Caught in this semi-elastic web of conformity, the diversity debate so far has not been able to escape the ‘all Australian university are comprehensive research universities’ versus ‘my university is different from yours’ arguments. There are two fundamental problems in this debate. The first is that we are still struggling to come to terms with what diversity means for institutional positioning. The second is that an authoritative set of indicators to underpin the concept of diversity is absent.

About the seminar

This seminar aims to take the discussion on diversity in the Australian university sector to the next level by drawing on some new initiatives launched in Europe to highlight diversity amongst institutions by using transparency tools that can form the basis for strategic choice and profiling by institutions. U-Map and U-Multirank have been developed for exactly this purpose and are now in the process of being rolled out across Europe.

Professor Frans van Vught, the conceptual brains behind these tools, will start off the day with taking us through the questions of why diversity matters, why transparency is a good thing, and how universities can profit from collaboratively working towards creating a transparent university sector.

The LH Martin Institute and the Australian Council for Education Research will then present the first results of their attempts of applying the U-Map principles to the Australian university sector using currently available data. Participants will be asked to group the anonymous institutions into coherent groups. A discussion facilitated by Frans van Vught will explore the rationale for these groupings, after which the actual institutional profiles will be revealed. These will form the basis of a panel discussion featuring the presenters of the morning session and the designers of the institutional profiles, with a focus of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the approach and the ways in which the latter can be overcome to the greater benefit of the Australian university sector.

Date and location

7 February 2013
LH Martin Institute, The University of Melbourne, Level 1, 715 Swanston Street, Carlton VIC 3053.

Fee

$950 ($1045 incl. GST)

Suitable for

University senior executives, policy makers at federal and state levels, policy advisors, politicians, stakeholder representatives including industry bodies, students and community organisations, and higher education policy researchers.

Registration and more information

To register or for more information please go to our website.

Enquiries can also be directed to Anita Wong:
T: +61 3 8344 0906
E: waiyw@unimelb.edu.au
About the LH Martin Institute

Based at the University of Melbourne, the LH Martin Institute was established in 2007 with the support of the Australian Government to help tertiary education leaders and managers meet the demands of a complex and rapidly changing sector with a critical role to play in Australia’s future. We do this by providing an integrated set of events, research projects, study programs and professional development programs that are tailored to the particular needs of the tertiary education sector.

www lhmi.edu.au

About the speakers

Professor Frans van Vught, Chairman, European Centre for Strategic Management of Universities; Advisor to President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso.

Frans was Rector and President of the University of Twente from 1997 to 2005. Before that he was the founding director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente, the Netherlands. Frans is a member of the Netherlands’ National Innovation Platform (presided by the Prime Minister) and of the National Social Economic Council. Internationally, he is a Member of the University Grants Committee of Hong Kong and the German Akkreditierungsrat. He has published widely (and in several languages) on higher education policy and management issues and has been consultant for many international organisations, governments and universities. He holds several academic awards and is honorary doctor of the University of Ghent, Belgium.

Professor Andrew Vann is Vice-Chancellor and President of Charles Sturt University.

He trained as a civil engineer and worked in engineering consultancy before completing a PhD in the Civil Engineering Systems Group at University of Bristol in 1994.

He lectured in structural engineering at University of Bristol prior to coming to Australia in 1996 where he took up a similar post in the Faculty of Engineering at Central Queensland University in Rockhampton. During this time he pursued research interests in structural monitoring and artificial intelligence as well as leading pedagogical change in moving the Bachelor of Engineering at CQU to a project-based format.

He held various senior academic and administrative roles at CQU before joining James Cook University in North Queensland in 2004 as Pro Vice-Chancellor Information Services and Technologies, subsequently Pro Vice Chancellor and, from 2008, was Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for the Faculties and Teaching and Learning.

Professor Vann joined Charles Sturt University as Vice-Chancellor in December 2011.

Mr. Mike Gallagher is Executive Director of the Go8. Prior to this he was Director of Policy and Planning at The Australian National University.

He was responsible for Commonwealth administration of higher education from 1990-1994 and again from 2000-2002. Between 1994 and 1996 he was head of Department of Employment Education and Training Corporate Services. From 2002 to 2003 he was head of Australian Education International within the Department of Education, Science and Training.

He has a long history in the education industry including as a teacher and lecturer at secondary and tertiary level and as a member of the Wran Committee on Higher Education Financing in 1987. Michael has worked overseas for the World Bank and also continues to undertake work for the OECD on higher education issues.

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