**  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
HOMELAND SECURITY-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**DRU Conference: “Emerging Trends in Higher Education”**

**June 21, 2017**

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**Background**

The “Emerging Trends in Higher Education” conference was conducted by Marsh & McLennan Companies (MMC). MMC’s goal is to assist their clients identify new opportunities by addressing the full range of risks, which in turn enable clients to grow, innovate, and create value by helping them understand and better manage the risks they face, and ensuring they have the resiliency to withstand the unexpected. MMC has many contracts with many notable institutions of higher education, and as a result of their risk analysis in assisting these universities and colleges, they have acquired a vast amount of metadata in areas concerning the risks which they face.

**Overview**

**Global Risks**

Top 3 Executive worldwide concerns:

* High unemployment
* Fiscal crises
* National governance failures

\*Interesting to note that recent hot topic issues of cyber-attacks, terrorist attacks, inflation, and involuntary migration are ranked near the bottom of concerns.

* Global issue such as Globalization vs. protectionism, popularity vs. populism, and nativism vs. migrants are now the focus for continued sustainability in the world.
* Due to the rise in natural disasters around the world, environmental issues have supplanted economic concerns.

**The Fourth Industrial Revolution**

* Information sciences, physical sciences and engineering, and life sciences are shaping the landscape of the world we live in.
* Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual realities, advanced materials, space technologies, geoengineering, 3D printing, biotechnologies, and neurotechnology’s are at the forefront of what will shape our societies, jobs, and peoples.
* Higher education is at the center of this revolution. Not only are they training students how to gain jobs in these fields, but are also impacting the technology, receiving the research funding to advance discoveries, creating partnerships, establishing global incubator programs, and assisting in the creation of spin-off companies.

**Emerging Critical Risks in Education**

The following represent the greatest concerns/risks for education in today’s climate:

* Regulations
* Cyber-attacks
* Fiscal crises
* Talent availability

Top Barriers to Understanding Emerging Risks:

* Cultural/institutional
* Lack of cross-organization collaboration
* Budget
* Lack of awareness of key risk management concepts
* Inability to model the magnitude of the risk
* Internal communication

**Institutional Risks to Monitor**

* Natural Disasters
* Legal compliance
* Environmental
* Study Abroad
* Minors on campus
* Faculty/Staff/Student Misconduct
* Hazing/sexual abuse incidents
* Data Loss and recovery
* Environmental (dangerous substances, labs)
* Safety and Security
* Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
* Safety (shooters, alcohol, medical)
* Accommodation for disabilities
* Faculty on campus (background checks/research integrity)
* Legal compliance (FERPA, CLERY, NCAA, HIPAA, Title IX)
* Student Aid – Title 4/False Claims Act

**Claims Review After 2012 to 2017.**

Claims have shifted in the last decade. The shift has indicated that the top claims being reported are:

* Sexual molestation
* Sexual harassment
* Sports/athletics
* Medical malpractice
* Employment practices liability
* Research/medical

**Immigration issues and Foreign Students**

Recent policy shifts under the current administration has created great concern and anxiety for both Higher Education and Foreign Students. This anxiety has been identified in part under the following categories:

* Anxiety for students from named countries
* International and American Muslim students
* Students who believe their country might be named next
* Uncertainty about travel
* The hold on processing applications for work permits and changes in status.

Strategies that may help combat these anxieties may include:

* University/College Presidential communication to the community
* Communication to affected students/faculty
* Communication to prospective students and families.

Additional measures that can be taken include:

* Helping councilors and staff be aware of current information
* Provide culturally appropriate support
* Collaborating with local faith organizations
* Calling on faculty and staff with related backgrounds to help support students
* Create classroom and other accommodations due to anxiety.

Stakeholder outreach efforts:

* Consider collecting the names of community members/families of students/other students willing to house international students over the summer.
* Consider working with campus employers to focus summer hiring on international students unable to go home or work off campus.
* Schedule periodic check in meetings/town halls to update students
* Work with graduate faculty to extend graduate appointments through the summer.

**Title IX Trends**

Title IX court fillings have increased at a dramatic rate. There was a total of 32 court filings between 1995 and 2013. In the three-year period of 2014 through 2016 there were 120. Allegations include:

* Breach of contract
* Defamation
* Discrimination
* Unfair due process

**Sexual Assault**

A United Educators claims study involving 305 claims from 104 colleges and universities concluded the following:

* 60% of assaults occurred on campus
* 90% involved respondents that knew the complainant
* 78% of sexual assaults involved alcohol
* 94% of complainants were female
* Nearly 75% were freshman or sophomores
* Average delay in reporting was 11.3 months

**Enterprise Risk Management**

Enterprise Risk Management is increasing in both value and importance for the following reasons:

* Stakeholder expectations are increasing
* Boards are increasingly accountable
* Risks are intensifying and evolving

**Conclusion**

The landscape of higher education is evolving rapidly. This evolution is not just represented on the traditional surface of learning how to adapt and shift curriculums to match the current economic climate, rather its evolution is based on both the internal mechanisms in place at institutions of higher education and contributing global financial, economic, and political systems. Globalization teamed up with social issues and rapidly changing technologies demands a new approach to the traditional model of managing colleges and universities.