What Keeps You Up at Night?

Webcast on Inside Higher Ed 2022 Survey of College and University Presidents
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Presenters

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Methodology

- Questions prepared by *Inside Higher Ed*, in collaboration with Hanover Research.
- Polling conducted in January/February.
- 375 presidents responded; 230 public (130 community college), 141 private nonprofit; nationally representative.
- Complete anonymity for respondents, but answers coded to allow for breakdown by sector, geography, etc.
The Financial Picture
Upbeat About Financial Stability

Confidence in Institution's Financial Stability Over 10 Years

- **Private Baccalaureate**:
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 8%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 38%
  - Somewhat Agree: 41%
  - Strongly Agree: 47%

- **Private Doctoral/Master's**:
  - Strongly Disagree: 4%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 12%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 10%
  - Somewhat Agree: 41%
  - Strongly Agree: 33%

- **Community College**:
  - Strongly Disagree: 18%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 8%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 51%
  - Somewhat Agree: 22%

- **Public Master's/Baccalaureate**:
  - Strongly Disagree: 19%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 10%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 45%
  - Somewhat Agree: 26%

- **Public Doctoral**:
  - Strongly Disagree: 2%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 5%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 56%
  - Somewhat Agree: 34%

Legend:
- **Strongly Disagree**
- **Somewhat Disagree**
- **Neither Agree nor Disagree**
- **Somewhat Agree**
- **Strongly Agree**
Better or Worse Off?

Please indicate how much you disagree or agree with the following statements.

My institution is in better financial shape now than it was a year ago. (n=375)
- Strongly disagree: 6%
- Somewhat disagree: 14%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 18%
- Somewhat agree: 31%
- Strongly agree: 31%

My institution is in better financial shape now than it was in 2019. (n=375)
- Strongly disagree: 13%
- Somewhat disagree: 18%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 15%
- Somewhat agree: 24%
- Strongly agree: 30%

My institution is in better financial shape now than I expect it to be year from now. (n=375)
- Strongly disagree: 15%
- Somewhat disagree: 40%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 19%
- Somewhat agree: 18%
- Strongly agree: 8%
The Pandemic’s Impact
COVID as Impetus for Change

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

My institution...

- ...was pushed to think out of the box during the pandemic in a way that will benefit the institution in the long run. (n=340)
  - Strongly disagree: 6%
  - Somewhat disagree: 11%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
  - Somewhat agree: 39%
  - Strongly agree: 33%

- ...will keep some of the COVID-19-related changes even after the pandemic ends. (n=339)
  - Strongly disagree: 5%
  - Somewhat disagree: 39%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 52%

- ...was able to implement some positive, long-lasting institutional changes during the pandemic. (n=341)
  - Strongly disagree: 7%
  - Somewhat disagree: 45%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 44%
## Is Pressure Easing?

### Proportion of Presidents Strongly Agreeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The pandemic, and subsequent necessary changes (e.g., adjusting to distance learning), has created an opportunity for my institution to make other institutional changes we have been wanting to make anyway.</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My institution will keep some of the COVID-19 related changes even after the pandemic ends.</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe my institution needs to make fundamental changes in its business models, programming or other operations.</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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</table>
National Shifts (or Not)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how COVID-19 has changed the higher education landscape?

- Less prospective students and parents are interested in paying the same price for virtual learning as for in-person learning. (n=346)
- COVID-19 will cause shift in enrollment trends for years to come, with more prospective students favoring virtual instruction than before the pandemic. (n=346)
- COVID-19 will cause a shift from more expensive colleges to more affordable ones, such as community colleges. (n=346)
The Changes They’re Keeping

Which of the following changes has your institution made because of the pandemic that it plans to keep in the long term? Please select all that apply.

- Increased online learning options: 83%
- Additional flexibility for staff to work remotely: 76%
- Additional investments in mental health services: 75%
- Creating more stackable certificates and other alternatives...: 50%
- New degree programs aimed at non-traditional learners: 44%
- Adaptations to the academic calendar: 43%
- Extending test-optional or test-blind policies: 40%
- More partnerships with third-party providers on delivery of...: 26%
- Decreases in the institution's physical campus footprint: 12%
- Other: 8%
Going Digital? Not So Much

How would you rate the overall/average quality of each of the following types of courses being delivered this spring at your institution?

- **In-Person (n=334)**
  - Very poor: 27%
  - Poor: 15%
  - Fair: 3%
  - Good: 59%
  - Excellent: 73%

- **Hybrid (n=319)**
  - Very poor: 1%
  - Poor: 2%
  - Fair: 15%
  - Good: 55%
  - Excellent: 27%

- **Fully online (n=332)**
  - Very poor: 3%
  - Poor: 19%
  - Fair: 59%
  - Good: 19%
  - Excellent: 27%
Staying Solo

Do you think your institution should or should not...

- combine academic programs with those of another college or university in the next five years? (n=299)
  - Should not: 44%
  - Should: 56%

- share administrative functions with another college or university in the next five years? (n=301)
  - Should not: 46%
  - Should: 54%

- merge with another college or university in the next five years? (n=306)
  - Should not: 87%
  - Should: 13%
Mental Health

• Presidents much more aware (69% very) of mental health needs of undergraduates compared to employees (55-57%) and grad students (40%).

• Two-thirds (but only 22% strongly) agree the institution has the capacity to meet needs of undergraduates – fewer agree for faculty, staff and graduate students.

• 7 in 10 of those expressing confidence in meeting the needs say they’ve increased budget for mental health services, invested in telehealth, and increased availability of counseling appointments.
Campus Race Relations

Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on your campus is excellent, good, fair, or poor? (n=337)

- Poor: 1%
- Fair: 26%
- Good: 63%
- Excellent: 10%

Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on college and university campuses is excellent, good, fair, or poor? (n=318)

- Poor: 7%
- Fair: 64%
- Good: 28%
Little Worry About Affirmative Action

If the Supreme Court does curtail the use of affirmative action in admissions...

- ...race relations at my institution will worsen. (n=302)
  - Strongly disagree: 41%
  - Somewhat disagree: 22%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 23%
  - Somewhat agree: 12%
  - Strongly agree: 2%

- ...there will be increased racial unrest and protests at my institution. (n=302)
  - Strongly disagree: 41%
  - Somewhat disagree: 25%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 22%
  - Somewhat agree: 10%
  - Strongly agree: 1%

- ...my institution would have to significantly adjust its financial aid policies. (n=297)
  - Strongly disagree: 52%
  - Somewhat disagree: 25%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 15%
  - Somewhat agree: 6%
  - Strongly agree: 2%

- ...my institution would have to significantly adjust its admissions policies. (n=301)
  - Strongly disagree: 56%
  - Somewhat disagree: 21%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 16%
  - Somewhat agree: 5%
  - Strongly agree: 2%
# Image and Politics

## Proportion Agreeing, 2020 vs. 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am worried about Republicans' increasing skepticism about higher education.</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican doubts about higher education are justified.</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classrooms on my campus are as welcoming to conservative students as they are to liberal students.</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The perception of colleges as places that are intolerant of conservative views is accurate.</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The perception of colleges as places that are intolerant of conservative views is having a major negative impact on attitudes about higher education.</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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Potpourri

• Slightly more than half of leaders say their institutions do not require students or employees to be vaccinated.

• Nearly 2/3 say fewer than a quarter of their students had contracted COVID-19 at the time of the survey. About a quarter estimate that more than half of students will have contracted COVID-19 by next fall.

• A majority of presidents (57%) agree that faculty members on their campuses “understand the challenges confronting my institution and our need to adapt.” Up significantly from before the pandemic.

• Fewer than half of campus leaders (45%) say that their institution “needs a shared governance process that allows for speedier decision making than we currently have.” That figure was 52% a year ago.
Thanks