

WHO ARE THE PLAYERS IN ACADEMIC GLOBALIZATION?

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A global network of universities

- Universities continue to operate for budget purposes as separate entities
- However, for faculty members there is now one worldwide university
- Both for teaching and research, space and distance now mean very little, due to the internet and international jet travel

Steady increases in

- Exchange programs
- Cooperative degree programs
- Site visits
- One or two week training programs

The players behind the scenes

- Governments of developed and developing countries
- Public and private university administrators
- Faculty members

Developed countries

- Governments in developed countries have seen universities in post-communist countries and less developed countries (LDCs) as a subject of foreign aid
- Closer relationships between universities in developed and developing countries can increase good will
- Faculty members from developed and developing countries gain international experience

Less developed countries

- Governments in less developed countries want to strengthen their universities in order to compete in global markets
- Ministries of Education are requiring new educational programs and new degrees
- Foreign faculty members are hired to advise on the creation of the new degree programs

New private universities

- Many new private universities have been created in developing countries
- These universities operate like businesses
- They seek connections with Western universities to enhance their reputation and thereby attract students
- Tuition in private universities in LDCs is much higher than in public universities

Faculty members in developed countries

- Faculty members in developed countries are willing to go abroad a few times to aid in the establishment of new programs and to visit other countries
- Their motives are interesting work, travel, and additional income
- Usually they do not want to return to the same country many times
- Their goal is to establish programs, not to sustain an on-going relationship

Faculty members in LDCs

- Faculty members in less developed countries often teach at several universities
- A position at a public university provides stability, prestige and benefits
- A position at a private university provides added income
- An exchange program with a foreign university provides travel, education, and perhaps an overseas job

Administrators in developed countries

- After the wall came down, Western universities provided training to faculty and students from post-communist countries at minimum cost
- However, as this activity has grown, university administrators see these programs as a new source of revenue
- Hence, prices are rising

Goals of Western university administrators

- The primary goals of Western university administrators is to enhance the prestige of their university and to increase revenue
- They feel no prestige is gained through partnerships with universities in less developed countries
- Their goal is increased revenue

Understanding academic globalization

- The way to understand academic globalization in terms of education is to ask, Who is willing to pay for what?
- Answer that question and current activities and future trends become clear

Cooperation on research

- Universities can cooperate on research as well as education
- Research in one country can be replicated in one or more other countries, thereby adding a comparative component
- Theories, methods, and data are shared
- Cooperative research is particularly helpful in the social sciences
- Faculty members can do this themselves

Conclusions

- Short-term educational programs for faculty and students from foreign universities are becoming a growing activity at U.S. universities
- These programs are seen as sources of revenue
- Long term cooperation with foreign universities is currently seen as a threat to prestige by Western university administrators
- Cooperation on research by faculty members is occurring but is still a small activity

More on academic globalization

For papers and discussions on
academic globalization,
see the papers at this website

<http://www.gwu.edu/~umpleby/academic/index.html>

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