

Higher Education in Comparative and International Contexts

W. James Jacob^{a,*} and Val D. Rust^b

^a*Institute for International Studies in Education, University of Pittsburgh*

^b*Center for International & Development Education, University of California, Los Angeles*

Comparative and international higher education issues continue to flood headlines, publications, and lead research and development initiatives worldwide. In an effort to capture the significance of higher education issues in comparative and international contexts, we are eager to provide a networking hub for scholars, policy makers, students, and practitioners to better network with one another locally and abroad. The Higher Education SIG (HESIG) provides this networking opportunity to all of its members. In this article we want begin this networking process by revisiting some of the key issues discussed at this year's HESIG Business Meeting at the CIES Annual Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.



FIGURE 1. Photo of Regsuren Bat-Erdene, Director of Higher and Vocational Education, Mongolia Ministry of Education, Culture and Science speaking at the HESIG Business Meeting on 21 March 2009.

We had the pleasure of honoring Ruth Hayhoe a long-time contributor to the field and distinguished leader in CIES. Ruth is also an inaugural member of

*Corresponding author: Email: wjacob@pitt.edu; Address: Institute for International Studies in Education, University of Pittsburgh, 5714 Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA.

HESIG. In addition to welcoming new members to HESIG, we discussed several areas where members can get involved. These include participating in the HESIG Awards, Publications, HESIG-sponsored projects, and organizing a HESIG-Panel or Paper at the upcoming CIES Conference in Chicago, 1-5 March 2010. The deadline for individual paper and HESIG-panel proposals is 1 October 2009.

HESIG Publications

This is the first issue of *Comparative and International Higher Education*, the official HESIG Newsletter which includes contributions from each regional editor. Information on upcoming conferences, news, and other events are also included along with a section on recent publications on international higher education organized by geographic region.

Two issues of *CIHE* will be published each year and we encourage HESIG members to be active contributors to this important networking publication. Feature articles on a variety of higher education topics are welcomed and should be submitted to either the editors or a regional editor of your choice. The Newsletter is also a good way to inform members of timely publications in the field along with upcoming conferences in respective geographic regions.

Awards Committee Organized

Each year HESIG offers four awards that will be presented at the Annual CIES Conference: (1) Best Dissertation, (2) Best Journal Article/Scholarly Paper, (3) Best Book in Higher Education, and (4) Lifetime Contribution Award. A committee of six members was nominated and received unanimous support by HESIG members. Rosalind Latiner Raby will serve as the

Awards Committee Chair, and will be accompanied by the following committee members: Scarlett Benjamin, Gustavo Gregorutti, Diane Oliver, Laura Portnoi, and Janet Thomas. This committee will serve for a period of three years (until March 2012). The first task of the Awards Committee was to develop the criteria for selection of candidates for the awards, which was approved by the HESIG Officers in May 2009. The criteria were then sent to HESIG members via the Secretariat with a deadline of July for nominations for each of these four awards.

HESIG-Sponsored Project with Palgrave Macmillan

During the initial HESIG Business Meeting at the 2008 CIES Annual Meeting in New York, we launched a Higher Education SIG-sponsored book series on current topics in international higher education. These volumes will be edited and contributed to by SIG members and published as part of Palgrave Macmillan's *International and Development Education Book Series*.

Of the many book proposals submitted three manuscripts have been accepted for publication to date. The first volume is scheduled to be published in 2009 and two additional volumes in 2010. *Higher Education, Policy, and the Global Education Phenomenon*, edited by Laura M. Portnoi, Sylvia S. Bagley, and Val D. Rust, will be published in February 2010 and two panels will be organized by for next year's conference as HESIG-sponsored panels. The forthcoming book inquires about the processes through which different higher education

systems have determined national higher education policies related to competitiveness, as well as the strategies they have adopted to enhance their global competitiveness.

Rajika Bhandari and Peggy Blumenthal of the Institute for International Education (IIE) are the editors of another HESIG-sponsored volume forthcoming in 2010 entitled *Global Student Mobility: National Strategies and International Trends*. This book will lead to an improved understanding of international higher education student flows through research and improved data collection; will encourage and make possible better governance of international student flows at the global, regional, and national levels; and will stimulate new thinking among a broad range of communities on the impact and importance of international educational exchange.

Increasing Effectiveness of the Community College Financial Model: A Global Perspective for the Global Economy is the third volume approved through the peer-review process at Palgrave Macmillan. The book is edited by Stewart Sutin, Dan Derrico, Rosalind Latiner Raby, and Ed Valeau.

HESIG members are encouraged to submit book proposals for review. More information on this HESIG-Sponsored Project can be found on our website:

<http://www.higheredsig.org/projects.html>