

University Governance in Japan

-Autonomy, Mission and Mobility-



For the Seminar at Hitotsubashi University on Feb.27, 2015

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About J. F. Oberlin University

<http://www.obirin.ac.jp/en/>



J. F. Oberlin University is a private co-educational institution located in the Tokyo suburb of Machida. J. F. Oberlin has always sought to foster students with an international outlook and with the skills that will enable them to play a positive role in today's increasingly complex world. (From our web site)

Special Features of Higher Education in Japan comparing with the US & European System

1. Private sector has a majority in enrollment.
2. Graduate students are small in number.
3. Students in 2-year colleges are also small in number
4. Most students start studying at the age of 18 or 19.
5. Most undergraduate students start to seek jobs in big companies even when they are juniors.

Special Features of Higher Education in Japan (continued)

6. Higher education system was created by the government for the modernization of state in the 19th century.
7. The Government (MEXT and others) plays the decisive role for running higher education institutions, even private ones, by regulations and funding.
8. University autonomy or academic oligarchy used to be very strong and it was often against the government's policy.

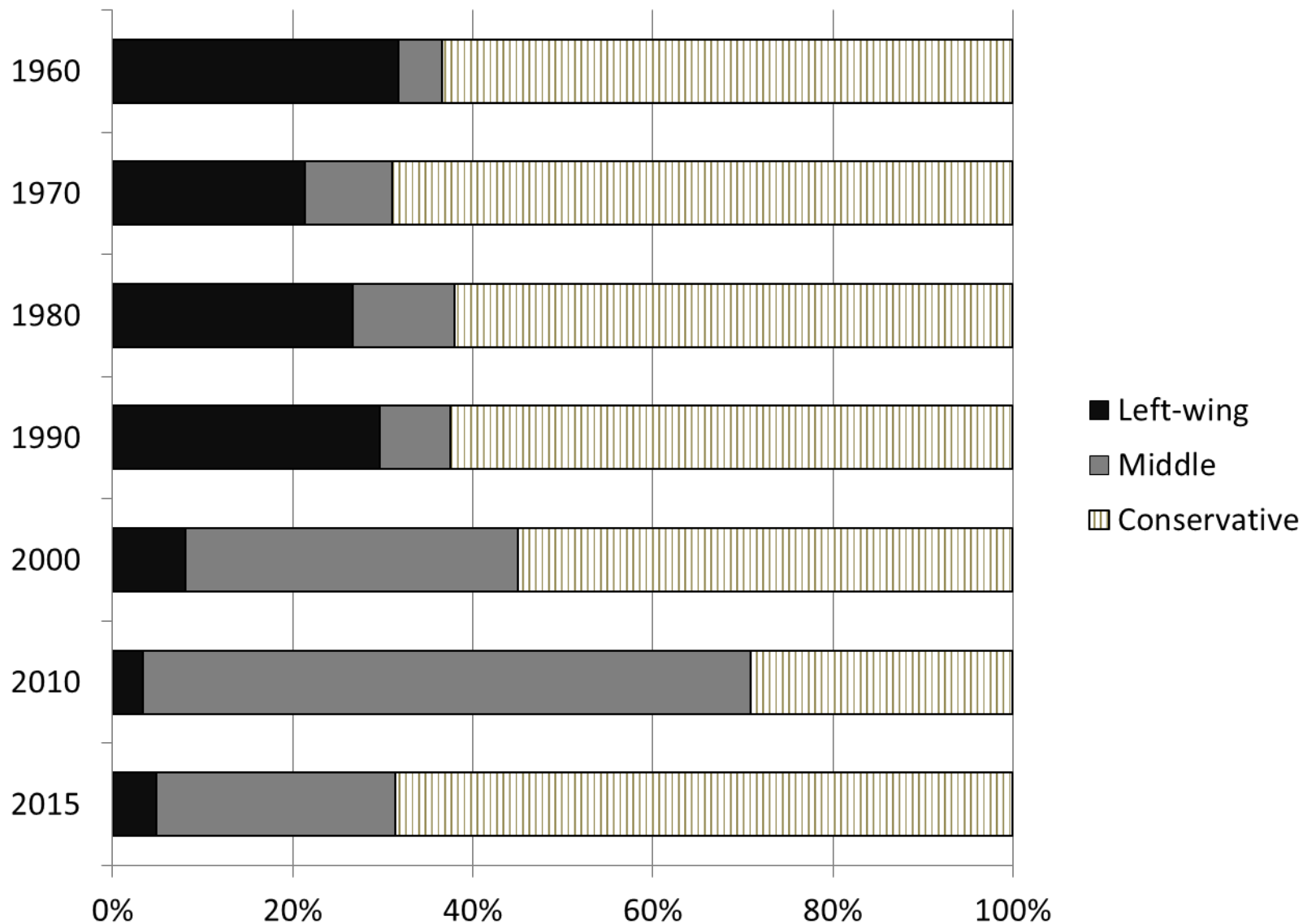
Current Higher Education Reform

1. It is not only country-wide systemic reform but also it concerns individual institutions to practice,
2. It is not only administrative and managerial reform but also it requires higher education institutions improve their quality of teaching and research,
3. It is ever-growing reform that no one can stop to date

The Backgrounds of Current Reform

1. The Cold War ended around 1990 which changed domestic political power balance as well as world system, and it made the government reform higher education system much more easily than before
2. The Bubble Economy in Japan was collapsed in the same period and higher education institutions must adapt to the new social and economic situation,
3. The 18-year-old population started to decline and thus many higher education institutions must reform themselves to attract students, which might drastically decline in the near future

Changing share of seats at Lower House of National Diet



Another Important Reason for the Reform

Another important reason for the reform was related to adaptation for globalization, knowledge-based economy, and growing science and technology influences. In spite of the growing role of higher education, however, financial deficit of the government become serious and this situation is not only in Japan but also other countries.

Distribution of Enrolment per 1,000 students in 2010

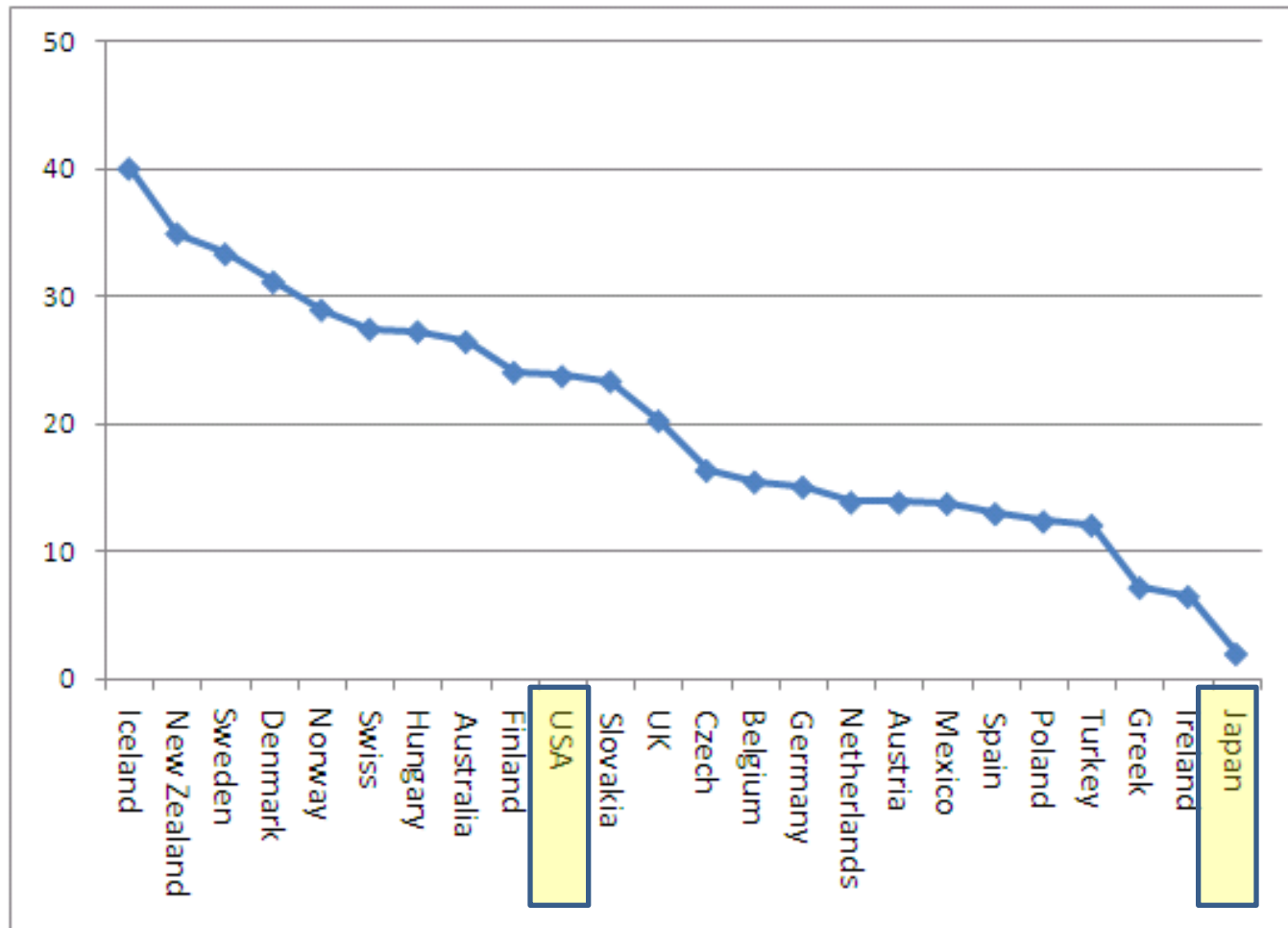
		humanities	social sci.	science	engineering	medical	education	others
undergraduate	public	18	35	12	51	<u>27</u>	24	<u>27</u>
	private	113	265	16	83	<u>58</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>99</u>
master	public	1	2	4	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	3	<u>7</u>
	private	3	4	<u>1</u>	8	2	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
doctor	public	1	1	2	4	6	0	4
	private	1	1	0	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	0	<u>1</u>
professional	public	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	-	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	private	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	-	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
junior college	public	1	1	-	-	0	0	1
	private	5	5	-	1	4	15	16

Public institution includes national and local public universities

Humanities and social sciences are major field of study for undergraduate level

Graduate enrolment is relatively small especially in doctoral programs

Percentage of freshmen whose age are over 25 years old



MEXT Data

The Development of Higher Education in Japan

1. The First Modern University in 1886 (Imperial Univ.)
2. Expansion of Higher Education System in 1918
3. Reform after the War II
Various kinds of HE Institutes became Universities.
4. Massification of HE in 1960s and 70s
Quality and Managerial Problems
5. **The 20-years Big Reform of HE since 1990s**
Why Reform and Why so FAST?

University Reform in Japan since 1945

	Mode	Keywords
1945-60	Political	Post-War Reform, University Autonomy, Freedom of Research, Merger of HE Institutions into University System
1960-75	Economic	Economic Growth, Massification of HE, Entrance Exam Problem, University Management Trouble,
1975-90	Planned	HE Plan that Restricted New Institutions in Urban Area, Newly Schemed National Univ. such as Tsukuba
1990-05	Reform of Framework	Efficiency and Accountability, National University Corporation, Diversification of HE , Decline of 18-year-old Population
2005-20	Reform of Activities	Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Compliance, Reform of Teaching and Research

The Triangle of Coordination

State authority

Who does take initiative for
University Reform?

USSR

Sweden

France

Canada

United States

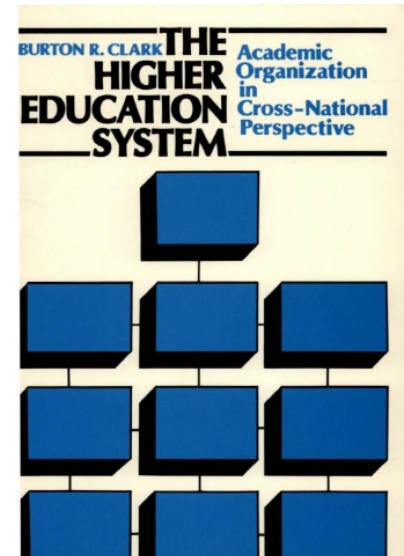
Market

Japan

Britain

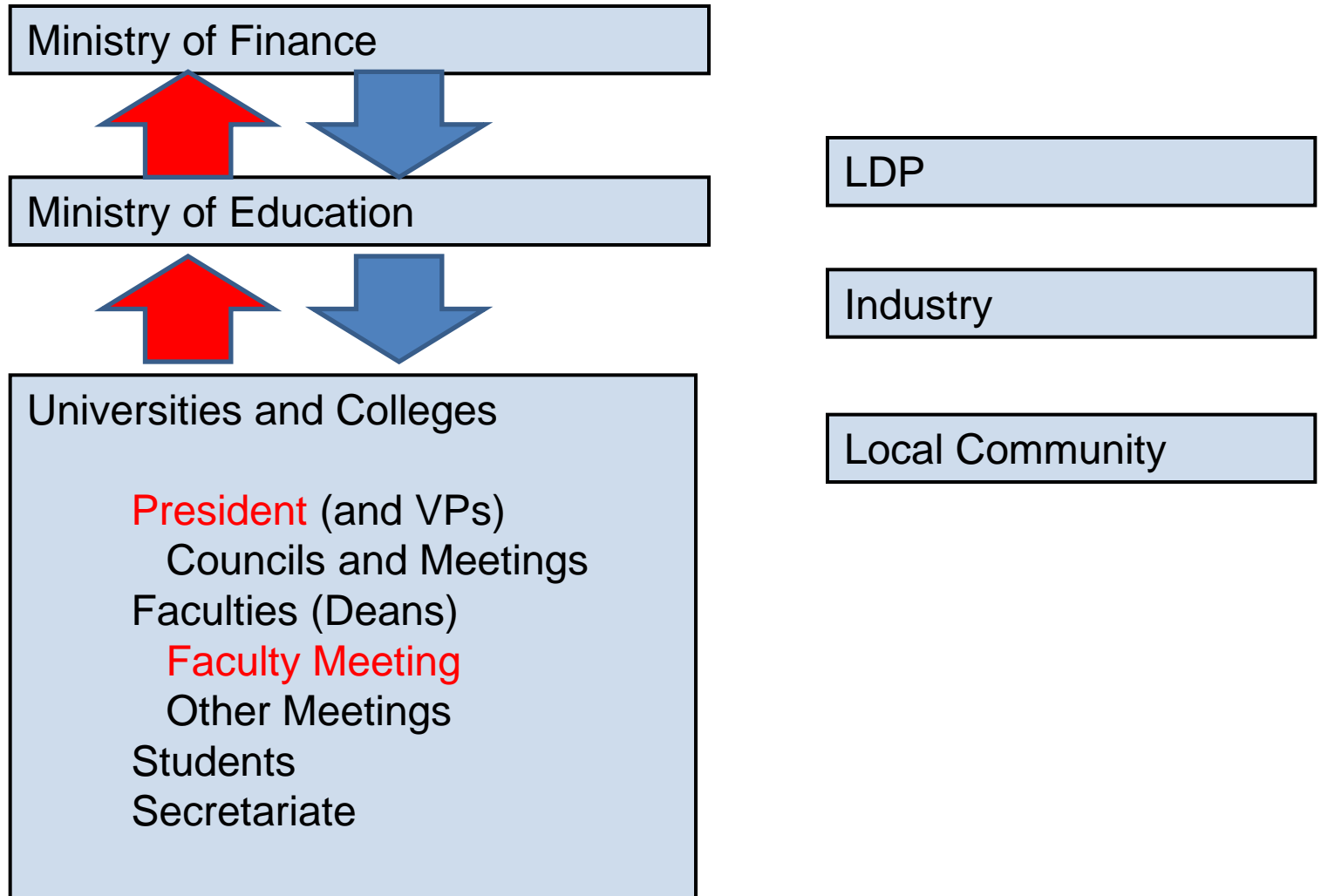
Italy

Academic oligarchy

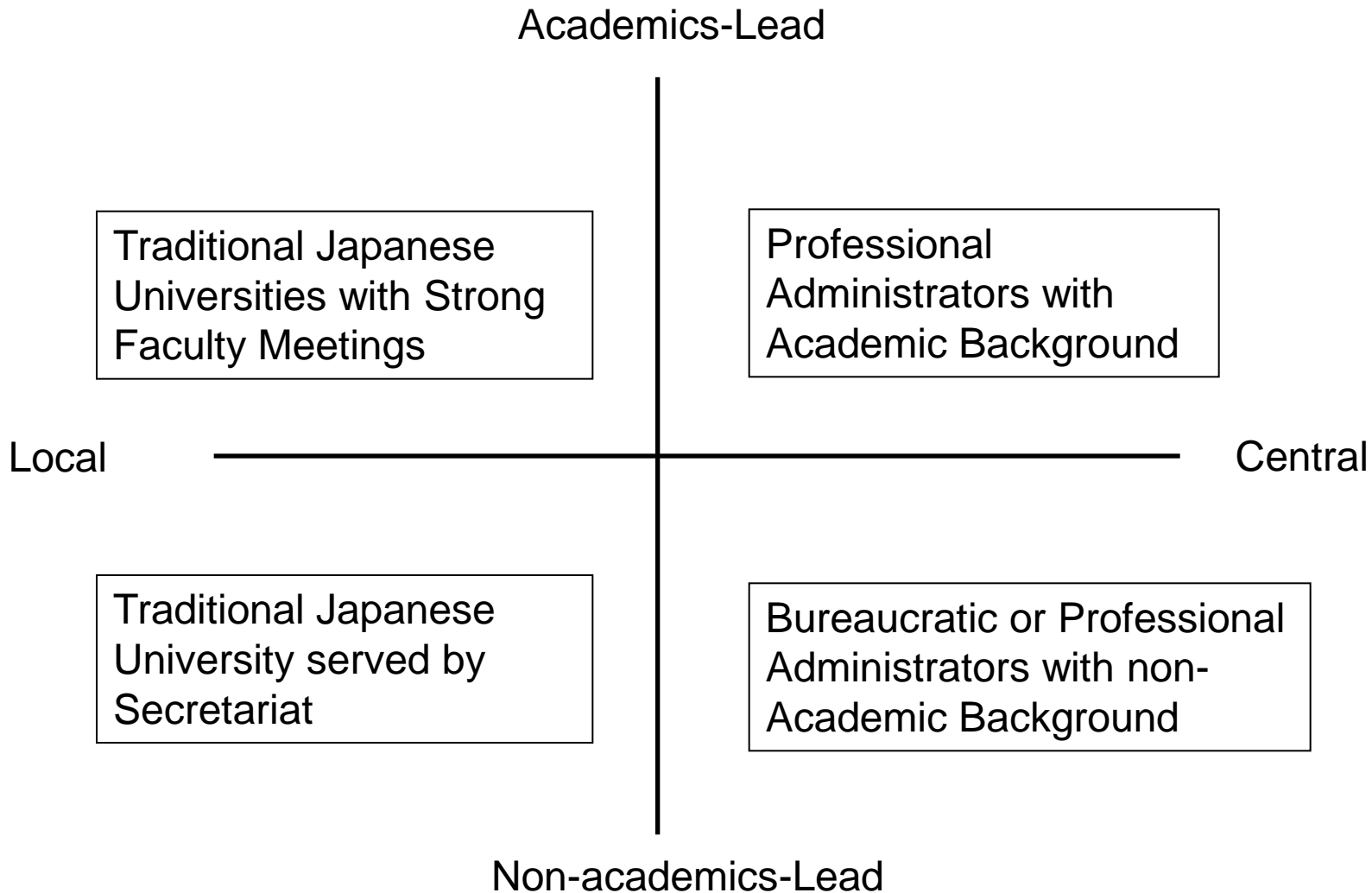


Burton Clark, The Higher Education System

Important Players and Actors for the Reform



Patterns of Internal Governance of Universities



Recent Reports on University Reform(1)

National Council on Education, Jan. 2005

-- Future of Higher Education in Japan

1. Very important role at the age of knowledge-based society
2. Massification, Globalization, and Quality Assurance
3. Division of roles among institutions
research intensive, teaching oriented,
contribution to local development, etc.

Recent Reports on University Reform(2)

National Council on Education, Sep. 2005

-- Graduate education at the new age

1. Quality improvement
 coursework and research training
2. Clarify aims of graduate education
 researchers working for univ. and industry
 professionals working for business and others

Recent Reports on University Reform(3)

National Council on Education, Dec. 2008

-- For the improvement of undergraduate Programs

1. Basic skills and knowledge to complete undergraduate programs (GAKUSHI-RYOKU)
2. FD (Faculty Development) as an important measure for the quality improvement of programs
3. Practices by each institution and support by the government

Recent Reports on University Reform(6)

The Action Plan for University Reform

Ministry of Education and Science, June 2012

1. Background

Universities are expected to solve various kinds of problems which Japan is now facing. Thus university reform must be implemented.

2. Direction of Reform

- (1) Building up functions, such as teaching and research.
- (2) **Reform of governance** and quality assurance.

Recent Reports on University Reform(7)

The Future Strategy for Higher Education
Committee on Rebuilding Capacity of Education,
The Cabinet Office of the Government, 2013-14

1. Improve Education for Globalization
2. Encourage Research for Innovation
3. Make Students Study More
4. Attract Adult Students
5. Governance and Managerial Reform

What are the Rationales of UNIVERSITY REFORM?



Still left for Further Discussion