

The Risky Academy: Environmental Scan for December 2017

ACADEMIC & FACULTY QUALITY

The proposed overhaul of the Higher Education Act include plans to simplify the FAFSA, cap the amount that grad students may borrow, and end the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. The process began earlier this month, when Virginia Foxx introduced the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform, or PROSPER Act. It is the first comprehensive attempt since 2008 to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, which was first passed in 1965. The Senate version is expected in early 2018. [GOP Seeks to Shift Accountability for Colleges](#); [House Republicans Press for Higher-Ed Overhaul in 2018](#); [HEA reauthorization is moving both too fast and too slow](#); [Higher ed act reauthorization: Here's what we know so far](#); [5 ways the proposed PROSPER Act could impact students](#); [House Republicans Finalize Overhaul of Higher Education Act](#)

A pair of surveys reveal meaningful public doubts about college affordability and the value of degrees. But they may focus the conversation on issues in which higher ed is most vulnerable and on the audiences that are most skeptical. [Is Higher Education Really Losing the Public?](#)

Only 23% of board members have personally contacted a member of Congress about an issue concerning higher ed. University trustees—often focused on their fiduciary responsibilities and the success of their institutions—traditionally have not been engaged in the national discourse about the enduring contributions of higher ed to the advancement of individuals and our nation as a whole. [The AGB Guardians Initiative: Engaging the Public on the Value of Higher Education](#)

“It’s not enough anymore to just say, ‘trust us,’” Yale President Peter Salovey said. “There is an attempt to build a narrative of colleges and universities as out of touch and not politically diverse, and I think ... we have a responsibility to counter that—both in actions and in how we present ourselves.” [University presidents: We’ve been blindsided](#)

Both psychologists who study intergroup relations and civil-rights leaders have long understood that when people perceive themselves as sharing a common humanity, they are best able to treat others with respect and dignity, and judge them by their actions rather than their racial, ethnic, sexual, or gender identity. Yet many colleges encourage students to view the world through the lens of these identities. [The Academic Left Holds Us All Back by Playing Identity Politics](#)

During the small-group tutorial she leads, she showed a video clip from Canadian current-affairs talk show *The Agenda*, in which panelists debated the use of gender-neutral pronouns. Students civilly discussed the clip. Then she was informed she had possibly violated the Ontario human-rights code and the university’s policy on gender-based violence, and potentially caused “harm to trans students.” [She Showed a Video in Class. Now She’s a Hero to Some, a Pariah to Others.](#)

Mitch Daniels writes in an editorial “Ours is an era when it seems no one ever confesses to being wrong. Moreover, everyone is so emphatically right that those who disagree are not merely in error but irredeemably so, candidates not for persuasion but for castigation and ostracism. Meanwhile, those institutions of higher learning—the adjective now almost needs quotation marks—that should cultivate and model openness to debate and refutation too often have become bastions of conformity and thought control.” [Is anyone ever wrong anymore?](#)

The policy sets out a range of likely punishments for anyone—students, faculty, or staff—who “substantially disrupts” the functioning of an institution or “substantially interferes” with the free expression rights of others. [UNC free speech policy passed by Board of Governors](#)

The percentage of colleges with policies that severely restrict students’ free speech rights has decreased yet again. But 90% of colleges still have at least one policy that restricts protected speech or can easily be interpreted to do so. [Campus speech codes decline for 10th straight year](#)

The last 12 months have seen one controversy after another over the tweets of George Ciccariello-Maher, an associate professor of politics and global studies at Drexel. He now writes that it is no longer safe for him to teach at Drexel. [Controversial Professor Quits; Drexel Professor Whose Charged Tweets Drew Fire From the Right Will Leave the University](#)

Since the Middle Ages, colleges have nurtured people with unusual brains. Eccentrics have hung out in Cambridge since 1209 and Harvard since 1636. These eccentricity havens have been our time-traveling bridges from ancient Western civilization to the far future of science, technology, and moral progress. Now these havens are under threat. [How Colleges Silence Eccentrics](#)

Four admittedly extreme examples of how work could look in 2030 are shaped by the ways people and organizations respond to the forces of collectivism and individualism, on one axis, and integration and fragmentation on the other. These scenarios can help organizations think through possibilities and how to prepare to meet them. [What Will Work Look Like in 2030?](#)

Universities can be more responsive to the needs of those on the pathway from higher ed to the workforce by expanding flexible delivery options; developing alternative credentialing; incorporating adaptive learning approaches; expanding work-and-learn opportunities; adapting career services to focus on career exploration; improving the use of data and analysis; and helping advisors to better align student goals with opportunities and pathways. [Ready for Jobs, Careers, and a Lifetime: Public Research Universities and Credentials that Count.](#)

Many baby boomers are looking for a second act. “There are only two segments of life that have the total freedom to think about the great issues of social change. Undergraduates and people who may be at the end of their middle years who aren’t preoccupied with how to make money or raise a family.” [Baby Boomers Looking for Reinvention Try College—Again](#)

More than 90 community colleges in 19 states offer in excess of 700 bachelor degree programs. [Community colleges continuing trend to offer four-year degrees](#)

Ball State’s undergrad degree in computer science education will combine computer science major and education core requirements in “a logical step” for preparing the next generation of educators. It will fill a major gap as Governor Eric Holcomb pushes for computer science classes for all Hoosier K-12 students. [Proposed Ball State Degree to Fill High-Tech Gap](#)

GSU identified 800 academic behaviors that correlated in a statistically significant way to students flunking and dropping out, and tracks every undergrad for those behaviors every day. When a student exhibits one, his or her adviser receives an alert; someone reaches out to the student in 48 hours. [How Georgia State Stopped Students From Slipping Through The Cracks](#)

At a time when companies and colleges are demanding students with strong technical abilities, like coding and data analysis, the top two jobs in LinkedIn’s list rely heavily on these skills. [Top 20 emerging jobs of 2017, according to LinkedIn](#)

Studies show that 95% of employers say data science skills are hard to find among candidates and that by 2021, students with data science and analytics skills will be twice as likely to get a job. So it's no surprise that many higher ed institutions are launching or expanding academic programs related to data science. [3 Aspects of a Good Data Science Education](#)

Business schools are hastily reshaping their curriculums with case studies ripped straight from the headlines. [Business Schools Now Teaching #MeToo, N.F.L. Protests and Trump](#)

"I have received the following types of support that I believe will come to characterize the humanities departments of the future." [Humanities Departments After the Fall](#)

Men are 2½ times more likely to ask a question in an academic seminar than women. The lack of female visibility may be both a symptom and a cause of the "leaky pipeline," which describes the high attrition rate of women in science fields. [Gender Gap in Academic Seminar Questions](#)

The U of Pittsburgh is starting a Title IX investigation following the publication of an essay penned by a former professor detailing what she described as a long-standing culture of hostility in the Communications Department. [Former Pitt professor's essay sparks sex investigation](#)

Celeste Kidd, an assistant professor, along with 8 former and current professors and students, filed a federal lawsuit against the university, its president, and its provost in their battle to prove that the university not only was wrong about Florian Jaeger, but that it portrayed them as gossips and liars. [How Sexual-Harassment Charges at U. of Rochester Spiraled Out of Control; 9 Researchers Sue University of Rochester over Sexual-Harassment Allegations](#)

The professors, who were chairs of their departments, were arrested on privacy and stalking charges related "to the illegal videoing, and the subsequent dissemination of that video, of another identifiable person who is nude or in the state of undress." [Two PSU profs. arrested for stalking, breach of privacy—Pair have been suspended, university working with law enforcement](#)

Gopal Balakrishnan denies the accusations made by 7 anonymous individuals, which date to 2009, alleging nights of heavy drinking and drug use at which Balakrishnan was often the only faculty present. [Professor at UC-Santa Cruz Disputes Sexual-Assault Accusations](#)

Jennifer Sheridan Moss said she was harassed by William V. Harris, a renowned Greco-Roman historian, in the 1980s. Jennifer Knust said he harassed her in the 1990s. And an anonymous grad student, identified in court papers as Jane Doe, said he harassed her in the 2010s. [At Columbia, Three Women, 30 Years and a Pattern of Harassment](#)

Two investigations, in 2012 and 2013, concluded with enough evidence to suggest to outside investigators that Manweller had violated the college's sexual-harassment policies. In 2013, the university sent him to be trained in sexual-harassment prevention and delayed his promotion. [Central Washington U. Places Professor — and State Lawmaker — on Leave Amid Allegations](#)

A crowdsourced survey of sexual harassment in academe, with 1,200-and-counting entries, is attracting attention for illuminating an ongoing problem in ways that statistics alone could not. ['Holding Space' for Victims of Harassment](#); ['A Complete Culture of Sexualization': 1,600 Stories of Harassment in Higher Ed](#); [There Is No Moral Relativity in Sexual Harassment](#)

“Often schools might turn a blind eye toward sexual harassment that they know about or have heard about because a professor is bringing in a big grant or is adding to the stature of the university.” [Universities face #MeToo movement over sexual harassment](#)

Here are the latest updates, on cases at Kentucky, Princeton, Virginia, UC-Santa Cruz, Stanford, UC-San Francisco, Columbia College Chicago, Central Washington, and UC-Davis. [Tracking Higher Ed's #MeToo Moment: Updates on Sexual Assault and Harassment](#)

A professor is set to challenge his termination over sexual harassment as another across the country was placed on leave. On yet another campus, students celebrate the recent departure of a professor found to have committed misconduct. [More Action on Harassment](#)

The most common action in these high-profile cases was for the accused person to resign. That frequently happened before an investigation by the college or university, or afterward, but before the institution went through its disciplinary proceedings. If there was an investigation, the person accused was generally on some sort of paid leave during the time of that inquiry. Those who stayed afterward were cleared or dismissed. Others stuck around, with restrictions, after some finding of responsibility. [What Happened to These 15 Accused Harassers?](#)

ADVANCEMENT

Consumer advocates and politicians ask why more endowment money isn't going toward making college more affordable. Hearings were held in 2016 on Capitol Hill as endowment values hit record levels. Now, Congress has passed a tax bill that includes a new levy on endowment investment gains. [Wall Street Is Making Even More Billionaires of U.S. Colleges](#)

With state support dwindling and rising tuition vexing families and lawmakers, public colleges have had to step up their advancement game, and the results are starting to show. They saw their fund raising grow by 3.9% in the 2017 fiscal year, while private colleges saw their fund raising grow by less than 1%. [Public Universities Are Getting Better at Bagging Big Gifts](#)

ATHLETICS

Brock Turner, the former Stanford swimmer given a widely criticized 6-month jail sentence for assaulting an unconscious woman, is appealing and asking for a new trial. He argues that the prosecutor incorrectly told jurors it happened behind a dumpster, which is “prejudicial” and implied that he was trying to hide what he was doing. It actually happened next to the dumpster. [Stanford sex offender Brock Turner is appealing his conviction](#)

Both sides, following court-ordered mediation, agreed that resolving the disputes was in their best interest to avoid “the expense and uncertainty of litigation.” [KU pays \\$395,000 to settle Title IX lawsuits by women who alleged sexual assaults by football player](#)

The U of Louisville countersued former men's basketball coach Rick Pitino, saying when he failed to adequately supervise his coaches, he damaged the school's reputation and affected its ability to recruit, meet the financial responsibilities of its basketball program, sell tickets, and generate donations. [Louisville Fires Back Against Ex-Coach Over NCAA Bribery Scandal; Louisville countersuit accuses Rick Pitino of 'wrongful conduct' detrimental to school](#)

When the U of Louisville formed a partnership with Adidas, it represented opportunities not just for athletes but also for the university. Instead, the alliance led to FBI charges of criminal behavior. [How a midlevel school became The University of Adidas at Louisville](#)

Lawsuits could lead to changes in the NCAA's concussion rules and threaten some athletic conferences, while broader questions about college football's viability begin to emerge. [College Football's Avalanche of Lawsuits](#)

"Surely you saw the eye-popping contract that Texas A&M just gave to former Florida State football coach Jimbo Fisher: \$75M over 10 years. That's the richest deal ever awarded to a college football coach in history. It's more total money than even handsome Nick Saban gets to be the Emperor of Alabama. I also think it may make Fisher the best-paid Jimbo on Earth. So I'm putting all the remaining universities and colleges on notice: I'll coach your football team for just half of what Jimbo's getting." [Please! Hire Me to Coach College Football](#)

CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE

If the rules are repealed, a large portion of what higher ed does will become more expensive. Those costs can't simply be swallowed by schools, so they will be passed on to students and their families without any additional benefit provided to them. Second, we may see a meaningful degradation in the quality of the education we provide and the research we perform. A third consequence is that providers could restrict or block content they find objectionable. [FCC's proposed Internet rules could raise college costs and hinder free exchange of ideas](#); [Repeal of Net-Neutrality Rules Disappoints Higher-Ed Associations](#)

"Misconfigured permissions" on file-sharing programs exposed "reports of sexual violence and some confidential student disciplinary information from 6 to 10 years ago" and "the personal information of nearly 10,000 non-teaching staff who were employed throughout the university in August 2008, as well as confidential financial aid information for MBA students." [Inside the Stanford Breach: Sexual Assault, Disciplinary and Financial Data Exposed](#)

The paradigm for physical-security design in data centers has flipped. Once they were designed similar to other facilities—with a focus on the perimeter first and then the interior. But a data center's true value is at its core: the servers. Thus, when looking at physical security, we begin at the server spaces and then cascade outward to the facility's entry points and the perimeter of the grounds. [New Approach To Physical Security Requires Inside-Out Assessment](#)

In 2017, none of the companies said their security needs were fully met by their current information security function, down from 11% in 2016. Some 53% said that a lack of skilled resources was keeping their information security operation from contributing more. [Why 0% of US companies believe their information security strategy is working](#)

As many as 87% of cybersecurity professionals say their organizations are using artificial intelligence (AI) as part of their cybersecurity strategy, and 75% say they believe that, within the next 3 years, their organization will not be able to protect digital assets without using AI. [91% of cybersecurity pros fear hackers will use AI to attack their company](#)

"The biggest threat that most organizations are facing right now is a combination of excessive access for their employees and an increased focus by nation-state actors on access to sensitive information. We're seeing nation-states working in tandem with criminal hackers to compromise your systems." [Where the Cybersecurity Threats Are](#)

Cyberattackers are moving away from ransomware "spray and pray" attacks delivered by spam in favor of targeting specific industries, geographies, or organizations of a particular size. "We find when ransomware targets specific verticals, it is usually healthcare and higher education." [Small, Targeted Ransomware Attacks Emerge](#)

US companies are unprepared for restrictions regarding how they collect, use, and handle the personal data of Europeans. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has penalties so onerous, there's strong impetus for senior executives to understand how they treat customer and employee data. [Europe's Upcoming Privacy Mandate Brings Strict Rules, Hefty Fines](#)

Going into 2018, the first challenge organizations will face is the implementation of the new GDPR, which goes into effect on May 25 and explains how organizations should process, store, and secure Europeans' personal data. [8 cybersecurity trends to watch for 2018](#)

Many, if not most, U.S. companies will not meet GDPR compliance by deadline. GDPR regulators will quickly make an example of an organization. The decline of password-only authentication will accelerate. State-sponsored attacks will increase. Attacks via compromised IoT devices will get worse. Automation of some threat-detection tasks will increase. Trust will be a casualty of the war on cyber crime. [Our top 7 cyber security predictions for 2018](#)

The evolution of ransomware from traditional to new applications; the security implications of serverless apps; the consumer privacy ramifications of corporations monitoring consumers in their own homes; long-term implications of corporations gathering children's user-generated content; and the emergence of a machine-learning innovation race between defenders and attackers. [Five key trends to watch in 2018 as cybercriminals continue to innovate](#)

Ransomware attacks will get worse; email will become a bigger threat; leaked exploits will make the spread of malware even harder to fight; malware will become more targeted; and stupidity will persist. [Five Cyber-Security Threats Enterprises Will Confront in 2018](#)

Crime-as-a-service expands tools and services; the Internet of Things (IoT) adds to unmanaged risks; supply chain remains the weakest link in risk management; regulation adds to complexity of critical asset management; and unmet board expectations exposed by major incidents. [CISOs, Beware Of Crime-as-a-Service, IoT Threats In 2018](#)

For 2018, here's your annual security industry prediction roundup from the top cybersecurity experts, magazines, companies, analysts and more. [The Top 18 Security Predictions for 2018](#)

ENROLLMENT

The total decline in enrollment slowed somewhat, down 1% this fall compared to the previous fall. But the drop in the number of first-time students is speeding up: 63,000 fewer this fall compared to last fall. [University enrollment decline continues into sixth straight year](#)

Many don't know what FAFSA verification is. The out-of-the-blue notice can read like a reprimand. Some students get online messages with a bright-red X affixed to each task they must complete. Often, they're asked to submit tax transcripts as well as other documents. Confused, they often ask their high-school counselors, "Am I in trouble?" [The Verification Trap](#)

"As everyone in admissions knows, it's not just the size of your pool that matters, but who's in the pool. When demographics move the population around, that may or may not be relevant for a given institution or institution type, depending on what part of the market is growing and what part of the market is shrinking. So the thought experiment in the book is to adjust population figures by weighting for the probability of college attendance. It turns out that, for some institution types, and for some regions, that substantially alters what we would expect to happen next." [Demographic Changes as Destiny in College Admissions? It's Complicated](#)

FINANCE

The agency cited financial strains at both public and private 4-year institutions, mainly due to muted growth in tuition revenue. But it also cited “uncertainty at the federal level over potential policy changes.” [Moody’s Downgrades Higher Ed’s Outlook From ‘Stable’ to ‘Negative’](#)

A survey of 183 higher ed professionals involved in the financial planning and budgeting process found that 47% thought their business model was unsustainable and 66% said they are not able to respond quickly to changing financial circumstances or are unsure if they could, based on existing tools and processes. [US universities’ business models ‘unsustainable’, planners warn](#)

Enrollment at the U of Baltimore dropped by 15% in the last 5 years. Cost cutting measures include furloughing faculty and staff, a hiring freeze, out-of-state travel restrictions, and limits on spending. [University of Baltimore rolls out furlough plan amid declining enrollment](#)

Hiring non-tenure track faculty has no impact on enrollment, but for public baccalaureates, it results in lower net revenues. [Academic Workforce Flexibility and Strategic Outcomes in Four-Year Colleges and Universities](#)

The *Chronicle’s* table shows the “sticker prices”—published tuition and required fees—at more than 3,000 colleges and universities for the 2017-18 academic year. Click the institutions’ names to see historical data back to 1998. [Tuition and Fees, 1998-99 Through 2017-18](#)

The legislation does not include the more controversial provisions that appeared in its original versions, such as a tax on grad students’ tuition waivers, but it still contains several provisions that have been a cause for worry among people in higher ed. Here, briefly, is what you need to know about the soon-to-be-new tax law. [What Colleges Need to Know About the Tax Overhaul Poised to Become Law](#); [US Tax Bill Adds Pressure to States, Locals and Higher Ed](#)

A state auditor investigation into the U of Iowa Physics Department found a professor misused \$99,805.67 between 2011 and 2017. Michael Flatté improperly used his procurement card to pay for expenses related to sponsoring conferences which were not approved by the university. [Univ. of Iowa Physics professor misused nearly \\$100,000](#)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

“While Simon’s 12-year tenure has been marked by numerous accomplishments, there is one stark and significant failure that now overpowers all else: MSU’s inability to keep women safe from sexual assault and harassment on campus. That failure belongs to Simon and her team. The time has come to hold her accountable.” [Editorial: Lou Anna Simon must resign as Michigan State president](#); [Why Is Michigan State’s President Facing Calls to Resign?](#)

“While no criminal sentence will ever remedy what the victims lost, it is my sincere hope that it will allow some measure of healing to begin. Today the Board of Trustees announced a \$10M fund for counseling and mental health services as part of our commitment to support Nassar’s victims.” [President Simon: Letter to the MSU Community, Dec. 15, 2017](#)

Disruption is striking at the core of nearly every business, bringing with it opportunities for new growth, as well as competitive threats. Blockchain, cognitive intelligence, and robotic process automation are just a few of the digital technologies that C-suite executives are seeking to better determine how they can help advance corporate strategy amid disruption and drive greater value. [Disrupting Through Innovation: Advancing the Dialogue on Digital Technologies](#)

HEALTH SERVICES

Presidents and chancellors of nine research universities and one research institute announced a new initiative, the Coalition for Next Generation Life Science, that will adopt a series of efforts to assist students in making informed choices about their pre- and postdoctoral training activities, and universities in preparing trainees for a full range of careers. They will start with the biomedical research arena. [A new data effort to inform career choices in biomedicine](#)

In the health sector, email was the biggest source of data breaches in 2017. There were 73 breaches between Jan. 1 and the end of November reported to HHS, affecting 573,698 people. Additionally, 78% of respondents said they had either a malware and/or ransomware attack in the last 12 months. [Email is the biggest source of data breaches](#)

Here are the 11 most significant healthcare information security and privacy events that predicted to occur throughout 2018. [Health Data Privacy and Security: What Will 2018 Bring?](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

The deluge of complaints from women about mistreatment in the workplace brought to light numerous stories of HR units ignoring or retaliating against them, resulting in women hesitant to approach HR departments. In turn, HR departments cite the absence of complaints as proof of a respectful workplace. [Sexual Harassment Cases Show the Ineffectiveness of Going to HR](#)

Employers should proactively examine their employee salary and hiring practices to ensure they are not paying their female employees less than their male counterparts and make any necessary adjustments. [Employers must reassess employee salaries for gender bias](#)

INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE

McLean, the college president, has been working from his new office—he dragged a chair out to the faculty parking lot, and, if he's next to a certain bush, he gets two bars of signal on his cellphone, enough to send texts and make patchy calls. [‘It was a view of hell’: The wildfire raging in California was named after their small college — it started that close](#)

A new paper written for campus threat-assessment and behavioral-intervention teams points out the risk factors that can drive someone to commit acts of radicalized violence. These factors include marginalization and disenfranchisement, social disengagement, and affiliation seeking. To counter the risk factors, the study suggests fostering social connections and nonviolent discourse. [How Can Colleges Head Off Homegrown Extremism?](#)

Case in point, the gunman responsible for the Nov. 14 rampage that killed 5 in Northern California was thwarted from killing anyone at Rancho Tehama Elementary School because staff quickly locked down the campus and had everyone shelter in place when they heard the gunfire. [12 Lessons to Remember From Active Shooter Attacks](#)

INTERNATIONAL

A divided Supreme Court let President Donald Trump's ban on travel to the US from 6 mostly Muslim countries take full effect while legal challenges go forward, handing him a major victory and suggesting the court ultimately will uphold the restrictions. [Supreme Court Lets Trump Travel Ban Take Full Effect for Now](#); [Supreme Court allows full enforcement of Trump travel ban while legal challenges continue](#); [Supreme Court Allows Trump Travel Ban to Take Effect](#)

Undocumented college students, who were brought to the US illegally as children and who are known as “Dreamers,” took to the halls of Capitol Hill, joining several hundred supporters of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Amid the scramble in Congress to pass a tax overhaul, the students pressed lawmakers not to forget them or that the program expires in March without new legislation. [‘Dreamers’ Make Desperate Plea on Capitol Hill](#)

D. Mark McCoy, president of DePauw, urges a bipartisan solution to “protect our investment” in these young people. [Let’s not play politics with the lives of dreamers](#)

A former Mercyhurst official has been indicted on charges he falsely claimed on form 1-20 that a student had been accepted to a Mercyhurst master’s degree program, enabling the student to be admitted to the US on an F-1 visa. [Ex-Mercyhurst official indicted in visa fraud case](#)

The key element for institutions to improve the retention of talented international students is centered on increasing their employability and creating affinity for the host country/regions. While institutions of higher ed may not be able to fully address the current US political climate, there are specific actions that can help retain international students and create economic opportunity. [University-led strategies to retain international students beyond graduation](#)

RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Fraternity misbehavior has frustrated colleges as long as fraternities have been around. Now, amid worries about endemic binge drinking, sexual assault, and a startling spate of deaths, schools are going beyond shutting down individual houses to imposing broad restrictions on all Greek life. [No Wild Parties, No Pledging as Universities Crack Down on Fraternity Excesses](#)

“Preventive measures have consistently failed to curb the hazing or ameliorate its dangers. Self-regulation through the IFC (Interfraternity Council) has failed abysmally to prevent hazing during the pledging process.” Piazza’s case underscores that drinking on campus extends far beyond the Beta fraternity, and the university “either did not know as it should have, or turned a blind eye.” [Grand jury slams Penn State for ignoring reports on dangerous hazing](#); [Grand jury: Penn State showed ‘shocking apathy’ to drinking](#)

A Radford student and potential pledge was forced to drink a large amount of liquor, then was branded after he passed out. [Radford University student burned, whipped by strippers at banned frat party, search warrants say](#)

The parent organization of a U of Houston fraternity was indicted on a hazing charge alleging pledges were deprived of adequate food, water, and sleep during a 3-day event where one student sustained a lacerated spleen. [Suspended University of Houston frat indicted for hazing](#)

Sigma Iota Alpha engaged in hazing that included limiting or prohibiting contact with nonmembers, social isolation, and the forced eating of food. The hazing “resulted in a physical and mental toll on new members.” [William & Mary Sorority Suspended for Alleged Hazing](#)

RESEARCH

Federal officials ended a moratorium imposed 3 years ago on funding research that alters germs to make them more lethal. Such work can now proceed, but only if a scientific panel decides that the benefits justify the risks. [A Federal Ban on Making Lethal Viruses Is Lifted](#)

STUDENT LIFE

“Here’s the disturbing reality that we don’t talk about enough: Our nation’s college students are abusing alcohol and other drugs in ways that threaten their health, their safety and their academic success. In addition, increasing numbers of college students also struggle with abuse of opioids and other prescription drugs, despite education, prevention, and clear sanctions.”

[University president: We know your kids are drinking and we need your help](#)

Club members reported their suspicions to the Clemson Police Department. Gomez handled the disbursement of money for the Sailing Club, and used the club’s debit card to spend \$18,406 on “purchases and charges of a personal nature” including his tuition, rent, and a spring break trip to Key West. [Clemson University Sailing Club treasurer used club money for rent, spring break](#)

The dispute, which began in Nov. 2016 with the arrest of 3 black Oberlin students who tried stealing wine from Gibson’s, is now a lawsuit in which the exasperated bakery owners accuse the college and a top dean of slandering Gibson’s as a “racist establishment” and taking steps to destroy the family’s livelihood. [Racial dispute at beloved bakery roils liberal college town in Ohio](#)

Police say the man’s phone was found recording in a unisex bathroom in a Villanova dorm. [Man Found Guilty Of Secretly Recording Inside Dorm Bathroom At Villanova University](#)

A student who says the university denied him his right to due process when it concluded he had sexually assaulted a fellow student and then kicked him out of school last year sues Northwestern. [Northwestern lawsuit highlights debate on university sexual misconduct policies](#)

Activists, administrators, and lawyers say they’ve seen a spike in defamation lawsuits over the past few years as defenders of accused students say they’re victims of overzealous disciplinary panels. [As More College Students Say “Me Too,” Accused Men Are Suing For Defamation](#)

“Sometimes you sit in this hearing and your heart breaks for both people. Sometimes I walk out and think the whole thing is a [expletive]: terrible for him, terrible for her, terrible for the parents.” If the process is broken, it’s broken at least as much for the victims as the accused. That correction can become overcorrection in either direction. The pendulum swings both ways. It shouldn’t, “but I don’t know how to stop it.” [The Takedown of Title IX](#)

ERM EVENTS and MEETINGS ATTENDED BY IU STAFF

Indiana University Enterprise Risk Management Committee (ERMC) meeting, December 14

NEW ERM RESOURCES

Regulatory or legislative change, increased industry competition and lower profitability, and cyber risks—these are the top risks for the coming year identified by chief risk officers of APRA-regulated banks, general insurers, life insurance, and private health insurers. Other major concerns were economic slowdown/recession, failure to meet consumer needs or to innovate, and brand or reputational damage. The survey also revealed that embedding risk management in their businesses, using risk management as a strategic enabler, demonstrating the value of sound risk management, and resourcing pressure, are the key challenges faced by CROs. [Chief risk officers rank top risks for 2018](#)

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!