SKEPTICAL PROVOSTS

An Inside Higher Ed Webinar on results of the 2013 survey of Chief Academic Officers
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Presenters

- Scott Jaschik, editor of Inside Higher Ed
- Robert Sternberg, provost of Oklahoma State University and former dean at Tufts University
Methodology

- Survey conducted by Gallup in late 2012.
- Responses from 1,081 provosts (or equivalent position at institutions without that title).
- Gallup estimates 95 percent confidence level of margin of error of 2.4 percentage points on overall results, with slightly higher margins for subsets of the survey population.
- Responses were coded to allow for analysis by sector of some questions.
- Complete anonymity for individuals and institutions.
Tenure I – The Illusion of Support

Percentage of provosts who agree that tenure “remains important and viable at my institution.”

| Four-year institutions (public and private) | 70% |
| Community colleges                        | 54% |
| For-profit higher education               | 3%  |
Tenure II – Open to Alternatives

–Asked if they favored a system of long-term contracts for faculty members over the existing system of tenure in higher education, 64 percent said that they did.
–Majority support in every sector.
Percentage who agree/strongly agree that “future generations of faculty should not expect tenure to be a factor in their employment at higher education institutions.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All public institutions</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community colleges</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private nonprofit colleges</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For-profit colleges</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Careers: The Adjunct Future

Across sectors, provosts see their institutions as reliant on the non-tenure-track.

Provosts’ predictions on future reliance on adjuncts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>For-Profit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expect less reliance</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expect same reliance</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expect more reliance</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Careers: Limiting Ph.D. Enrollment

- Provosts are divided on whether, in light of the academic job market, doctoral programs should shrink.
- The provosts least likely to favor shrinkage in graduate enrollments are those at doctoral universities.
The Pressure on Publics

Issues on which public college provosts are more likely to see great challenge for institutions than do those at private institutions:

– Budget shortfalls
– Maintaining quality of academic programs
– Rising demands from accreditors
– Rising demands for assessment from government officials
– Improving academic performance of underprepared students
Judging Effectiveness I (Overall)

Percentage of provosts who believe their institutions provide a quality undergraduate education:

- All: 65%
- Public: 61%
- Private nonprofit: 72%
- For-profit: 50%
Judging Effectiveness II (Specifics)

Percentage of provosts who consider their institutions “very effective” in various services for undergraduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private Nonprofit</th>
<th>For-Profit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing students for world of work</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruiting/retaining faculty</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling costs</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educating for citizenship</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessing outcomes</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using data to inform decision-making</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disruption and Change - I
Disruption and Change – II

Percentage of Provosts Seeing Trends Having 'Positive Impact' on Higher Ed

- All
- Public
- Private Nonprofit
- For-Profit

- Massive Open Online Courses (MoOCs)
- Use of prior learning assessments
- Adaptive testing and learning
- Outsourcing selected courses to providers
- Awarding competency-based credits
Disruption and Change – III

Bar chart showing the percentage of institutions using various strategies across different sectors: All, Public, Private Nonprofit, and For-profit. The strategies include Massiva Open Online, Use of prior learning, Adaptive testing, Outsourcing selected courses to outside agencies, and Awarding degrees.
Provost Jobs I – Not Just Academics

Provosts Who Agree That Position Has Evolved Beyond Academic Affairs

- % 5 Strongly agree
- % 4
- % 3
- % 2
- % 1 Strongly disagree

39.4% 51.5%
Provost Jobs II – Not Looking to Move Up

Provosts Who Say They Aspire to Become Presidents

- %5 Strongly agree
- %4
- %3
- %2
- %1 Strongly disagree

- 30.7%
- 21.8%
- 19.8%
- 13.9%
- 13.9%
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