

Teaching Tips/Notes



Is Our Next Generation of Scholars Going to be Capable of Affording Us?

I am puzzled by the budget situation in our state (Washington)--not because the state budget is in the toilet, but (rather) how distant budget decisions have long-term effects on us in academia. Due to lost revenue at the state level, Washington State University (WSU) has lost millions of dollars in cuts. As Washington State must have a balanced budget, I suspect that we (at WSU) will experience more cuts in the next biennium since we represent a large expenditure at the state level. This same situation exists at all institutions of which I know faculty members. Everyone is trying hard to "get through" the shortfall times.

Our academic leaders are being quite creative in determining how to make cuts work, and how the resultant university will look. At the department level, in many cases, simply to remain in one piece after a major budget cut is something positive. During these "lean" times I have asked myself--what will the long-term effects of this recession do to the (general) future of academia? How many years will it take to recover, or will we ever do so? If we raise tuition to make-up for lost state support, is our next generation of scholars going to be capable of affording us?

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