



**Is Big Brother Watching You?**  
**The Evolving Relationship between the State and Quality Assurance**

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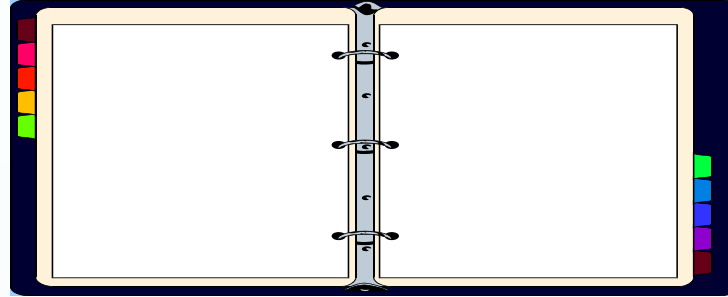
# Higher education under siege?



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- Attack of the MOOCs: virtual education replacing traditional campus-based education?
- Skills crisis
- Financial crisis: decreased public funding and the 1 trillion dollar student loan debt
- QA crisis: Accreditation failing to promote quality and relevance (US Senate)

# outline of the presentation...



- Recent Trends
- New Accountability Instruments

# What is happening

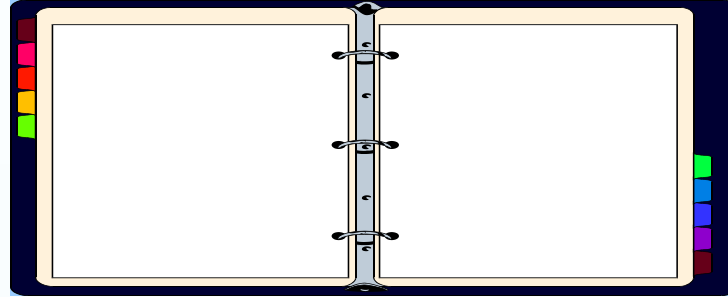
- Increased scrutiny
  - University closings (Albania, Romania, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines)
  - Naming and shaming (S. Korea)
  - Tightening of rules and controls (Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Yemen)
- Consolidation of QA structures / processes
  - From program accreditation to institutional accreditation (Colombia)
  - Compulsory accreditation (Saudi Arabia)
  - Decentralized accreditation (Mexico)
  - Merger of QA structures (Austria, Ireland, Malaysia)

# What is happening (II)

- Reliance on funding mechanisms for QA purposes
  - Funding formula (Netherlands)
  - Performance funding in the US
  - Performance contracts (Austria, Chile, France)
- Deregulation (Australia & England)



# outline of the presentation...



- Recent Trends
- **New Accountability Instruments**

# New forms of accountability

- Student engagement surveys
- Assessment of student learning outcomes
- Labor market observatories
- Rankings
- Benchmarking

**conclusion**

# Challenges and opportunities

- Less public funding / more accountability
- Global convergence to develop & strengthen QA / less trust between gvt & QA
- Need for healthy balance between accountability and independence of QA
- Integration of new accountability instruments into accreditation
- Promotion of institutional differentiation and innovation