

WHAT PROVOSTS THINK

Webinar on the 2016 *Inside Higher Ed*/Gallup Survey
of Chief Academic Officers

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Presenters

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Methodology

- Questions prepared by *Inside Higher Ed* and Gallup.
- Responses from 539 chief academic officers (titles included provost, vice president of academic affairs and others).
- Complete anonymity for those responding, but sorting by sector.
- Support from IBM, Academic Partnerships, Rafter and Jenzabar.

Why Provosts Matter

The Mount St. Mary's example ...



Liberal Arts - I

- **95% of provosts at liberal arts colleges believe the liberal arts should be “central to undergraduate education,” regardless of program of study.**
- **89% of provosts at non-liberal arts colleges agree.**



Liberal Arts – II

Provosts respond to statements on liberal arts

Statement	% at Liberal Arts	% at Non-Liberal Arts
Politicians, presidents and boards are increasingly unsympathetic to liberal arts education.	68%	62%
I feel pressure from my president, board, donors to focus on academic programs that have orientation toward careers.	39%	61%
Liberal arts education at all types of institutions in the U.S. is in decline	44%	52%
I expect to see the number of liberal arts colleges decline significantly over the next five years.	50%	60%

Ambivalence About Tenure

Background:

- Recent draft statement of CIC panel.
- Debates in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

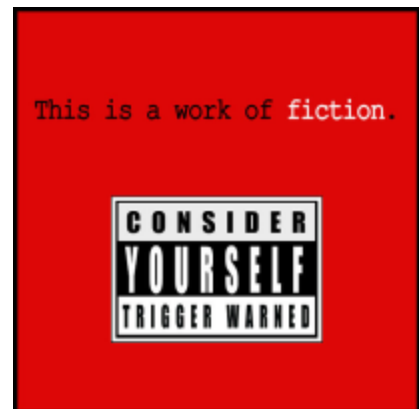
Poll results:

- **67%** of provosts say "tenure remains important and viable at my institution."
- **61 %** of provosts favor "a system of long-term contracts over the existing tenure system in higher education."



Trigger Warnings

- 72% of provosts said trigger warnings "may discourage students from encountering important works of literature or art."
- 58% of provosts said trigger warnings "are part of a trend of colleges going too far to protect students from things that may make them uncomfortable."
- 35% of provosts open to making exceptions to assignments for some students "with no consequence for their grade, if they express concern about completing an assigned work in response to a trigger warning."



College Athletics: Lake Wobegon Division

- **61%** of provosts believe academic fraud is widespread at institutions with big-time athletics.
- **84%** of provosts feel confident that there is academic integrity in their programs. (Confidence highest at doctoral universities.)



Competency-Based Education: Public-Private Split



Finances - I

- **48%** of provosts at private institutions agreed their institution's financial situation improved in last year. At publics, only **32%** agreed.
- **39%** of provosts at private institutions said economic downturn at their institutions is “effectively over.” At publics, only **22%** agreed.

Finances - II

Strategies provosts expect to use in coming year:

- Reallocation of funds for academic programs.
- Eliminating more programs.
- Adding online programs.
- Considering financial issues in evaluating proposals for new programs.

Provosts Assess Institutions' Academic Health

	Private	Public (All)	Community Colleges
Excellent	33%	27%	22%
Good	52%	57%	57%
Fair	14%	15%	20%
Poor	1%	1%	2%
Failing	0%	0%	0%

Very Effective: General vs. Specific

Provosts rating institutions very effective in these areas:

	Private	Public (All)	Community Colleges
Providing quality undergrad education	74%	61%	55%
Recruiting, retaining faculty members	39%	29%	26%
Controlling costs	22%	41%	45%
Preparing students for engaged citizenship	42%	20%	10%
Assessing student outcomes	28%	21%	21%
Using data to inform campus decisions	25%	25%	21%

Your Questions

- Questions.
- Suggestions for questions to include next year.



With Thanks

