Ethics

and

higher education quality assurance

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European Quality Assurance Forum
25 November 2017
‘Ethics’ and higher education policy: International, national and institutional level

The Bucharest Declaration concerning Ethical Values and Principles for Higher Education in the Europe Region

What is a Moral University in the 21st century?

Toward a Culture of University Ethics ...

Discover the world at Leiden University
Ethical challenges in HE

• Higher education and academic standards
  - Diploma fraud, dubious recruitment practices, transnational education
  - Academic standards, grade inflation, but also admission and assessment fraud

• Ethics and a curriculum
  - Professional ethics, plagiarism

• Research integrity
  - Conflict of interest, disclosure restrictions
  - Research integrity: fraud, relevance
  - Access

• Governance
  - Moral obligations to society
  - Freedom of speech and current politics
Ethical challenges in HE

Universities as value-laden institutions: ....

Ethical bridges as the fault of marketization? But:
- ‘New economy’: purpose driven companies
- Old economy: a social responsibility dimension
- Alternative ways to see a market logic: value embeddedness
Ethical challenges in HE

Universities as value-laden institutions: ....

Ethical bridges as the fault of marketization? But:
- ‘New economy’: purpose driven companies
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Peers (academic oligarchy)

State

Market
Governance reforms

Accountability and public trust:
- external quality control  (instrumental rational logic)
- trust in professional norms  (norms and socialization)
  MORE TRUST!!!  ... does it work?

Increasing interest in self-regulation:
- complexity, commitment, legitimacy
- responsibility for quality lies within the organization
Ethics and self-regulation

• Self regulation
  - Corporate responses: Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct
  - Limited success
  - Success factors: leadership, structures and institutions
  - Enforced self-regulation

• Professional ethics
  - Limits of professional ethics: ‘Conspiracy against laity?’
  - Value of professional ethics: values, norms, control
Professional ethics: norms and competence

• Norms:
  - Academic values: tensions but stable
  - The value of ambiguity
  - Managerial vs professional logic with organization

• Competences:
  - Professionalisation of the teaching function
Regulating HE quality

Three types of regulatory focus:
- Performance based
- Technology based
- Management based
  - technical approach
  - cultivating professional ethics: norms and values; competences

Responsibility of the profession itself:
- protect and develop professional norms
- enforce professional norms
Ethics and higher education

• ‘Social responsibility’ of universities
  - ‘managing’ ethics
  - unique to individual institutions
  - bureaucratization of ethics

• University ideals

• Professional ethics: individual level
  Responsibility for external stakeholders, universities, the profession itself
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