First ASEM
Rectors’ Conference

Working Group C:
Impact of Rankings and other Quality Indicators on Quality Assurance in Higher Education

October 28, 2008

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University of Southern Denmark
Counting what is measured or measuring what counts?

Analysis of the league tables

- Do not provide a complete picture of the sector
- Some of the measures included are poor proxies for the qualities identified
- There is insufficient transparency about the way the league tables are compiled
- The resulting rankings largely reflect reputational factors and not necessarily the quality
- The format and content of league tables could be brought up to date

Higher Education Funding Council for England, April 2008/14
Counting what is measured or measuring what counts?

Impacts on higher education institutions

- Institutions are strongly influenced by league tables
- Institutions do not feel they have sufficient influence on the compilers and the methodologies used in the rankings
- Institutions are responding to student surveys (partly due to inclusion in league tables)
- League tables have resulted in better data collection
- Staff are affected by league tables
- League tables may conflict with other priorities

Higher Education Funding Council for England, April 2008/14
In the ideal world

- Universities are different

- Cultural diversity is a positive quality

- Universities serve the needs of the country while maintaining an international outlook.

- All areas of science are equally important

- Teaching and research go together
In the real world

- Focus on natural science
- Publish in English
- Publish in the "right" journals
- Be like the Ivy League, American universities
- Do not waste your time on elementary teaching
- Produce highly skilled graduate that get good jobs – but otherwise do not engage with the outside world
- Be large
- FOREMOST: Be sure you are visible on the ranking lists!
# Shanghai Ranking 2008


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Education</td>
<td>Alumni of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals</td>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Faculty</td>
<td>Staff of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals</td>
<td>Award</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories</td>
<td>HiCi</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Output</td>
<td>Articles published in Nature and Science*</td>
<td>N&amp;S</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles indexed in Science Citation Index-expanded, and Social Science Citation Index</td>
<td>PUB (for. SCI)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Performance</td>
<td>Per capita academic performance of an institution</td>
<td>PCP (for. Size)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**THES / Times Higher**

http://www.thes.co.uk/worldrankings/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualitative indicators</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer review score</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruiter review</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantitative indicators</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International faculty score</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International student score</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty / student score</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations / faculty score</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RANKING WILL NOT DISAPPEAR

PLAY THE GAME !!
What can we do?

1. Neglect them!
2. Try to convince our governments that they do not hold in our country
3. Play the game!
4. Try to improve the existent rankings
5. Formulate alternative (national?) measures of quality
6. Subject based rankings (not just research)
7. Establish an independent ranking institution
8. Benchmarking among similar universities
Thanks for your attention

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University of Southern Denmark

Students

Danish: 15,786
Non-Danish: 3,241
Total: 19,027

Staff

Number of staff is converted into full-time equivalence

Teaching and research: 1,350
Techn.- Adm.: 1,050
Total: 2,400

Revenues

260 million € in 2008
# University of Southern Denmark and rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE – QS</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webometrics</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ : Citations  
Output per researcher / unit  
- : Size  
Different names (mergers, English and Danish)