's house](#)

ADVANCEMENT

Total private giving to institutions of higher education, public and private, rose 5.1% from the previous year. [These Colleges Received the Most in Gifts Last Year](#)

A state judge refused to allow the college to break the terms of its founder's will, which required that the college be named Paul Smith's in perpetuity, to accept the donation. [After Ruling, Paul Smith's College Won't Get Weills' \\$20 Million Renaming Gift](#)

Controversies at NYU and Paul Smith's College point to the potential downsides of agreeing to change a name for a large gift. [How Much for a Name?](#)

MIT will remain engaged with energy companies and introduced a 5-year plan to combat climate change that includes bolstering research and cutting carbon emissions on its campus. [MIT rejects demands to divest fossil fuel stocks, joining Yale](#)

ATHLETICS

The NCAA suspended SMU's head men's basketball coach Larry Brown for 9 games and banned the team from postseason play after concluding that the coach ignored an instance of academic fraud. [The Incurable Institution](#)

Will Collier landed his dream job, overseeing academic services for one of the country's premier programs. His experience illustrates the challenge of protecting academic integrity in big-time college sports. [Missed Classes, a Changed Grade, and One Disillusioned Adviser](#)

In *Breaking Cardinal Rules: Basketball and the Escort Queen*, a stripper and escort describes her experiences providing sexual services to prime recruits for the men's basketball team. [U. of Louisville Is Said to Have Plied Basketball Recruits With Wine and Women](#); [NCAA investigating Louisville over sex claims in escort's book](#)

U Minnesota's director of equal opportunity and affirmative action says there is a "concerning pattern" of misbehavior by the campus's football players. ['Pattern' of Sexual Misconduct Is Seen Among U. of Minnesota Football Players, Official Says](#)

More universities are embracing the sale of alcohol at football games, but not everyone is comfortable with the trend. [Beer Here! Beer Here?](#)

AUXILIARIES

As students with psychiatric diagnoses ask to reside on campus with their own animals, schools with no-pet housing policies are scrambling to address a surfeit of new problems. [Campuses Debate Rising Demands for 'Comfort Animals'](#)

The mail influx is fueled not by care packages from Mom, but by a surge in online shopping—for textbooks, Halloween costumes, Valentine sweets, dormitory décor, even mini-fridges. [Thanks, Amazon. Campus Mailrooms Struggle to Keep Up With Boom in Packages for Students](#)

The U of Toronto is temporarily changing its policy on gender-neutral bathrooms after two reports of voyeurism in a student residence. [University Of Toronto Gender-Neutral Bathrooms Reduced After Voyeurism Reports](#)

CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE

The number of education sector clients purchasing cyber insurance increased by almost 90% for the first half of 2014. [Interest in stand-alone cyber insurance surges](#)

Insurers have massively increased cyber premiums, raised deductibles, and in some cases limited the amount of coverage to \$100 million. No. 2 U.S. health insurer Anthem ran into difficulties renewing its coverage after an attack early this year. [Insight - Cyber insurance premiums rocket after high-profile attacks](#)

ENGAGEMENT & COMMERCIALIZATION

Apple's potential damages in a patent fight with the U of Wisconsin's licensing body could reach \$400M. [Apple faces \\$400 million in damages in university patent case: sources](#); [Behind \\$234 million Apple suit, an aggressive university patent office](#)

"Some of these land-grant schools, to the extent they feel their job is like in the old days—to give away the technology—they're not going to be successful." [Here's why it doesn't help society if universities give research away for free](#)

ENROLLMENT

Half of admissions directors said they were very concerned about meeting their enrollment goals for the 2015-16 academic year, and 58% say they did not meet their goals. [Pressure From All Sides: The 2015 Survey of Admissions Directors](#)

The chance to apply for aid earlier, using so-called prior-prior-year tax records, is seen as a win for students, but much will depend on how colleges and states respond. [How Fafsa's New Reliance on Older Tax Data Could Affect Colleges](#)

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison next September, nearly half of all freshmen are expected to hail from other states. The university system's Board of Regents recently lifted the 27.5% cap on out-of-state undergraduates. [The Allure of the Out-of-State Student](#)

The number of students earning their first postsecondary credential fell for a second straight year, while the number of students stacking undergraduate credentials continued a post-recession increase. [Number of new college grads declines](#)

Recent high-school graduates who start their higher education at community colleges are far less likely to earn bachelor's degrees within 6 years than are those who begin at 4-year colleges. [Quality of Peers and Ease of Transfer Are Key Factors in Graduation Rates](#)

FINANCE

Students graduating with a bachelor's degree in 2014 had an average debt load of \$28,950, up 2% from the year before and 56% more than 10 years earlier. [Student Debt, Rising Again](#)

Despite the fact that 40% of undergrads work at least 30 hours per week, tuition is too high for those hours to make much of a difference. [You Can't Work Your Way Through College Anymore](#)

"Pricing flexibility" is an experiment supporters say helps campuses better align tuition and fees with market conditions, but opponents say makes the schools less affordable. [Pa.'s state-owned universities ponder price flexibility plans; get warning about higher costs](#)

A proposed Denver sales tax aimed at helping students pay for college costs has strong supporters behind it. [Denver college tax idea inspires hope for students, but also pushback](#)

Congress had questions about the income share agreements Purdue hopes to offer as an alternative to traditional student loans. [Purdue President Mitch Daniels explains new student loan program to members of Congress](#)

A House Ways and Means Subcommittee examined the rising costs of higher ed and tax policy, including how tax breaks could be a contributing factor behind spiraling tuition costs. [Congress eyes impact of tax breaks on rising tuition costs; Endowments Under Fire Again](#)

Facing giant budget cuts, the chancellor of the University of Kansas worries aloud about the future of state-funded higher education. [Are Public Universities Going to Disappear?](#)

The Kasich Administration and the Ohio General Assembly appointed a Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency that has produced some mostly sensible recommendations as to how universities can cut costs. [Kasich's Plan to Reduce College Costs in Ohio](#)

Of the 23 types of organizations studied by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in 2014, education—including higher ed—had the fifth highest frequency of fraud. Technology and vigilance can help head off employee embezzlement and other fraud. [Campus fraud firewalls](#)

A longtime policy in which financial institutions absorb the cost of certain fraudulent credit and debit card transactions has ended, shifting the liability to merchants that have not upgraded their payment terminals to accept new chip cards. [Cost of Credit-Card Fraud Is Set to Shift](#)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Under fire for how the search for new UNC system president, Margaret Spellings, was conducted, the Board Chairman resigned. [Chairman quits UNC Board of Governors](#)

The cost of federal compliance varies from 3%-11% of total nonhospital operating expenditures, and is largely driven by the extent of research and scale of expenditures at a given institution. [The Cost of Federal Regulatory Compliance in Higher Education: A Multi-Institutional Study](#)

State lawmakers called a meeting after a web post encouraging students and professors on the Knoxville campus to use gender-neutral pronouns like ze and xyr drew intense public scrutiny. [Lawmakers challenge UT's diversity funding](#)

HEALTH SERVICES

The state board that licenses psychologists has reprimanded the head of the U of Oregon's counseling center, fined her \$5,000, and made her take ethics classes for giving an alleged gang-rape victim's therapy records to university lawyers without notifying the woman or getting her consent. [State board proposes fine, ethics course for University of Oregon psychologist](#)

University students have less privacy for their campus health records than they would have if they sought care off campus. Schools say they are trying to seek the right balance between privacy and safety. [When Students Become Patients, Privacy Suffers](#)

The Association of American Medical Colleges, which has been warning of an impending physician shortage, reported that enrollment has climbed 25% since 2002, reaching an all-time high of 20,630 students this year. [Medical-School Enrollment Is Up 25 Percent Since 2002](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

The new threshold of \$50,440/year for FLSA exemption will impact universities, where many currently exempt administrative and professional employees who have never received overtime pay would suddenly be eligible. [Two Seismic Developments in Wage and Hour Law](#)

The University of Missouri's decision to discontinue, and then quickly reinstate, health insurance subsidies for graduate students brought national attention to the lack of clarity in regulators' application of rules for universities. [Colleges wary of student health coverage](#)

The Affordable Care Act has led to a downgrade in benefits, cut dependent coverage, or stopped subsidies for graduate assistants. [Health Care Is a New Flash Point for Graduate Students](#)

INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE

An assailant stormed into the classroom of his introductory writing class and shot the professor at point-blank range, before picking off other victims one at a time as he questioned each about their religion and whether they were Christians. [Gunman in Oregon college massacre committed suicide; 10 Are Dead, 7 Wounded, in Shooting at Community College in Oregon](#); [Tragedy at](#)

[Umpqua; At colleges, 'It's always a balance' between security, openness; Confusion, Horror and Heroism in Oregon Shooting](#)

A week after a gunman killed 9 people at an Oregon college, Gov. Jerry Brown of California signed legislation banning concealed weapons on school campuses, but nearly 15 other states have debated legislation to make it easier to carry concealed weapons on campus. [As Campus Fears Rise, So Do Efforts to Enact School Gun Laws; In wake of school shootings, Gov. Jerry Brown bans concealed guns on California campuses](#)

Depending on your viewpoint, allowing people to carry concealed handguns could make the campus safer by giving potential victims a chance to fight back. Or it could make the campus a much more dangerous place. [A University Debates How to Carry Out a Divisive Guns-on-Campus Law; University of Texas debates guns on campus after Oregon shooting](#)

A shooting that left one person dead at Tennessee State started after a dispute over a dice game. Two others were injured in the shooting at an outdoor courtyard at the campus in Nashville. [One dead in shooting at Tennessee State University in Nashville](#)

Unlike other mass shootings on schools in recent years, these Texas and Arizona situations were not so-called active-shooter episodes, but instead appeared to stem from ordinary disputes that quickly turned violent. [Campus Shootings in Texas and Arizona Kill 2 Students and Wound 4; Texas Southern University Has Seen Four Shootings In Six Weeks](#)

An alert was sent out to students at Indiana State during a search for a man who was seen possibly carrying a gun on campus. [Indiana State University campus back to normal after alert](#)

One fourth of campuses have not conducted any type of active shooter drill, mainly due to budget constraints. [Study: Campuses show gaps in active shooter drills, emergency responses](#)

The Oklahoma State homecoming parade suddenly turned tragic when a car plowed into the crowd near the end of the parade, killing 4 people, including a 2-year-old boy, and injuring at least 49. [Oklahoma State University Parade Turns Deadly as Car Crash Kills 4](#)

A series of bogus bomb threats were called into a number of colleges across the region. [Northern Illinois University evacuates campus, cancels classes over reported threat](#)

Each year OSHA releases the top 10 most cited violations it encounters during workplace safety inspections. For 2015, the list begins with Fall Protection, Hazard Communication, Scaffolding, and Respiratory Protection. [NSC 2015: OSHA's Top 10 Violations for 2015](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Moi University students sought accommodation off campus in the town of Eldoret after it was revealed that 4 missing students allegedly joined the Somali Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, which has claimed responsibility for the April gun attack on Garissa U that killed 148 people. [Hundreds move out of Kenyan university fearing an attack after 4 students join extremists](#)

Wright State reported that federal authorities are investigating possible violations in its use of the H-1B program due to credible evidence that not every H-1B employee sponsored by the university was actually working at the university. [H-1B Under Scrutiny](#)

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Less than 24 hours after unsafe and unhealthy conditions were reported in the news, the building closed. [UH to close College of Education building due to unsafe, unsanitary conditions](#)

There was high initial interest in Ohio State's plan to privatize its energy services. Now it's time for those companies to lay out how they might implement a first-of-its-kind agreement. [Ohio State energy privatization plan edging closer to reality](#)

The lowest bidder for the project is claiming OU and its general contractor awarded the bid to W&W Steel and violated Oklahoma's Public Competitive Bidding Act. [OU facing lawsuit that could halt football stadium construction](#)

A chemical hearth, part of an early science classroom, had been sealed in one of the lower-floor walls of the Rotunda since the 1850s, and thus was protected from the 1895 fire that destroyed much of the building's interior. [Jeffersonian-Era Chemistry Hearth Preserved In Rotunda Wall](#)

RESEARCH

To tame a rising tide of grant proposals, federal agencies are becoming sticklers about enforcing their application requirements—stating deadlines in hundredths of seconds and using software to prevent the submission of error-riddled applications. [Grant Programs Get Persnickety](#)

Many researchers have sought to repair, replace, or revolutionize the practice of peer review. [Journal Publishers Rethink a Research Mainstay: Peer Review](#)

Publication pressures on scientists lead to more traditional, more likely to be published papers, at the expense of scientific breakthroughs. [The Costs of Publish or Perish](#)

STUDENT LIFE

Women's and civil rights organizations urged the DoE to tell colleges that they must monitor anonymous apps like Yik Yak, frequently the source of sexist and racist comments, and do something to protect those students who are named. The groups view anonymous online abuse as an emerging issue under Title IX. [Who Should Prevent Social Media Harassment?](#); [Women's Groups Urge Colleges and Government to Rein In Yik Yak](#)

Increasingly, accused students are seeking redress in federal and state courts, alleging their universities violated due process rights, breached contractual obligations, or discriminated against them on the basis of their sex. [Campus Judiciaries on Trial: An Update from the Courts](#)

In recent months, courts around the nation have offered some students significant victories, slamming schools for systems that are stacked against the accused. [For Students Accused Of Campus Rape, Legal Victories Win Back Rights](#)

If applicants and parents want to know whether the dating scene at a college is geared more towards wild hookups or traditional relationships, the best barometer will always be the ratio of women to men on campus. [Unequal Gender Ratios at Colleges Are Driving Hookup Culture](#)

ERM EVENTS and MEETINGS ATTENDED BY IU STAFF

Indiana University Enterprise Risk Management Retreat, October 19 – Speaker Dr. Mark Beasley, Deloitte Professor of ERM, NC State Poole College of Management ERM Initiative on “Positioning ERM for Strategic Value”

Presentation to Indiana University Fiscal Officers Development Series Alumni, October 20

Higher Education ERM Roundtable, October 26

Presentation to EDUCAUSE Annual Conference on “Enterprise Risk Management from a CIO’s Perspective,” October 30

NEW ERM RESOURCES

Organizations must increase trust and resilience by investing in three risk disciplines: a foundation to make people, processes, and technology more resilient; increased awareness to build trust and resilience; and extended governance throughout the enterprise. [Gartner says organisations must invest in three risk principles](#)

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 mbl@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!