

Questions from Senator Christie to Principal Woolf for the November 25, 2010 Senate Meeting

Background

The Queen's News Centre for 27 Oct http://www.queensu.ca/news/articles/principal_welcomes_discussion_university_specialization has a headline: "Principal welcomes discussion on university specialization."

But the article itself is not about support for discussion of "differentiation." It is about support for differentiation itself. It reports that "Principal Daniel Woolf will be working with his provincial counterparts, Queen's Park and the College of Ontario Universities on how universities can differentiate themselves and focus on their strengths."

The phrase "how universities can differentiate themselves" presumes acceptance of the agenda of differentiation itself.

The QNC article reports that the Principal calls the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) report "an excellent starting point for a discussion among universities and their communities about how we can all identify our particular place in Ontario's post-secondary education landscape."

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Association (OCUFA) has responses to the HEQCO report available at <http://senatefacultycaucus.wordpress.com>. OCUFA makes a valuable distinction between the "organic" differentiation that has already developed among Ontario Universities, which has been a matter of developing a