

Dear Webmaster,

Mr Fonow's exasperation is understandable, but should not blind him to the difficulties of his central recommendation, that Lampeter return to its original core subjects, History, English, Welsh, Theology, Philosophy, Classics and "concentrate its financial and academic resources into making them the very best programs in Great Britain".

Has he any conception of what it would take to make even one of these programmes one of the very best in GB? Let alone all of them! The difficulties would be pretty well insurmountable even if the goal was only to put a programme in "the top five offered by specialized institutions", as he elsewhere suggests. (Though how Lampeter might be regarded as a 'specialized institution', along with the Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine, the London Schools of Economics & Political Science/Hygiene & Tropical Medicine/Oriental & African Studies, the Institutes of Advanced Legal/Classical/Commonwealth/Germanic/Latin American/United States Studies, the Institute of Zoology, the Armagh Observatory, and the British Institute in Paris, defies ready understanding.)

Perhaps the point will become a little clearer to him if he looks at the Guardian league table more closely. I append the outcome for just one of the six subjects he mentions: let him study it, and the methodology behind it, and then explain how Lampeter, even with the finest management in the world, is to achieve the stated goal in respect of this subject.

What management consultants do best is produce feasibility studies. Here's a chance for Mr Fonow.

R.R. Rockingham Gill

P.S. In a covering note, Mr Fonow said "one person exercised far too much executive power for far too long without checks and balances". That is incorrect: he *had* the power, but did *not* exercise it. Too many people said boo to the goose.

Appendix.

In this subject the *Guardian* ranked Lampeter's programme lowest of all institutions', with only 46% as against Oxford's 85%:

46	<u>Wales Lampeter</u>
48	Greenwich
53	Bradford, Manchester Metropolitan
54	Wales Newport
55	Dundee, Hull, Lancaster, Wales Swansea
56	Exeter
57	Cardiff, Queen's Belfast
58	Birmingham
59	Liverpool
60	Aberdeen, Newcastle, Southampton, Staffordshire, Stirling
62	Edinburgh, Leeds
63	East Anglia, Kent at Canterbury, Manchester
64	Nottingham, Roehampton
65	Reading, Uni Col Northampton
66	Oxford Brookes, Sheffield, St Andrews, Sussex
68	Glasgow, Hertfordshire, Ulster
69	Bristol, Durham

70 Keele
 72 Essex, Warwick, York
 73 Bolton Institute of HE, Middlesex
 74 King's Col London, London Schl of Economics, Wolverhampton
 81 University College London
 83 Cambridge
 85 Oxford

Lampeter's programmes in the other five of Mr Fonow's original core subjects were ranked similarly – this one is in no way exceptional: it's only modesty, and pusillanimity (fear of the wrath of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor), that prevents me naming the subject.

The score is only for teaching ("Note that we don't include research funding, figures from the research assessment exercise or data in that line – this is supposed to be a ranking for undergraduates."), and is made up as follows: Teaching inspection – 22%; Entry qualifications – 15%; Spend per student – 15%; Student-staff ratio – 15%; Job prospects – 15%; Value-added – 10%; Inclusiveness – 8%.

Here are the full ghastly details, Mr Fonow (more in Rosa Scoble & Jimmy Leach 'How the numbers were crunched', *Education Guardian* 25 May '04 (education.guardian.co.uk/universityguide2004/table/0,14557,1216869,00.html?))

Teaching inspection (out of 6)

4 Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Greenwich, Roehampton, St Andrews, Stirling, Uni Col Northampton, **Wales Lampeter**, Wales Newport
 5 Birmingham, Cardiff, Hull, London Schl of Economics, Manchester Metropolitan, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford Brookes, Queen's Belfast, Wales Swansea
 6 Bolton Institute of HE, Bradford, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, East Anglia, Essex, Glasgow, Hertfordshire, Keele, Kent at Canterbury, King's Col London, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesex, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Staffordshire, Sussex, Ulster, University College London, Warwick, Wolverhampton, York
 n/a Exeter

Entry qualifications (out of 10)

4 Bradford, Greenwich, Hertfordshire, Wales Newport
 5 Roehampton, Staffordshire, Ulster, Uni Col Northampton
 6 Aberdeen, Dundee, East Anglia, Hull, Kent at Canterbury, Oxford Brookes, Queen's Belfast, Stirling, Wales Swansea
 7 Essex, Exeter, Keele, Lancaster, Liverpool, Newcastle, Reading, Southampton, Sussex
 8 Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, King's Col London, Leeds, Manchester, University College London
 9 Bristol, Durham, Edinburgh, London Schl of Economics, Nottingham, Sheffield, Warwick, York
 10 Cambridge, Oxford
 n/a Bolton Institute of HE, Manchester Metropolitan, Middlesex, St Andrews, **Wales Lampeter**, Wolverhampton

Spend per student (out of 10; operating costs such as central libraries, information services and central computers)

1 **Wales Lampeter**

2 Hull, Lancaster, Uni Col Northampton, Wales Newport
 3 Birmingham, Bradford, Cardiff, Dundee, Essex, Greenwich,
 Hertfordshire, Keele, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester
 Metropolitan, Queen's Belfast, Reading, Roehampton,
 Southampton, Sussex, Wales Swansea, Warwick, Wolverhampton
 4 Aberdeen, Bolton Institute of HE, Bristol, Durham, East
 Anglia, Kent at Canterbury, King's Col London, Manchester,
 Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford Brookes, Sheffield, St Andrews,
 Staffordshire, Stirling, Ulster, York
 5 Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, London Schl of Economics
 6 Cambridge, University College London
 8 Middlesex
 10 Oxford

Student:staff ratio (out of 6)

1 Bradford, Greenwich
 2 Middlesex, Southampton
 3 Dundee, Hull, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester
 Metropolitan, Newcastle, Wales Lampeter
 4 Birmingham, Cardiff, Durham, East Anglia, Edinburgh, Exeter,
 Kent at Canterbury, Manchester, Nottingham, Queen's Belfast,
 Sheffield, Staffordshire, Stirling, Sussex, Wales Swansea
 5 Aberdeen, Bolton Institute of HE, Bristol, Hertfordshire,
 Keele, Oxford, Oxford Brookes, Reading, Roehampton, Wales
 Newport, Warwick, York
 6 Cambridge, Essex, Glasgow, King's Col London, St Andrews,
 Ulster, Uni Col Northampton, University College London,
 Wolverhampton
 n/a London Schl of Economics

Job prospects (out of 10)

2 Lancaster, Manchester
 3 Glasgow, Manchester Metropolitan, Wales Swansea
 4 Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, East Anglia, Hull, Newcastle,
 Queen's Belfast, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton,
 Staffordshire, Wales Lampeter
 5 Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Greenwich, Kent at Canterbury,
 Liverpool
 6 King's Col London, Leeds, Nottingham, Sussex, York
 7 Bolton Institute of HE, Durham, Essex, Oxford, St Andrews,
 University College London, Wolverhampton
 8 Keele, Middlesex, Warwick
 9 Cambridge, Stirling
 10 London Schl of Economics
 n/a Bradford, Exeter, Hertfordshire, Oxford Brookes, Roehampton,
 Ulster, Uni Col Northampton, Wales Newport

Value added (out of 6)

2 Exeter, Glasgow, Liverpool, Ulster
 3 Birmingham, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Essex, Hertfordshire,
 Keele, Kent at Canterbury, King's Col London, Leeds, London
 Schl of Economics, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford Brookes,
 Reading, Sheffield, Stirling, Wales Newport, Wales Swansea,
 Warwick, York
 4 Aberdeen, Bradford, Bristol, Cambridge, East Anglia,
 Greenwich, Hull, Lancaster, Oxford, Queen's Belfast,
 Southampton, Staffordshire, Sussex, University College London
 5 Dundee, Newcastle

6 Roehampton, Uni Col Northampton
n/a Bolton Institute of HE, Manchester Metropolitan, Middlesex,
St Andrews, Wales Lampeter, Wolverhampton

Inclusiveness (out of 6)

1 Cardiff
2 Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Lancaster, Leeds,
Nottingham, Queen's Belfast, Staffordshire, Stirling, Warwick
3 Aberdeen, Bolton Institute of HE, Bradford, Dundee, East
Anglia, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Keele, Kent at
Canterbury, Liverpool, London Schl of Economics, Middlesex,
Newcastle, Oxford, Sheffield, St Andrews, Sussex, Ulster,
Wales Swansea, Wolverhampton, York
4 Essex, Hull, King's Col London, Manchester, Manchester
Metropolitan, Oxford Brookes, Reading, Roehampton,
Southampton, Uni Col Northampton, Wales Lampeter, Wales
Newport
5 Greenwich, University College London
6 Hertfordshire