Inequity Wins Again

Two weeks after Americans learned that wealthy parents had been bribing their kids’ way into some of the nation’s top universities, a new study arrived to remind us of yet another way that the deck is stacked — legally — against students from low-income families.

Researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Arizona examined the recruitment strategies of 15 flagship universities and found that they had shown a bias toward affluent students from out of state instead of high-achieving low-income and minority students from within the state.

The phenomenon is driven by the universities’ need to find reliable revenue sources in an era of state disinvestment, the researchers concluded.

Their report, “Recruiting the Out-Of-State University,” was funded by the Joyce Foundation, which promotes racial equality and economic mobility. (See Page A26.)

Universities named in the report defended their commitment to serving low-income students, saying that revenue from out-of-state recruits is used to support income students, saying that revenue from fending their commitment to serving low-income and high-achieving low-income and minority students from out of state instead of leading an academic or medical institution demanding job, essentially seven days a week, many hours a week and be a good dad at the same time.

For presidents and aspiring presidents, that view is familiar. When Eric W. Kaler, president of the University of Minnesota, announced last year that he would resign, he called the presidency “an incredibly demanding job, essentially seven days a week, evenings and nights included.” William H. McRaven, a former chancellor of the University of Texas system, called the job of leading an academic or medical institution the “toughest job in the nation.” (McRaven had seen his share of tough jobs, as a military commander he planned the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.)

Presidential tenures are also getting shorter. A 2017 American Council on Education study found that the average tenure for college leaders was 6.5 years, which was two years shorter than when measured a decade before.

But even as length of tenure shrinks, some things never change. According to that same ACE study, the thing college presidents worry about most: Money.

Footnote

Colleges across the country love their campus squirrels. Students photograph them, tend to them, and try to save them. Some students even keep them as pets. And now, at the University of Texas at Austin, they commemorate them. This year a yearbook will be published just for the campus squirrels, The Daily Texan reports.

An alumna, Marie Romano, is behind both the yearbook and related social-media accounts. The glossy book, Squirrels of UT Austin, will feature more than 200 squirrels divided into their respective classes (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors), coupled with pictures of the squirrels hanging — or, scurrying — around the campus.

Students, faculty, and staff will be able to purchase copies of the yearbook in May. Here’s hoping your Longhorn niece or nephew doesn’t just squirrel it away in a dusty closet.

—ANDY THOMASON AND DON TROOP