



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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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

<http://www.arwu.org/>

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



THES / Times Higher

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

Qualitative indicators		
Peer review score	40%	
Recruiter review	10%	50%
Quantitative indicators		
International faculty score	5%	
International student score	5%	
Faculty / student score	20%	
Citations / faculty score	20%	50%
Total		100%



**RANKING
WILL NOT
DISAPPEAR**

**PLAY THE
GAME !!**





What can we do?

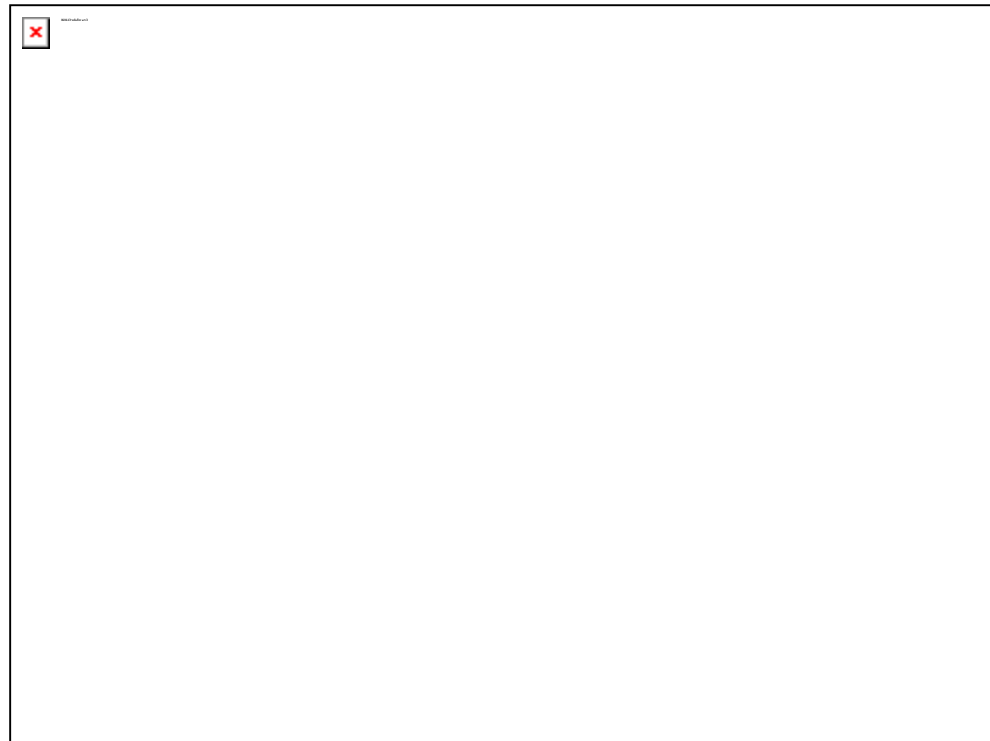
- 1. Neglect them!**
- 2. Try to convince our governments that they do not hold in our country**
- 3. Play the game!**
- 4. Try to improve the existent rankings**
- 5. Formulate alternative (national?) measures of quality**
- 6. Subject based rankings (not just research)**
- 7. Establish an independent 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

Ranking	2007	2008
Shanghai	272	305
THE – QS	317	295
Taiwan	307	226
Webometrics	-	339

+ : Citations
Output per researcher / unit

-: Size
Different names (mergers, English and Danish)