

Newsletter Issue 6/2015

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2015



From the President's Desk

by Dave Marr

What's in a name? How often do we hear that phrase and think how true it is? Although it may seem a trite sort of statement, I believe it's time for AAIR members to consider whether there's a need for a change to our name. During our recent Strategic Planning retreat in Sydney, the AAIR Executive Committee seriously considered this question.

Now this isn't something to be considered lightly. The name Australasian Association for Institutional Research has served the organisation well for over 25 years. The organisation is affiliated with the US-based organisation, Association for Institutional Research (AIR), the European AIR, the South African AIR, Southeast Asian AIR and most recently the Middle Eastern AIR. In Canada, our affiliated organisation is called the Canadian Institutional Researchers and Planners Association (CIRPA) whilst in the United Kingdom it's called Higher Education Institutional Research Network (HEIRNetwork). All of these organisations include the term 'Institutional Research'. But in the Australasian context, is this term widely used and even if it is, how well is it understood?

I personally like the notion that by having 'Institutional Research' in our name it brands us as an affiliate of this international network. But if our local institutions, sponsors, funding bodies or in fact our members don't relate to this term then,

despite the international flavour of our name, it may not be serving us as well as it could.

So what names are given to those units in our institutions doing the type of work that would generally come under the umbrella of 'institutional research'? Here are a few that I've found: Planning and Institutional Performance; Corporate Planning and Performance; Business Analytics and Planning; Corporate Intelligence; Corporate Information; Strategic Information and Analysis; Strategic Intelligence and Planning; Information and Analysis; Planning, Policy & Information; Quality, Information and Planning; or just Quality and Planning. So there's quite a variety of terms that institutions use to cover the types of things we do.

Of course if we look more closely at these units, we see that they don't all have the same responsibilities and coverage. The 'Planning' function is sometimes aligned more closely with the budgetary or financial area; 'Evaluation' can often be linked to an academic development functional area; and so forth. Some areas are solely 'strategic' whilst others are very 'operational'; others a mixture of the two.

And if we consider AAIR's mission to be "To advance institutional effectiveness in tertiary education", then what does that suggest we should be called? We have

been using the tag-line 'Making decisions make sense' in some of our promotional material. Would it therefore be better to retain 'AAIR' as the name, but develop a tag-line that better defines what we represent?

So do we need a change of name, and if so, what should that be? Could we just devise a cleverer tag-line or do we simply change nothing? To garner your opinion we will be sending out, at the same time as this newsletter, a short survey for our broader membership to complete. If there's a strong view for changing the name or adding a tag-line, then the person proposing the new name, as selected by the AAIR Executive Committee assisted by its Life Members, will receive a free registration to the next AAIR Annual Forum.

So please complete the survey and help us to define what we want to be known as into the future whether that be 'AAIR', a new tag-line or something different.



Dave Marr,
President



Registrations for the 26th Annual AAIR Forum

On behalf of the Australasian Association for Institutional Research (AAIR) Forum Organising Committee, we would like to extend a warm invitation to you to participate in this year's 26th AAIR Annual Forum.

It's been 16 years since the Forum has been across the Tasman to Australia's easterly neighbour, so we're well and truly overdue for a visit. If you haven't been to either Wellington or New Zealand, then you're in for a wonderful surprise. Lonely Planet named Wellington, 'the coolest little capital in the world', and it certainly lives up to that claim. Nestled between a sparkling harbour and rolling green hills (at least in November), New Zealand's capital city is renowned for its arts, heritage, culture and natural beauty.

[Registrations](#) and [accommodation bookings](#) are now open.

Program

Please see our [Forum Program](#) for latest program updates.

This year's Theme: The Winds of Change

It seems only fitting then that this year's theme is "The Winds of Change". If there's one thing that higher education has in common across the globe is that 'change' is the new norm whether that's because of

changes in government policy or radical improvements to technology. Institutional researchers are more often these days being asked to lead the institution's response to these changed environments. Our skills help us to meet these challenges and AAIR plays an important part in developing those skills and your knowledge.

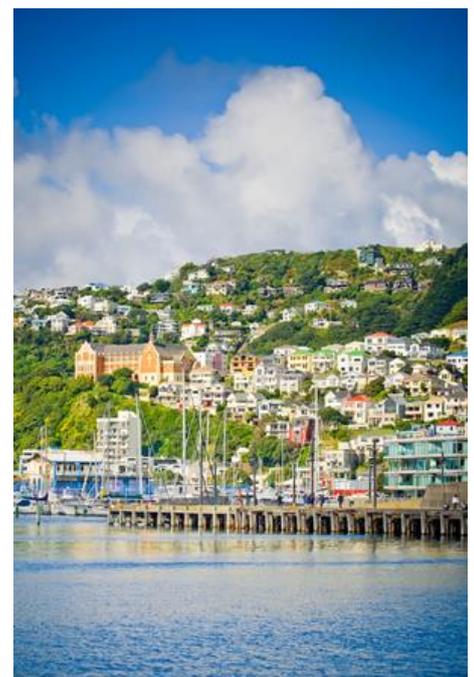
Forum themes include:

- Benchmarking for Continuous Quality Improvement
- Informing Learning and Teaching through Evaluation and Surveys
- Closing the Loop – Putting Evidence into Practice
- Influencing Change through Information and Evaluation
- Modelling the Implications of Change
- Looking forward, looking back, new horizons
- Compliance and Government Reporting
- Planning, Policy and Positioning
- Business Intelligence and Analytics

Introducing our Key Note Speakers:

[Stephen Few](#) founded Perceptual Edge in 2003. With 30 years of experience as an innovator, consultant, and educator in the fields of business intelligence and information design, Stephen is now a leading

[Steve Maharey](#) is the Vice-Chancellor of Massey University. He was the Member of Parliament for Palmerston North from 1990-2008 and a Senior Cabinet Minister from 1999-2008. Earlier in his career he was a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and a Junior Lecturer in Business Administration. His main areas of academic interest include social policy (particularly social development), education, media and cultural studies, social change and politics.



Last Chance: 2015 AAIR Data Warehouse, Business Intelligence and Load Management Special Interest Group



Registration and Accommodation

[Registrations](#) and accommodation [bookings](#) are open.

[Why Fraser Island?](#) – watch this video.

Abstracts

A large number of high-quality submissions will mean this year's program will once again feature an impressive line-up. Submissions include learning analytics with student evaluations, student retention/attrition analyses, and load and budget management demonstrations, with a single framework around lifelong analytics for education, research and employment.

Presentations will be run in two parallel streams. Stream 1 - the **DW/BI** track, incorporates presentations on business intelligence, analytics & data warehouse and related areas. Stream 2 - the **Load Management** track covers presentations in load management, revenue planning, government reporting, surveys & evaluation, quality, risk management and other areas in the field of institutional research.

Awards

There will be two prizes related to presentations that will be awarded at the forum. These are:

Best DW/BI Session

This prize will be awarded to the best DW/BI presentation or workshop at the SIG Forum and will be judged by the SIG Forum delegates. The winner will receive a free registration at the next year's SIG Forum.

Best Load Management Session

This prize will be awarded to the best load management presentation or workshop at the SIG Forum and will be judged by the SIG Forum delegates. The winner will receive a free registration at the next year's SIG Forum.

Sponsorship

Sponsors supporting the AAIR SIG Forum 2015 include:

Platinum Sponsor:



Gold Sponsors:



Higher Education@home

by Louise Hargreaves

Higher Education Reform

1. [Advice from the federal education department to its Minister Christopher Pyne on fee deregulation has been deemed to be so "speculative" and unreliable](#), it is "not the sort of information on which someone could sensibly make a life decision". That assessment came from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal after a freedom of information request for background and modelling on fee deregulation was knocked back.
2. [Universities have been warned their funding will be cut by 20 per cent almost immediately](#), an average of \$32 million a university, if the federal government can get its higher education reform package through the Senate by the end of the year. Despite no clear signs of support for the legislation, which has been delayed until at least the spring session of parliament, universities have been issued with a new funding formula for the 2016 academic year.
3. There has been much interest in the funding of research in Australia's universities in recent months. This has been driven principally by the reductions in funding from the Commonwealth that were announced in the 2015-16 budget, on top of similar changes introduced in the 2014-15 budget. This LH Martin Institute analysis [examines the impact of immediate decreases over the next few years the different RBG funding pools may have on universities across the sector](#).
4. In an opinion piece for *The Conversation*, Gwilym Croucher, Higher Education Policy Adviser at University of Melbourne, states that an [opt-in or -out system of fee deregulation](#) as proposed by Senator Zhenya Wang will split the sector.

Policy Watch

5. [Reform of the Federation: discussion paper 2015](#). This discussion paper, to prepare for the Reform of the Federation Green Paper, was published

online in late June after several chapters were leaked to the media. The Green Paper is yet to be finalised and is intended to be released later in 2015 after further discussions with the States and Territories.

6. In June, The Minister for Education and Training welcomed [the Walker Review of the Australian National University Act 1991](#) and the governance arrangements of the Australian National University. Professor Walker's review, which commenced in September 2014, recognised the special role of the ANU as a leading research and education institution and as a valued resource for the nation.
7. In late June, the Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP announced the Australian Government will fund a [trial Literacy and Numeracy Test for initial teacher education](#) students that will be available from August this year for up to 5000 students across seven capital cities and two regional locations.
8. On July 8, the Australian Government released [drafts of the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bills 2015](#) for public consultation. The changes to the ESOS Act promise to reduce red tape, change tuition payment requirements, and give teeth to ELICOS standards. [Submissions](#) are open until Friday, **7 August 2015**.
9. [Is Higher education outside universities a better option?](#) Australia has around 130 higher education providers outside the university system. This Grattan Institute/State Library of Victoria Policy Pitch explores the nature of the non-university higher education sector, the implications for it and its students of receiving Commonwealth tuition subsidies, and the consequences for the broader higher education system.
10. In early July, the government announced its [sixth review of research policy](#) in less than two years, with a panel of six experts to come back with a report on research policy and funding arrangements by November.



11. [Universities frustrated by delay in standards change](#). The new Higher Education Standards Framework may not be implemented until January 2017 in what will be a major frustration to a university sector looking forward to a more streamlined approach. The new standards have been applauded as efficient and with a better focus on students but the delay means more universities will have to re-register under the existing regime.

Higher Education Funding

12. The [Feasibility and design of a tertiary education entitlement in Australia](#) report by Tim Higgins and Bruce Chapman, presents the outcomes of modelling the potential costs of an income contingent loan (ICL) that would form a core element of a tertiary education entitlement, as proposed in the February 2015 Mitchell Institute paper '[Financing tertiary education in Australia – the reform imperative and rethinking student entitlements](#)' by Mitchell Professorial Fellow Peter Noonan and Mitchell Policy Analyst Sarah Pilcher.

Government Grants

13. The Australian Government announced [\\$4.7 million in funding for grants and fellowships to promote excellence in learning and teaching](#) in higher education. The grants are made through the Government's Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT).
14. The federal government has announced the recipients of more than [252 industry linkage grants](#) worth a combined \$87 million, with the University of

- Melbourne receiving the single largest share among higher education institutions. More than 70 researchers in NSW will share grants worth a combined \$24.7m, with the University of NSW winning funding for 32 projects worth \$10.3m.
15. Minister for Education and Training recently announced 15 outstanding recipients of new [Australian Laureate Fellowships](#), funded through the Australian Research Council (ARC).
 20. In July *The Australian* [reported](#) that the Household Income and Labor Dynamics Australia ([HILDA](#)) survey showed that Go8 graduates in their sample earn less than graduates who went to universities in the Australian Technical Network or Innovation Research Universities groups. [Andrew Norton believes](#) that the main reason the HILDA report is getting this result is that Group of Eight universities have enrolment skews towards relatively low paid disciplines such as arts and to a lesser extent science.

Graduate Outcomes

16. [New graduate outcomes reports](#) from Graduate Careers Australia (GCA). GCA has updated its annual overview of the labour market for new graduates with the release of three new reports which include; [Graduate Destinations 2014](#) (recent graduates' labour market and further study outcomes), [Graduate Salaries 2014](#) (recent graduates' earnings), and [Graduate Course Experience 2014](#) (recent graduates' experience of higher education).
17. [Grattan Institute – Policy Pitch – What's Happening to Graduate Employment](#). In 2014, new graduates of Australian universities faced the toughest labour market ever for university-qualified people. Nearly a third of those looking for full-time work had not found it four months after completing their degrees. This Policy Pitch event looked at what is going on in the graduate labour market and what might be done to improve employment prospects.
18. [Jobs of the future](#) In the decades ahead, digital disruption could result, according to some predictions, in nearly half of all current jobs in Australia being displaced – unless we skill up. Already, many qualified young Australians are unable to find employment. Is there a disjuncture between education and training, and the jobs that are actually available?
19. [Australia remains unprepared for the "digital revolution"](#) with too few young Australians studying IT, according to Westpac's chief information officer Dave Curran. If we want the next generation of Australians to succeed in the digital age, we need to pick up the pace through our education system.

Student Recruitment

21. [The Australian postgraduate market could receive a boost](#) after the UK looks like it might propose [curbs on postgraduate students](#) from outside the EU. Proposals to stop the spouses and other dependents of the students from working in the UK have been circulated among cabinet colleagues by the home secretary.
22. [1,300 Nigerian students admitted into Australian Universities](#). The Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Jonathan Richardson, has disclosed that about 1,300 Nigerian students had been admitted into Australian universities this year. He said in the statement that the number would increase by the end of the year.

Sector News and Views

23. The Department of Education and Training has released the much-delayed [Higher Education Report 2011-2013](#).
24. [Shergold says university admissions must be transparent](#). Peter Shergold head of the Higher Education Standards Panel, said a higher education system with significant public subsidies should be transparent. Next year South Australia will become one of only two states, the other being Victoria, to publish real ATAR cut-offs for every course in the state's universities, along with how many offers were made to students with ATARs below the published cut-off.
25. The New Colombo Plan — one of the government's signature foreign policy initiatives — is being expanded to intensify the hands-on business experience it provides to Australian students. [Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has announced the establishment of an online portal](#) through which businesses

can list international jobs for young Australians through internships or mentorships.

26. [Australian academics in fear of losing their jobs, survey finds](#). A survey of more than 7,000 academics across the country has shown that university staff have high job satisfaction but are worried about job security. The National Tertiary Education Union survey has revealed that only 35 per cent of academics at the University of Sydney felt their job was secure.
27. [One of China's biggest education agencies investigated in an Australian documentary into agent fraud has hit back at the programme's producers](#), saying that it has made false claims and "seriously damaged" the reputation of the business. [EduGlobal](#), one of four agencies named in ABC's Four Corners: Degrees of Deception programme, which aired in May, said in a statement that it is "deeply shocked" by the programme.
28. [Laureate acquires Chifley Business School](#). Australia's newest university, the Adelaide-based Torrens University, has bought the privately-owned Chifley Business School to expand its programs in management and professional education. Laureate International Universities, said the purchase would allow the university to partner with Chifley's more than 10,000 alumni.
29. In a quest to boost Tasmania's education outcomes and lift participation rates, the University of Tasmania recently [launched the Children's University Tasmania](#). At the launch University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said Tasmania has a long way to go in encouraging its students to continue education to the end of Year 10, Year 12 and beyond.
30. [Seven seriously bad ideas that rule higher education](#). The commodification of higher education....casualisation of the academic workforce....online is the way to go....public disinvestment in education is inevitable higher education is in crisis. This repost from Inside Higher Ed by Joshua Kim is about the US higher education system but the themes are all too familiar to anyone associated with Australian higher education.

31. The Innovative Research Universities group [wants the government to reassign money intended for the Excellence in Research for Australia to a program it has devised to measure research impact](#). In a proposal released in early July, the IRU says the ERA's focus on traditional research outputs to measure quality needs to be balanced by a "parallel exercise focused on a considered assessment of the real impact of a university's research".
32. The Silicon Valley company behind Turnitin, the cloud-based text analysis system that helps deter plagiarism in higher education, [has opened an Australian office to service the hundreds of institutions](#) that use its software in Asia-Pacific. It comes as universities are increasingly fearful of electronic cheating as students strive for guaranteed results in an era of expensive fees. The opening of an Australian office comes at a time [Turnitin faces new questions about efficacy of plagiarism detection software](#).
33. Teaching is at the core of what Australian universities do, yet it receives nowhere near the attention it should, and is in danger of receiving even less writes Margaret Gardner in a recent opinion piece [Australia's declining investment in quality university teaching](#). In part this neglect can be traced back to university ranking systems that focus predominantly on research.
34. [Will the University of Adelaide's lecture phase-out be a flop?](#) The University of Adelaide is planning to [completely phase out lectures](#). In their place will be online materials and small group face-to-face sessions. According to University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Warren Bebbington, the lecture is dead – and it is not coming back. Adelaide will be the first university in Australia to break with tradition and eliminate them entirely. But is this change good for learning?

International Students in Australia

35. [Booming global education industry cannot afford to rest on its laurels](#). In late June, as 100 international education stakeholders descended on Parliament House, there was much to celebrate. With more than 450,000 fee-paying international students studying here and 160,000 enrolments in courses

delivered offshore, Australia is doing exceptionally well in the global education market.

36. [Be warned, the education export boom might not last](#). In the post-mining boom economy, Australia's excellent recent performance in international education, with 11 per cent growth in overseas students for 2015 is heartening. However, Australia will only continue to capture its fair share of that growing demand if it has the capacity to continue to increase the supply of places for international students.
37. [Record-high English language enrolment in Australia. Australia's surging ELICOS](#) (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) sector saw another strong year of enrolment growth last year, and the latest data suggests the trend is continuing for 2015 as well. The peak body English Australia reports that a total of 163,542 international students commenced English language programmes in Australia in 2014. That total surpassed the previous high from 2008 and represents a new enrolment record in the country.

Rankings and Ratings

38. [Equity and diversity integral to new university ranking](#). La Trobe University has devised a ranking that takes in measures of equity and diversity to give what it says is a truer measure of how well-rounded an institution is. The QED ranking is an attempt "to redefine quality not according to narrow research metrics but to be more all-inclusive", said Andrew Harvey, head of La Trobe's access and achievement research unit. "The table starts a conversation; it's not meant to be definitive. The conversation is about what universities value, what they stand for and what do we really mean when we talk about quality."

Who's on the Move (or not)?

39. [La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor John Dewar has been reappointed](#) for a second five-year term with his contract extended to 2021. Professor Dewar, who took up the role at the beginning of 2012, said that, a second term would allow him continue his reform of the university's research profile, staffing structure, student services and upgrade of campus infrastructure.

40. [Brian Schmidt to expand his universe as new ANU Vice-Chancellor](#). Brian Schmidt reckons getting the job as the next head of the Australian National University is "a bit like winning a Nobel prize". He should know; he won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2011. The American-born Australian citizen, whose groundbreaking research was on supernovas and the expansion of the universe, will take over from outgoing Vice-Chancellor Ian Young in January.
41. [New Chair for ACARA](#). In June Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, yesterday welcomed the appointment of Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM as the new Chair of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).
42. NSW's first woman premier [Kristina Kenneally has joined the Macquarie Graduate School of Management](#), where she will mentor women students and lead the school's effort to boost the number of women doing MBAs.

Tips and Tricks

43. [Great TED Talks for Higher Ed Leaders](#). TED as we all know is a platform where we find great minds giving ideas, insights and sharing their experience. Today, we have handpicked some of them especially to make a great list of TED talks for higher education leaders.
44. [Google Classroom: Understanding the Classroom Folder](#). Google Classroom automatically creates a "Classroom" folder in Google Drive for the teacher and the student. This is awesome but may lead to some confusion. Here are some tips about the Google Classroom folder.
45. [9 Rules for Emailing](#) From Google Exec Eric Schmidt. In a new book out this week chock full of Google-flavored business wisdom, [How Google Works](#), Google executive chairman and former CEO Eric Schmidt and former Senior Vice President of Products Jonathan Rosenberg share nine insightful rules for emailing (or gmailing!) like a professional.
46. [10 Ways to Show your iPad on a Projector Screen](#). Projecting your iPad on a large screen is great for demonstrations, simulations, explanations, and showing examples. There are several ways this can be done.

Positions Vacant



Seeking another opportunity in Institutional Research in Australia? Try our [Higher Education Jobs](#) webpage for current vacancies in the profession. If you are seeking an international career change see our American colleagues [AIR Careers](#) page.

Looking for some training and development?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.

Looking for higher education conferences and events?

Here is a selection of upcoming events that may be of interest. See our [Events/Fora](#) webpage for more national and international events.

World-class speakers for the [THE World Academic Summit](#) have been announced. The [summit](#), which takes place at the University of Melbourne between 30 September and 2 October 2015, brings together world leaders from universities, government and industry to explore the future of world class universities.

The summit will host the official worldwide launch of the 2015-16 *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings on 1 October (21:00 BST 30 September), and will have sessions looking at the development of future Nobel laureates, the changing trends in international student mobility, the civic role of globally-focussed universities, international research collaboration, the development of metrics and indicators of research success, and the teaching innovations required to nurture the future generation of global leaders.

Last Chance Events:

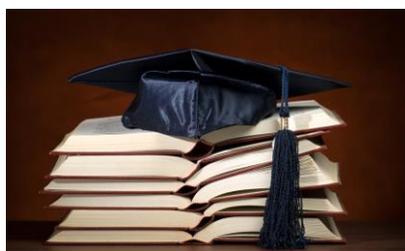
[2015 AAIR Data Warehouse, Business Intelligence and Load Management Special Interest Group](#)

Hosted by University of Southern Queensland
19-21 August 2015. [Registration](#) and [accommodation](#) bookings are open.

[8th Annual Higher Education Institutional Research Network](#)
10-11 September, Scotland, UK

[Registration](#) is open for the next three weeks.

Enjoy Reading?



Here are a few recent releases:

[The Status of Institutional Research: For women but not for-profits](#). Written by Gail D. Caruth, Ed.D Adjunct Faculty, Department of Educational Leadership Texas A7M University, USA. See page 32.

College and university administrators have been under increased pressure to explain how campus operations support student enrolment and the cost of higher education. Administrators have consequently been moving toward a data-informed decision process and have begun working in partnership with institutional research for decision support.

The purpose of this paper was to examine the literature to determine the status of IR in higher education. This examination is important to higher education for meeting the increased pressure and demands for accountability from those it serves. The escalating amount of data and the capability for comparing data is unparalleled.

[Managing your career in HE administration](#) Surprisingly, 'Managing Your Career in Higher Education Administration' is possibly the first book in the UK covering careers in university administration. And as these careers evolve and grow in a changing sector,

it's unlikely to be the last. Paul Greatrix reviews the book and reflects on the state of the profession, how it is thought about in the sector and the pitfalls of searching for status rather than focusing on delivery and innovation.

Frivolous Favourites

47. [10 Hilarious Ways to Screw up Your Resume!](#) In their haste to leave an impression, people tend to use all sorts of techniques. Some of them would leave you in fits of laughter.
48. [Is This the Worst Academic Journal Ever?](#) Spoiler alert: yes, probably. We are all aware of the growth in open access 'journals' of dubious quality, but my attention was recently drawn to one of the worst examples I have ever seen. It is so bad, and unintentionally hilarious, that I couldn't resist sharing it.

A little humour to start your day- [35 slogans for college majors](#) – if they were actually honest.

49. [Utah Valley University installs texting lane for busy students](#). Walking texters (and innocent victims of walking texters) rejoice! Long gone are the days of crashing into serial texters on the stairs when all you want to do is make it to class on time.



Higher Education Abroad

by Louise Hargreaves

Global News & Views

1. [The number of international students studying in New Zealand is back on an incline](#) with 2014, full year figures hitting a 10-year high, according to newly released statistics. Student numbers were up by 13% in 2014 compared with the previous year – the first actual increase recorded since 2010, with Indian students showing the biggest growth in enrolments, up by a major 67%.
2. [NZ streamlines visas with 'apply on behalf', eVisas](#). Education agents can now apply for visas on behalf of students hoping to study in New Zealand, through the government's online immigration portal, Immigration ONLINE. The development is part of an ongoing push to streamline visa processing, after the introduction of online student visa applications last August.
3. [New Zealand: Universities' development challenge](#). Universities are among this country's most proactive real estate developers, with property portfolio values putting them in an elite echelon. In examining the property credentials of New Zealand's eight universities, Bayleys found compelling examples of how these institutions are reassessing and reorganising their property portfolios in light of a changing tertiary educational world.
4. [Canada: language enrolment up in 2014 but losing market share](#). A national survey released in late June shows that enrolment in Canadian language programmes increased marginally between 2013 and 2014. This follows a notable decline from 2012 to 2013 and, all told, the clear implication is that Canada is losing market share to other major language travel destinations, a number of which recorded stronger growth over the same period.
5. [The US Education Department moves to further address student loan debt](#). With student debt topping \$1.2 trillion, officials at the state and federal levels are proposing ways to scale back the burden. At the federal level, the Obama administration is poised to implement an expanded "Pay as You Earn" student loan repayment program that caps a borrower's monthly bills at 10% of discretionary income for about 6 million additional student loan holders.
6. [US: Moody's Upgrades Higher Ed's Outlook from 'Negative' to 'Stable'](#). Moody's Investors Service has upgraded its outlook for the higher-education sector from "negative" to "stable," citing expected increases in state funding and federal research funding.
7. [Is student loan debt really a crisis?](#) Americans owed [nearly US\\$1.2 trillion](#) in student loan debt as of March 2015, [more than three times](#) the amount of debt from just a decade ago. These concerns have led some politicians (primarily Democrats) to call mounting student loan debt a "crisis". But is student loan debt really a crisis?
8. 7 principles to guide international quality in higher education. The [Council for Higher Education Accreditation](#) (CHEA)'s [International Quality Group](#) has released a set of [International Quality Principles](#) to help strengthen growing international activity within higher education.
9. [England will not take part in OECD's 'Pisa for universities'](#). Doubts now raised over future of project billed as having potential to shake up hierarchy of world higher education. England will not take part in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's project to measure learning outcomes of university graduates around the world, delivering a blow to the plan.
10. [UK: Radicalisation on campus: why new counter-terror duties for universities will not work](#). The government's attempts to prevent university students from being drawn into violent extremism and terrorism could backfire. From July 1, there will be new duties placed on universities following [changes to the government's PREVENT programme](#) in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
11. [UK Universities minister doesn't rule out raising tuition fees](#). The new science and universities minister, Jo Johnson, has declined to rule out raising tuition fees or changing the terms of existing student loans over the next five years.
12. [Developing International Education Hubs in Asia](#). Facing demographic challenges, or looking to retool and grow their economies, a number of countries across Asia have been competing over the last decade to attract the best students and, in some cases, the best universities from around the world to develop as regional higher education hubs in a bid to drive innovation and economic growth.
13. [China's 'MIT' to run tech program in US](#). One of the most prestigious universities in China is joining forces with the University of Washington to run a graduate institute in Bellevue that will focus on technology and innovation. The partnership with Tsinghua University of Beijing — sometimes called the MIT of China — will mark the first time that a Chinese research university has established a physical presence in the United States.
14. [The globalization of universities and science in Southern China](#). Universities in south China are taking the lead in an array of reforms aimed at making academic centers and scientific collaboration more international and more dynamic. Leaders of universities across southern Guangdong Province are expanding award schemes designed to recruit researchers and scientists who have obtained advanced degrees or taught in the United States or Europe.



15. [China: Education fails glut of graduates seeking jobs.](#) The university entrance exams for 2015 are over and approximately 9.5 million students can take a much needed break before the start of another round of stress when they will get their results and know which college they can go. For those who succeed in entering the college of their choice, it will be a dream come true. For the majority who fail to win entry into prestigious institutions, this is time for disappointment, compromise and accepting alternative institutions and courses that they can study over the next four years.
16. [Bangladesh: Students demonstrate against VAT on private higher education.](#) On July 7, students of different private universities and medical colleges wearing black badges staged a rally in the capital's Dhanmondi, demanding cancellation of the recently imposed VAT (value added tax) of 7.5 per cent on private education.
17. [India: UGC releases list of fake universities.](#) In early July, the University Grants Commission, the apex body for higher education, published a list of fake universities in India for the benefit of students. A total of 21 universities have been listed by the UGC.
18. [Why Harvard and Others must be allowed into India.](#) The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2014-15 are just out, and once again, not a single Indian University features in the top 200 Universities of the world. You can be sure that the gnashing of teeth and beating of breasts will be heard in opinion columns and Presidential speeches for months to come.
19. [More than half of academics count students as 'friends' on Facebook.](#) When does a student become a friend? This question has long occupied academics but a study suggests that growing numbers of them are answering it at the click of a button.
20. [Explainer: how Europe does academic tenure.](#) The word "tenure" is usually associated in universities with job security and professional autonomy. It is a term familiar in North America, where the notion of a "job-for-life" for professors who achieve "tenure" has come under pressure in recent years, most recently in a [legal case in Wisconsin](#). But across Europe there are

a variety of different employment tracks through which academics can reach professor level.

Online Learning

21. [The Ultimate Guide to Online Courses.](#) Online courses, many of which are totally free, have revolutionized the way in which many people access professional and personal development.
22. [11 recommendations for the next steps in online learning.](#) After researching dozens of online learning quality guidelines around the world, a team of international researchers have outlined recommendations to improve those models and propel online and open education into the future.
23. [Blended learning moving to centre stage in higher education.](#) For the past several years, experts and higher education practitioners have been touting the benefits of marrying online and traditional face-to-face learning. This approach – generally referred to as "blended learning" – has become more prominent in higher education in recent years and typically combines aspects of both digital and in-person pedagogy.
24. [China is No 2 market for online course provider Coursera.](#) Over one million Chinese users have signed up with online education start-up Coursera, making the country its second largest market after the United States.
25. [Udacity makes half-price tuition permanent.](#) For-profit massive open online course provider Udacity is making its nanodegree offering even more appealing with a new discount. The company announced on its blog that it would make a pilot program permanent, returning half of the cost of tuition for users who complete their nanodegree programs in one year.
26. [Canada: Foreign students denied work permits because they took online courses.](#) Foreign graduates from Niagara College who have taken many of their courses online are faced with having to leave Canada early because they've been deemed ineligible for post-graduate work permits. This raises questions about how well immigration policy is adapting to evolving technologies.

27. [Interview with Shai Reshef](#) President & Founder of University of the People – the world's first tuition-free, non-profit, accredited, online University dedicated to opening access to higher education.

28. [Pricing online vs. on-campus courses.](#) All institutions offer online courses at a lower price than on-campus courses, but the size and scope of the institution often affects how low the prices will go.
29. [Growth Of Blended Online and Campus MBA Learning Gathers Pace.](#) The blended learning revolution at business schools is gathering pace, with a clutch of top schools having announced plans to roll out digital MBA degrees. The blended form of learning has already been embraced by the likes of Harvard and Stanford. But as competition with disruptive online education providers – so called edtech companies – intensifies, others are rolling out the programs to keep pace with digital innovation.

Credentialing

30. [Making the case for reforming the U.S. Credentialing System.](#) New types of credentials such as digital badges and enhanced transcripts are emerging. However, there's a complication.
31. [New Registry Will Demystify Badges, Credentials and Degrees.](#) George Washington University, Southern Illinois University and Workcred, a non-profit affiliate of the [American National Standards Institute](#), are teaming up to build a "credential registry" that would increase the transparency and value of industry credentials and degrees
32. The U.S. Department of Education is continuing to study [how best to offer federal aid eligibility to alternative credentialing programs](#), like coding bootcamps and MOOCs.
33. [Containing the costs of a higher education degree.](#) Many higher-ed institutions are turning to online models to more cheaply deliver certain kinds of courses and assess student learning. Is this, in fact, a good or sustainable strategy? What role does technology have to reduce the costs of delivering post-secondary education?

Competency Based Education

34. [Universities create national initiative for competency-based education](#). Several US non-profit and higher education organizations are collaborating to create new resources and opportunities in response to growing interest in competency-based education (CBE).

Technology

35. [Researchers Complain About Changes in Amazon Tool Used for Surveys](#). Amazon changed the terms for a service that has become a standard tool in social-science research, and many scholars are complaining that it will mean higher costs to conduct surveys.
36. [Blackboard is launching a new platform, called the New Learning Experience, which aims to bring together all of its various products and services under one roof, with the goal of making it seem more focused on students and learners, not administrators.](#)
37. [While Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\) may be commonplace, it's also evolving — growing to include not just devices but networks, cloud services and more. The expanding definition of BYOD has earned it a new acronym: BYOE \(bring your own everything\). "What began in the last decade as a faculty or staff member connecting a personal laptop to the campus network has exploded into an ever-growing ecosystem of personally owned smartphones, tablets, cloud storage, processing, and other individually owned technologies that are everywhere. Link to the report \[The Consumerization of Technology and the Bring-Your-Own-Everything \\(BYOE\\) Era of Higher Education\]\(#\).](#)
38. [Moodle Launches Free Cloud Hosting for Educators](#). Moodle today announced MoodleCloud, a service that allows anyone to deploy the Moodle learning environment for free — with no installation or hosting charges. Intended for individual classes of up to 50 users and other small learning environments, MoodleCloud provides the latest version of Moodle software (2.9.1), including integrated Webconferencing, delivered via Amazon Web Services.

[Colleges and technology firms joining forces to make campus life safer.](#)

Colleges and universities are teaming up with technology entrepreneurs in an effort to keep students safe — on and off campus — by using their smartphones. Mobile apps geared toward campus safety are booming: with a few clicks, text messages will contact friends or social media, employ GPS to pinpoint a location and automatically connect to 911.

39. [Dropbox expanding presence in higher education](#). Dropbox, the cloud-based file-sharing and collaboration tool, has landed a number of university clients in its early push into the education space. The founder's alma mater, MIT, made the service available to its entire campus community last summer, and edSurge reports that the University of Oklahoma, Cal State Fullerton, and Cleveland Community College have now followed. Dropbox has created a range of compatibility options for institutions already using Office 365, Google, Blackboard, and TurnItIn, and the company plans to expand the number of integrations.

Rankings, Ratings and Benchmarking

40. [Why Russia won't rise fast up the global rankings](#). With the advent of Project 5-100, global university rankings have increased in importance in the Russian Federation. But while it is undeniably a good thing that there is a concerted effort to raise standards in Russian universities, there are a number of reasons why one should not expect them to show a rapid rise in the rankings.
41. [US: Ratings without ... Rating](#). The federal government will not compare colleges or pass judgment on their relative merits as part of the ratings system the U.S. Department of Education plans to release before the end of the summer, department officials said. But the department isn't bailing on the idea entirely, as some would have liked.
42. [Ranking universities on excellent teaching will be better for everyone](#). In a [recent speech](#) to Universities UK, Jo Johnson the new universities minister, said he wanted to see universities in

England enhance teaching quality, bear down on grade inflation and achieve parity of esteem between teaching and research. Driven by a desire to give student consumers better information about where to study based on the excellence of a university's teaching, his plan is to introduce a [long-mooted Teaching Excellence Framework](#).

43. The publisher of the QS University World Rankings, QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd, [has taken on a Japanese investor to support its expansion into Asia](#). Tokyo-based Mitsui & Co., Ltd has become a minority investor in QS by purchasing existing shares and subscribing for new shares for an undisclosed amount. The company has plans to expand its research, technology and student recruitment globally, but with a particular focus on Asia.
44. [China extends dominance in latest BRICS ranking by QS](#). China has strengthened its lead in the QS University Rankings:BRICS, which compares the Top 200 institutions in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. China is even more dominant than last year with an additional institution breaking into the top ten, in which they are now represented by seven institutions. According to QS the result confirms China as the most likely of the BRICS nations to achieve its goal of developing world-class universities.
45. [What's the Problem with U-Multirank and AHELO?](#) We may be seeing an explanation for the reluctance of the Russell Group and its orbiters and the Ivy League to cooperate with U-Multirank and their disdain for the AHELO project that is in marked contrast with their support for the trusted and prestigious THE rankings. They are quite happy to be assessed on reputation, resources, income and citations but comparison with the cognitive skills of graduates from the upstarts of East Asia and perhaps Eastern and Central Europe is something to be avoided.
46. [US: MONEY's Best Colleges](#). The 736 schools that provide the best value for your tuition dollar. Here's a quick look at how MONEY determined which of the country's roughly 1,500 four-year colleges and universities deliver the most value.

47. Nearly one in eight of the world's top 200 universities, as ranked in the [Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014/15](#), are from Asia. The same is true for one in five universities in the top 200 of the [QS World University Rankings for 2014/15](#). Say what you will about rankings but the gains that Asian institutions have made on the international tables in recent years do provide an interesting indication of [the growing academic influence of the region](#).
48. [Study abroad rankings 'will encourage student mobility'](#). The proportion of students who are "outwardly mobile" should be included as part of the criteria for university rankings to encourage institutions to send more students abroad. That is the view of Ruth Sinclair-Jones, director of the UK National Agency for Erasmus+, the European study abroad scheme, who added that more than half the UK students in the programme come from just 21 out of 160 participating institutions.
49. [Fear that cyber university contest could lead to ranking](#). South Korea's Ministry of Education plans to hold a contest searching for the best teaching and learning practices at cyber universities. The official objective is to improve quality but there is some concern that it could lead to a system to evaluate and rank cyber universities that provide online courses.
50. [THE releases preliminary Africa university rankings](#). Times Higher Education, producers of the World University Rankings have released a snapshot of their preliminary rankings of universities in Africa. Based on research influence alone, instead of five indicators used in the global rankings. Rankings blogger Richard Holmes writes about the use of fractionalised counting of citations in this ranking in his blog the [implications of the THE African pilot ranking](#). Holmes suggests that if fractionalised counting is used in the coming World University Rankings many small or specialised institutions will suffer.
- (DAAD) provides a detailed view of student mobility in and out of Germany. It shows that the country's foreign enrolment is tracking well towards a longer-term goal to host 350,000 students by 2020, having grown by about 7% between 2013 and 2014.
52. [Strong growth in Japan's foreign enrolment in 2014](#). After three years of minimal or no growth, Japan saw a notable spike in its foreign enrolment last year. The latest figures from the Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) show that there were [184,155 international students enrolled](#) in the country as of 1 May 2014. This represents a 9.5% increase over the year before, and is the first significant growth since [a major earthquake struck Japan in 2011](#).
53. [Korea to lure more foreign students](#). The Korean government is seeking to increase the number of international students studying from 84,000 last year to 200,000 by 2023, by pledging to make universities more foreigner-friendly. The Ministry of Education revealed a package of new policy initiatives to revive the once-booming trend of studying in Korea. The number of foreign students has fallen since 2011.
54. [Fraud frenzy? Chinese seek U.S. college admission at any price](#). With the promise of English-language fluency, a U.S. college education is increasingly attractive for many students and employers. Using agents or consultancies to apply to college has been a common practice since U.S. universities and colleges started recruiting in China extensively about eight years ago. But there are growing concerns that these agencies – many unregulated – are going much further than extending a helping hand.
55. [Piecing Together Russian Student Mobility Trends: Research Data and Russian Practitioner Perspectives](#). Meeting with the 2014 Fulbright Russian International Education Administrators (RIEA) Program cohort was an educational experience for me: specifically it taught me that mobility data doesn't always tell us the full story, and that one has to always speak to colleagues in the field to fully understand the context of student mobility.

The government of Ontario in Canada has announced that, starting this autumn, it will [permit universities to use up to 25% of allocated public funding to support international graduate students](#). The decision won't expand budgets, but will give institutions more freedom to give graduate placements to foreign students.

56. [US government pilots pipeline for international high schoolers](#). The US government has begun piloting an intensive English and college preparation programme for foreign high school-aged students. The EducationUSA Academy, operated by the US Department of State, this month has welcomed international students to the US, from Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in a bid to attract students at a younger age to the US's education system.

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A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The next AAIR Newsletter will be published in the last week of August. Please send your contributions to the editor@air.org.au by Wednesday August 19.



Louise Hargreaves
AAIR eNewsletter Editor

Student Recruitment and Mobility

51. [German student mobility continues to increase](#). The latest report from the German Academic Exchange Service