

The Higher Education Corruption Monitor

Corruption in all of its many forms has become a central issue in higher education worldwide. Rapid expansion, fueled by growing demand for access; dramatic increase in private higher education providers; the marketization of many aspects of higher education; and the financial problems faced by institutions and teaching and administrative staff have all contributed to a variety of corrupt practices. Academic corruption can be found in all countries but is especially prevalent in countries facing severe economic hardships and resultant pressure on their higher education systems, in systems with little external supervision and inadequate quality assurance mechanisms, and in countries in which there is a good deal of societal corruption.

Because of the academic tradition of probity and reliance on objective and meritocratic values, the problem of corruption is especially important for higher education. Academic institutions and the professoriate claim a special status in all societies—the right to academic freedom, individual and institutional autonomy, and a high social prestige. Universities, after all, are responsible for educating the next generation of leaders, conducting scholarly research, and providing objective social analysis. As the national competitiveness in the global economy comes to increasingly depend on the quality of knowledge generated and on the quality of education provided by a country's higher education institutions, the costs of academic corruption become considerable.

The dictionary definition of corruption will suffice for academe: "impairment of integrity, virtue, or moral principle; inducement to wrong by improper or unlawful means." Corruption in higher education can occur at both institutional and systemic levels and influences university examinations, the conferring of academic credentials, the procurement of goods and services, academic and administrative staff recruitment and promotion, budget allocation and utilization, property management, and the licensing and accreditation of institutions. Instances of academic corruption may involve bribery; facilitation of cheating and impersonation; the establishment of diploma mills; forgery and falsification of examination results, degrees and credentials; patronage, cronyism; and professional misconduct among teachers.

The primary goal of the Higher Education Corruption Monitor is to shed light on corrupt practices of all kinds in different countries, provide resources on current research on corruption in higher education, and serve as a forum for information exchange. The Monitor will collect and, in some cases, summarize news reports, documents, legal testimony, university reports, conference materials, research articles, and other kinds of documentation, and make the data available through a dedicated website. The Monitor will also collect information on policies and initiatives of international agencies and on various measures and reforms undertaken in different countries to address the challenges of corruption in higher education. The Monitor will link its website with websites of other institutions and agencies interested in the topic and with other on-line resources on corruption in order to avoid duplication and at the same time provide maximum attention to the issue. From time to time, the Monitor may issue reports on specific themes relating to corruption in higher education. The Monitor will not seek to verify each item placed on its website but will make every effort to choose reputable reports. The website will be part of the Center for International Higher Education's widely used website.

The Monitor will be coordinated by Natia Janashia, graduate assistant in the Center for Higher Education (e-mail: janashia@bc.edu).

News of the Center

HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNALS DIRECTORY

A new directory of journals in the field of higher education can be found on the Center's website. It includes 169 publications from 31 countries on all continents. The journals all specifically focus on higher education. The predominant language of publication is English, but more than a dozen languages are represented. Information concerning place of publication is provided, and there is a link to the websites of many of the journals. The directory dramatically shows the expansion of the field of research and analysis concerning higher education worldwide. We plan to update it, and welcome comments from our readers and especially would like to know about additional journals. Please e-mail Roberta Malee Bassett (bassett@bc.edu), the directory's compiler, with your comments and additions.

NEW DIRECTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

We are now preparing an updated edition of our 2000 directory of higher education centers and programs. Deirdre McMyler (e-mail: mcmylede@bc.edu) is coordinating the project. The new edition will update information in the 2000 version and will provide data on centers and programs not included earlier. Much has happened in the field of higher education, and the new edition will reflect these changes. We hope that colleagues worldwide will assist us by providing information and responding to our request for information and updates. The 2000 edition is still available on request from the CIHE for those in developing countries and for sale to others by Oryx Press, a division of Greenwood Publishing, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881, USA.