

Review of Scenarios for Higher Education Background for Understanding Options for 2010-2015

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Introduction

This paper (3 pages) is a summary of scenarios that relate to higher education. We are living in a time of significant change and high uncertainty - for a variety of reasons. Under these conditions scenarios become one of the most important tools for anticipating the future. There are also a number of higher education scenarios available for review and those that are somewhat easy to find are listed here.

These scenarios are given a general description and titles only, with a link for the full scenarios from a specific source. The scenario titles give a basic idea of what the scenarios are about, and it is evident that some of the same ideas emerge from a variety of sources. Reviewing the links to see the complete scenarios provides a rich collection of ideas about the possible futures of higher education. Scenario groupings are organized from older to newer. Most are short and easily read.

Arizona Futures

There are a series of future studies about Arizona in general, but they are not listed here. Only one is listed because of its specific use of scenarios.

Arizona Town Hall. Published two reports each year, with many of the titles addressing Arizona issues.

<http://aztownhall.org/>

2001. Morrison Institute, Arizona State University. Five Shoes Waiting to Drop on Arizona's Future. 52 pages.

https://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/publications-reports/APC01_5ShoesWaiting2DropOnAzsFuture/view

1. A Talent Shake Up
2. Latino Education Dilemma
3. A Fuzzy Economic Identity
4. Lost Stewardship
5. The Revenue Sieve

2002. Morrison Institute, Arizona State University. The Coming of Age: Four Scenarios of Arizona's Future 16 pages.

http://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/publications-reports/AHF2002_TheComingOfAge-4ScenariosOfAZsFuture/view?searchterm=scenarios

Written for the year 2025. Report includes scenarios of about 2 pages and includes trends and issues.

1. Boomers Bust the Budget (2025)
2. Technology Enhances the Good Life
3. Who Will Be Able to Afford the Future?
4. Arizona Takes Charge

Scenarios Listing

1990. Arizona State University. Developing Scenarios: Linking Environmental Scanning and Strategic Planning.

<http://horizon.unc.edu/bios/Morrison/papers/13.html>

Part of a study on how to build scenarios, with a focus on the 1990s. Includes three scenarios, about a page each. Titles are:

1. The Stable Scenario
2. The Turbulent Scenario
3. The Chaotic Scenario

1999. Eight Scenarios for the University of Michigan. James Duderstadt.

<http://milproj.ummu.umich.edu/publications/choice/download/choice.pdf>

Three pages total and published as news item by National Academy of Sciences as well as a book and this website. Eight Scenarios published for the 21st Century that suggest the “extraordinary transformations” that institution may undergo.

1. The World University
2. The Diverse University
3. The Creative University
4. The Divisionless University
5. The Cyberspace University
6. The Adult University
7. The Ubiquitous University
8. The Lifelong University
9. The Laboratory University

2000. Futures Project: Policy for Higher Education in a Changing World.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/dean/planning/Futures-Project-scenario-summary.pdf>

Used in study by Frank Newman and posted (temporarily) on web. Two page posted abstract above made by Roger Caldwell and was reviewed by one of the book’s authors. The titles of the seven scenarios are:

1. Dwindling Hope: Merit Aid Widens the Gap
2. The Rise of the Consortia
3. New providers help build a skilled workforce
4. Raising the Bar: AP-16 system aligns standards
5. The US Mexico Case
6. Contracting for accountability
7. In Search of the New Economy: Encouraging Private Competitors to Fill the Demand for Skills

2002. Arizona Board of Regents, Staff Retreat for Scenario Development Processes and Ideas.

Retreat discussions converted to six scenarios by Roger Caldwell for review by ABOR staff, followed by web posting.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/dean/planning/abor-six-scenarios-2002.pdf>

Each scenario was one page. The titles are:

1. Harvard Opens Branch Campus in Scottsdale Arizona
2. Fighting for Control of Arizona Higher Education
3. Arizona Diversifies its Politics and Moves to the Center
4. Resources Matter: Paying Attention to Mother Nature
5. Arizona Regents University: The Integrated Virtual Approach
6. Universities Transformed: Can it be done?

2003. OECD. The Future of the Tertiary Education Sector: Scenarios for a Learning Society.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/dean/planning/six-oecd.pdf> Titles are:

1. Tradition
2. Entrepreneurial Universities
3. Free Market
4. Lifelong Learning and Open Education
5. Global Network of Institutions’
6. Diversity of Recognized Learning

2005. Arizona Board of Regents. Arizona University System Redesign Project, Faculty Stakeholders Group, January 2005.

http://www.azregents.edu/special_editions/redesign/Faculty_Futures%20report.pdf

Arizona Universities Transformed (2020) – two-page scenario involving changes in learning and management of the Arizona higher education institutions, the structure and use of campuses, debates among all parties, and changing conditions that allowed change to occur. The scenario was part of a larger report that included the Six OECD Scenarios for Higher Education and the Seven Scenarios from the Higher Education Futures Project (both listed in this summary).

2006. University of California. UC 2025: The Power and Promise of Ten.

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/future/lrgt1106.pdf>

Four brief scenarios for 2025, followed by overall implications (1 page total). Titles are:

1. Beyond the tipping point
2. Virtuous circle
3. UC Polytechnic
4. Complementary Campuses

2006. OECD. Four Scenarios. Written for 2030.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/dean/planning/Four-OECD-Scenarios.pdf>

Scenarios are defined, the key driving forces of change listed, and examples of relevant questions to ask as a result of each scenario. Eight pages total. Titles are:

1. Open Networking
2. Serving Local Communities
3. New Public Responsibility
4. Higher Education, Inc.

2006. Six Future Scenarios for the United Kingdom.

<http://www.beyondcurrenthorizons.org.uk/scenarios/>

Extensive discussion, focused on primary and secondary education. About two pages per scenario.

1. Informed choice
2. Independent consumers
3. Discovery
4. Diagnosis
5. Integrated experience
6. Service and citizenship

2006. David Pearce Snyder. From Higher Education to Longer, Fuller, Further Education: The Coming Metamorphosis of the University.

http://www.davidpearcesnyder.com/from_higher_ed.htm

Report on higher education with one “three dimensional” scenario, covering the next 10-15 years. Each dimension is about a page.

- 1st Dimension – From Higher Education to Longer Education
- 2nd Dimension – From Higher Education to Fuller Education
- 3rd Dimension – From Higher Education to Further Education
- Integration of the 3 dimensions – The Post-Industrial University

2009. Caldwell, Roger. Two scenarios for the University of Arizona.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/dean/planning/H-E-scenarios.html>

Written in January 2009 for the year 2025, 4 pages total

1. Celebrating Tradition (emphasizing the past as a model)
2. Organizational Metamorphosis (emphasizing significant change)

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