

28 November 2007

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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

SPECIAL REPORT: Brain drain versus brain gain (University World News, 25 Nov) – “Highly skilled people are nomadic, moving from job to job and country to country to advance their careers. America, of course, is the great vacuum cleaner, sucking in talent from across the globe. But for developing countries, losing their brightest scholars is a serious blow – and, unlike the rich West, they are not easily able to attract academics and professionals from elsewhere. Our correspondents report on a situation that in many countries is dire.” [more](#)

EU: Expansion of Erasmus Mundus (University World News, 25 Nov) – “Assuming formal approval by the EU Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, the scheme will spend €494 million (US\$733) from 2009 to 2013 on exchange programmes for students and academics from the EU and other countries.” [more](#)

Stakeholders call for more flexibility in ERA (Cordis Express, 23 Nov) – “European industry has asked for a change of emphasis for the European Research Area (ERA). The European Commission’s Green Paper, on which stakeholder consultation has just been closed, has too narrow a focus in that it concentrates on public research systems, said industry representatives at a public hearing in the European Parliament on 20 November.” [more](#)

Funding council unveils plans for assessing future research (EducationGuardian, 22 Nov) – “A simplified method of assessing the quality of university research and allocating more than £1bn a year in funding is set out by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) today. The current 67 overall subject assessments will be reduced to six or seven broad categories in the sciences.” [more](#)

Special Report : Women in higher Education (University World News, 21 Nov) – “In many countries around the world, women are now the dominant sex on university campuses. But while they might outnumber male students, women are still under-represented in certain ‘typically masculine’ fields while within the academic community they have a long way to go to gain equal representation at senior levels.” [more](#)

Measuring mortarboards (Economist, 15 Nov) – “Working out exactly what students and taxpayers get for the money they spend on universities is a tricky business. Now the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a Paris-based think-tank for rich countries, is planning to make the task a bit easier, by producing the first international comparison of how successfully universities teach.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Rudd announces new ministry (Australian, 28 Nov, online) – “Julia Gillard is to implement Kevin Rudd's education revolution in a new super-ministry that includes education and her current portfolio of employment and workplace relations.” [more](#)

Do the research, then make policy (Australian, 28 Nov: 29) – “Higher education was largely ignored in the recent federal election campaign and it will continue in the policy background in the first Rudd Labor government if history is any guide. This is because school education has much more political salience than higher education.” [more](#)

Sector waits in hope (Australian, 28 Nov: 23-4) – “The Rudd government could give private education a “huge free kick” at the expense of public universities, a vice-chancellor warns.” [more](#)

New legislation catches universities unawares (Campus Review, 27 Nov: 1, 2) – “Legislation to counter terrorism and money laundering is discriminatory towards international students, contravenes privacy legislation and contains significant obligations for universities which will add to their administrative burden”.

Cost of higher education too high: US report (Campus Review 27 Nov: 1, 13) – “A US report has questioned whether governments are over-investing in higher education, saying rising costs and questionable productivity gains undermine the overarching rhetoric by policymakers that funding higher education is good and more funding is better”.

Conference flags fall in participation (Australian, 21 Nov: 26) – “Higher education participation growth in most Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development nations is increasingly driven by government policies designed to produce a culture of aspiration that fosters a more talented and entrepreneurial population irrespective of long-term labour market needs, an international higher education conference has heard.” [more](#)

Neither retirement panic supported (Australian, 21 Nov: online) – “Every so often someone announces that universities will face devastating academic staff shortages because the baby boomers' standard retirement age of 65 is looming.” [more](#)

Quality research assessment ‘best thing ever’ (Campus Review, 20 Nov: 1,3) – “Australian researchers have nothing to fear from the Research Quality Framework (RQF) if the experience of UK arts and humanities powerbroker Professor Philip Esler is anything to go by”.

New Publications

Universities UK, Nov 2007, *The use of bibliometrics to measure research quality in UK higher education institutions* – This report “outlines a range of factors the higher education sector should consider when formulating the new framework for assessing and funding university research.” To access the report, navigate to <http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/mediareleases/show.asp?MR=560>

C. Judson King, John Aubrey Douglass & Irwin Feller, Nov 2007, *The Crisis of the Publics: An International Comparative Discussion on Higher Education Reforms and Possible Implications for U.S. Public Universities*, Center for Studies in Higher Education, Berkley – “American higher education and American political culture have tended to be insular in their approaches to policy-making and ideas on reform. Changes in other countries have followed careful observation of what has made the United States successful, but the United States has not examined closely what has been done overseas in the context of the situations of individual countries.”

To access the report, navigate to <http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/docs/CrisisPublicsReport.Nov2007.pdf>

Australian Education International, English Language Competence of International Students: Outcomes of the National Symposium – “AEI has released the Final Report of a National Symposium on the English Language Competence of International Students, held in August 2007”. To access the report navigate to <http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/PublicationsAndResearch/Publications/IndustryPublications.aspx>

AUQA 28 Nov 2007, *Audit Report of The Australian National University*, The full report can be accessed at <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/universities/>

New Conference Listings

FOR A FULL LISTING OF UP AND COMING EVENTS FOLLOW THIS [LINK](#)

EUA Experts conference: *Towards Financially Sustainable European Higher Education Institutions*, Brussels, 7-8 February 2008 – “In an increasingly competitive environment Europe’s Higher Education Institutions must find a way to become financially sustainable. This is why EUA is organising a high-level conference in Brussels, Belgium that will bring together experts from across Europe to identify the key elements necessary for financial survival. Policy makers, institutional leaders and researchers will explore the

links between funding and autonomy, accountability and governance structures and pinpoint the key features of sound costing systems." To find out more, navigate to <http://www.eua.be>

The Guardian HE Summit 2008: *The Business of Higher Education*, London, 11 and 12 February 2008 – "The annual Guardian higher education summit will examine the global, research, and educational challenges facing higher education in the UK. This major strategic conference - for senior higher education leaders, directors and managers - will examine and set out the vision of where and what UK HE should be in the next 5 - 10 years, and then explore how to make it a reality."

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.hesummit.com/>

Websites of Interest

[Webometrics Ranking of World Universities](#) - The original aim of the Ranking was to promote Web publication, not to rank institutions. Supporting Open Access initiatives, electronic access to scientific publications and to other academic material are our primary targets.

[University World News - A global window on higher education](#) - Supported by some of the world's most experienced education journalists, and aimed at higher education readers worldwide, it is offering a weekly emailed newspaper plus access to a dedicated news website - free of charge.

[Hedda Blog, Exploring higher education from an international perspective](#) - "You will find discussions in regards to funding, governance, reform, European strategies and teaching and research. We are hoping to recruit international graduate students from around the globe to interact on this blog as a means to facilitate dialogue on higher education issues. We would encourage you to take a look at the blog and leave a comment, the more interactive, the better!"

[The Australian Researchers' Mobility Portal](#) provides information for researchers planning to move to or out of Australia. It provides links to other country mobility portals, Australian and International funding opportunities and important information about working overseas.

[The Higher Education Network for Community Engagement \(HENCE\)](#) is a response to the growing need to deepen, consolidate, and advance the literature, research, practice, policy, and advocacy for community engagement as a core element of higher education's role in society.

[University Futures](#) provides information and resources for university managers and planners interested in finding out more about how to integrate futures approaches into existing strategy development and implementation processes.

[Australian Education International - International Education Network, Database on International Education](#) - "This searchable web database contains details of 5922 books, articles, conference papers and reports on various aspects of international education from publishers in Australia and overseas. The database covers material published from 1990 onwards, a period of major change in education systems around the world and in the trade in educational services."

FREE TRIAL SERVICE

HE Info is a weekly electronic information service produced by the [Centre for Higher Education Management & Policy](#) at the [University of New England](#), Armidale, Australia. The purpose is to provide regular updates on the News, Publications, Events and other items of interest relating to Higher Education Policy particularly in, but not restricted to Australia. We do not claim to present all items of relevance but we do hope to achieve a good coverage of the main issues.

The service is currently in its developmental phase, so if you have any comments relating to content or if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list for the new issue alert please email chemp@une.edu.au

All information presented in each issue has been accessed from a variety of sources. Every effort has been made to acknowledge these where appropriate.