Review from March 15 - 21, 2024

**ROMANIA: Legal loophole allows Romanian rectors to remain in post**
Recent elections of rectors in Romania have extended long-standing leadership in universities across the country, with only six of 38 civilian state universities voting in new rectors. The rest saw their incumbent leaders secure additional terms – more than a quarter for the fourth time. [Read more »](#)

**FRANCE: Controversy at Sciences-po: deans and researchers angry after Gabriel Attal’s “unannounced” visit [FRENCH]**
*Le Parisien with AFP*, 3/19
The prestigious school is mired in heavy controversy, after accusations of anti-Semitism against the organizers of a pro-Palestinian demonstration. The Prime Minister went there, to the great dismay of teachers and researchers, who criticized on Monday a desire for “interference” by the executive. [Read more »](#)

**PHILIPPINES: UP units establish Academic Freedom Committee in campuses**
*University of the Philippines*, 3/18
The systemwide campaign for the creation of the Committee on the Promotion and Protection of Academic Freedom and Human Rights (CAFHR) gains further ground with several constituent units establishing academic freedom committees. [Read more »](#)

**UNITED STATES: Virginia Officials Scrutinize Two Universities’ DEI Course Syllabi**
Ryan Quinn, *Inside Higher Ed*, 3/18
A spokesman for Governor Glenn Youngkin invoked concerns about “core curriculum mandates that are a thinly veiled attempt to incorporate the progressive left’s groupthink.”
Two universities’ diversity education initiatives may be in peril. Read more »

KAZAKHSTAN: Former president of Nazarbayev University issues warning
Yojana Sharma, University World News, 3/17
The former head of Kazakhstan’s Nazarbayev University (NU), a flagship research university in the Central Asian republic which teaches in English and has many international professors among its staff, has warned that the university’s much lauded academic freedom and institutional autonomy are under threat. Read more »

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The Courage to Think Award recognizes individuals, groups or institutions that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom, whether through their professional work, private or community service, often in the face of personal risk. Submit a nomination »

PALESTINE: Plan Lets Students of Gaza’s Shattered Universities Continue Studies Online
Ismail Salama, Al-Fanar Media, 3/16
The Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education said the plan would allow Gazan students whose educations have been disrupted by the Israel-Hamas war to resume their studies at institutions in the West Bank. Israeli forces invaded Gaza in October in pursuit of Hamas, and Gazan universities and schools have sustained extensive damage to their research and study facilities. Read more »

UNITED KINGDOM: After being dismissed after complaints from Chinese students, a British professor accused universities of ignoring academic freedom and bowing to money [CHINESE]
Wang Gang, VOA Chinese, 3/15
Michelle Shipworth, associate professor at the Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources at University College London (UCL), revealed to the media that a course she
teaches called "Data Detective" was unfairly sanctioned by UCL after Chinese students complained. Read more »

UNITED STATES: Civil Rights Groups Push Back Against Wave of Anti-DEI Bills
Ryan Quinn, Inside Higher Ed, 3/15
So far this year, at least five state legislatures have passed bills seeking to curtail diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education. This year's batch may seep more into the classroom. Read more »

INDIA: Campus protests over citizenship law revive bitter memories
Shuriah Niazi, University World News, 3/14
Protests have erupted on university campuses in India this week after the government announced on 10 March the immediate implementation of its contentious citizenship law ahead of the upcoming 2024 general elections expected to be held between late April and May. Read more »

CHINA: Overseas students, exchanges deterred by spy laws – Academic
Yojana Sharma, University World News, 3/12
A prominent Peking University academic has said recent anti-espionage laws introduced by the Chinese government are deterring prospective foreign students from coming to China, while overly stringent restrictions are preventing Chinese academics from attending international events, despite the government's avowed commitment to academic exchanges. Read more »

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