Academic Cultural Differences Related to Teacher Education Budget cuts in Romania and the United States

Authors
Bob Ives, Associate Professor of Special Education, University of Nevada, Reno
M. Alama, Assistant Lecturer in Germanic Languages and Business Communication, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania, University of Nevada, Reno
L.C. Mosora, Assistant Lecturer in Economics and Economic Policies, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

Purpose
The purpose of this study was to collect data about the budget cutting processes and decisions in the teacher education programs of six Romanian universities and compare the data to the processes and decisions made at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The Article
This article begins with a background in teacher education budgets in Romania and Nevada, US. The study was designed to address the following research questions: 1) How were the budget cutting decision-making processes similar and different between Romanian universities and UNR? 2) How were the budget cutting decisions similar and different between Romanian universities and UNR? 3) What plausible inference might be drawn based on the differences identified through the first two questions? Results showed that Nevada has been more negatively affected by the global economic crisis than any other US state, and cuts to teacher education have been substantial. The budget cutting processes in Romania were less transparent, and involved less input from faculty and staff. Most decisions were made at a higher level of authority in Romania and the cuts were more likely to be across the board rather than strategically targeted as they were in Nevada.

What this Means for the Field
There is an increased need to have an understanding about the budget cutting processes and decisions in teacher education in a global realm. This paper provides a glimpse into the differences between Romania and Nevada, US.

Citation

Contact
Dr. Bob Ives: 775-682-7867; rives@unr.edu or visit www.unr.edu/education