



SKEPTICAL PROVOSTS

An *Inside Higher Ed* Webinar on results
of the 2013 survey of Chief Academic Officers
February 14, 2013

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.

Tenure III – A Future Without Tenure

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.”

All public institutions	58%
Community colleges	68%
Private nonprofit colleges	53%
For-profit colleges	87%

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:

	All	Public	Private	For-Profit
Expect less reliance	11%	11%	12%	8%
Expect same reliance	66%	67%	64%	66%
Expect more reliance	23%	22%	23%	26%

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:

	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	For-Profit
Support services	40%	35%	47%	40%
Preparing students for world of work	43%	39%	45%	57%
Recruiting/retaining faculty	39%	35%	45%	20%
Controlling costs	22%	26%	17%	22%
Educating for citizenship	27%	19%	38%	22%
Assessing outcomes	21%	19%	22%	34%
Using data to inform decision-making	25%	26%	23%	38%

Disruption and Change - I

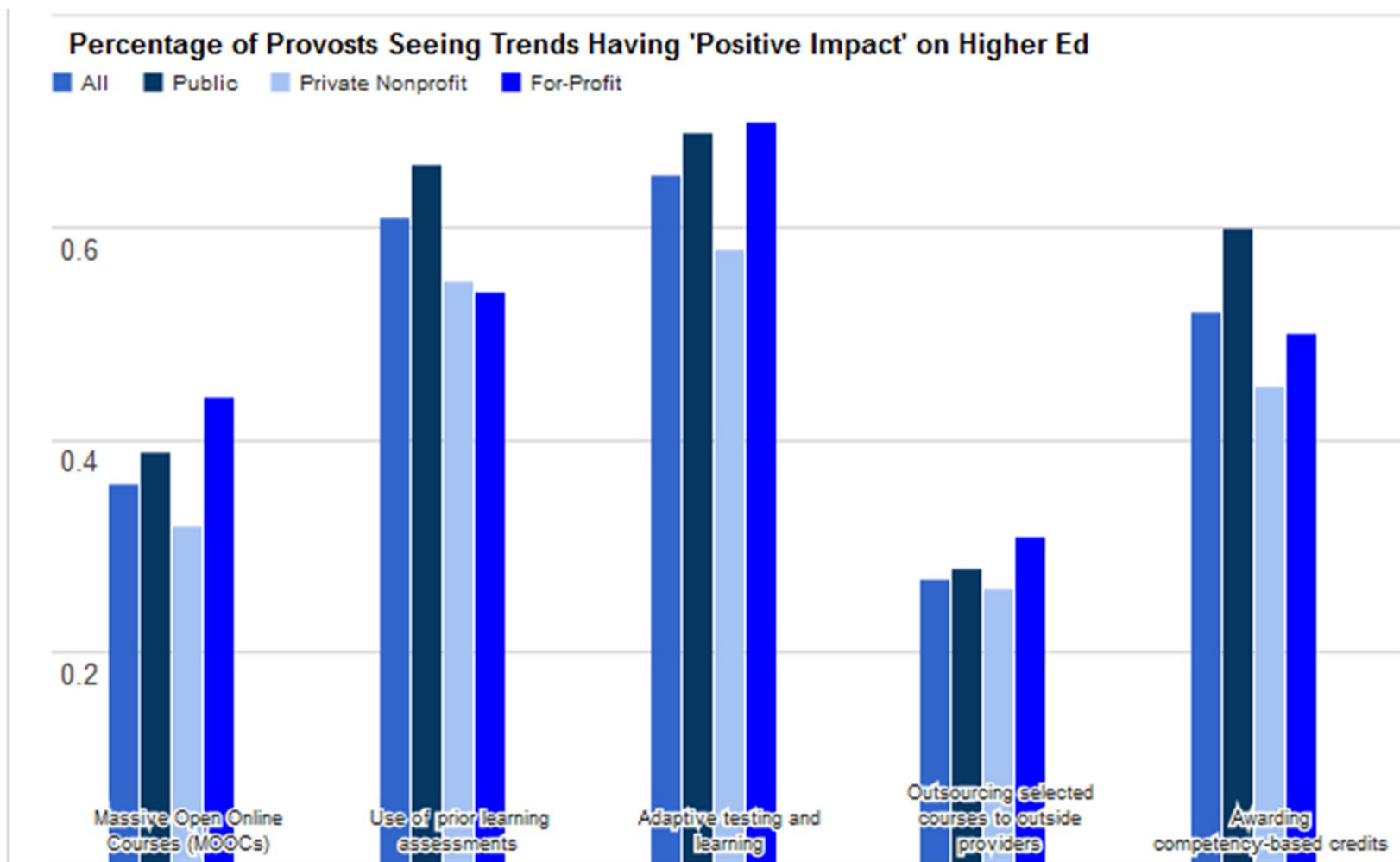


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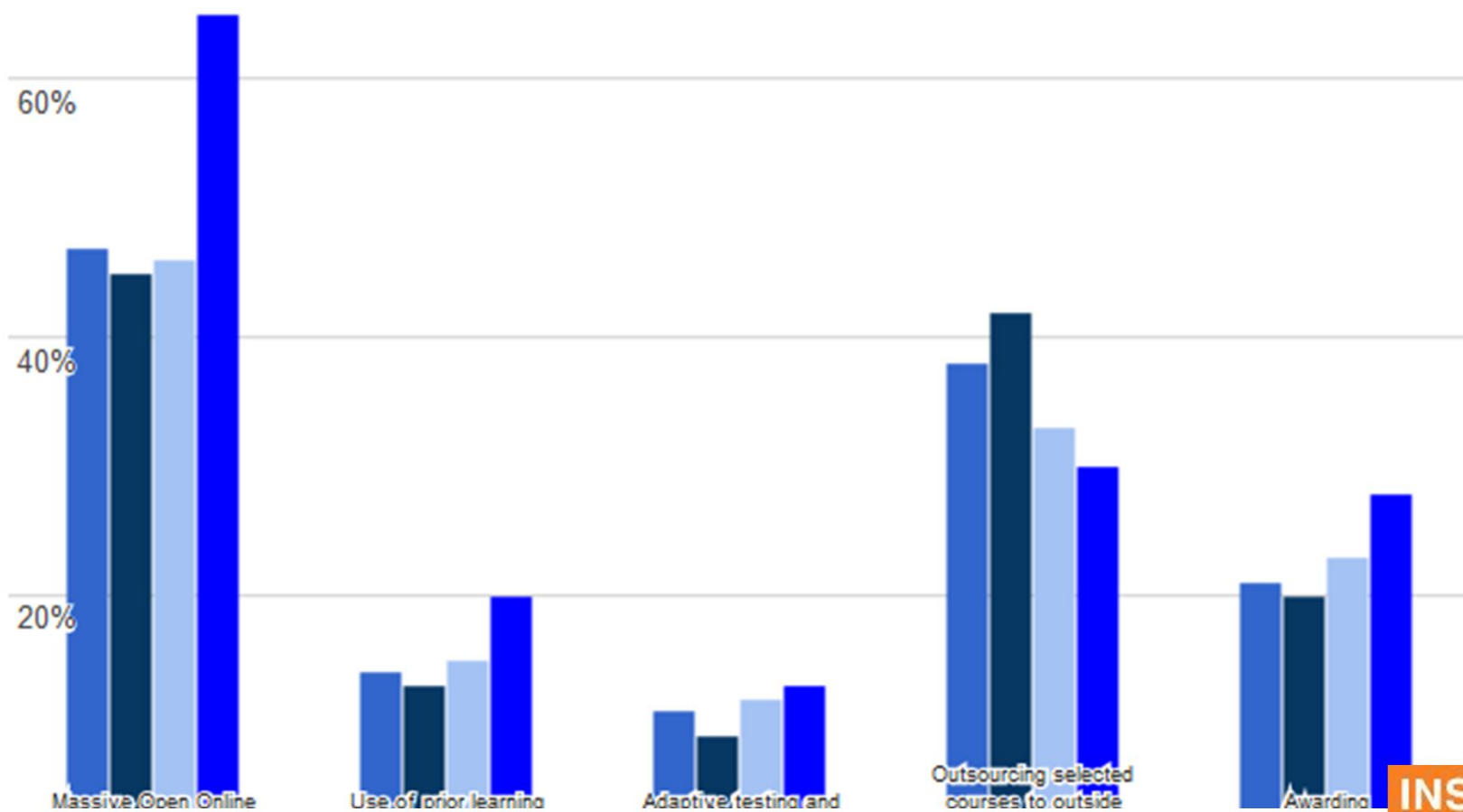
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Disruption and Change – II



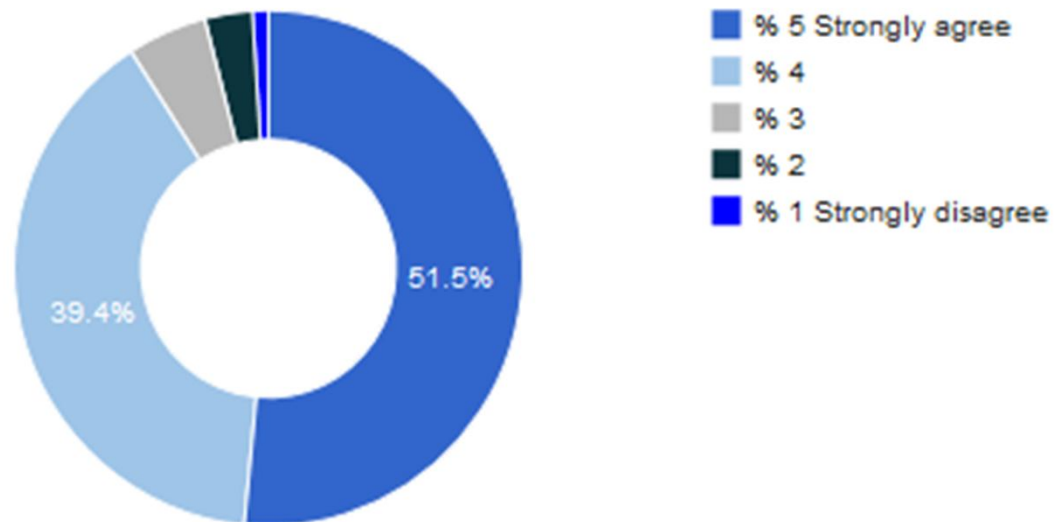
Disruption and Change -- III

■ All ■ Public ■ Private Nonprofit ■ For-profit



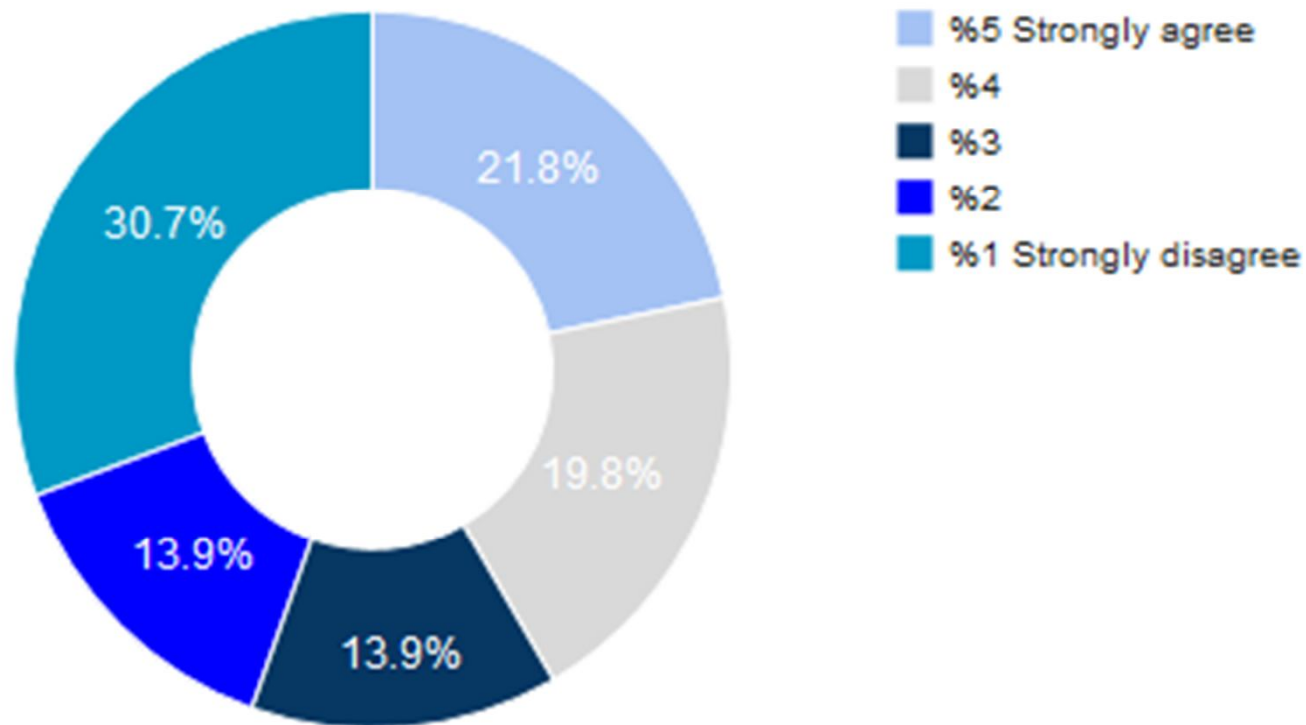
Provost Jobs I – Not Just Academics

Provosts Who Agree That Position Has Evolved Beyond Academic Affairs



Provost Jobs II – Not Looking to Move Up

Provosts Who Say They Aspire to Become Presidents



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