Academia is now facing a lot of gray rhinos

Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr.  Letters from Academia

A complex question because it means to do not only with issues of policy but also with human nature. She divides the human response to these gray rhinos into three categories: avoid action (recognition of the problem but finding reasons not to deal with it promptly), diagnosing (understanding the causes and finding the right solutions), and taking action. Many times too late and inadequate. How are we dealing with the gray rhinos?

Part of the problem is that we have a great diversity of institutions of higher education in this nation, including universities, about 2800 research universities, and community colleges. The faculty and academic staff are also highly diverse in terms of age, gender, educational background, and so on. That makes a very complex picture that changes. The other complex thing is that institutions are not affecting others, which make it difficult for us to come up with some simple and direct threat to the system as a whole.

Yet, because of their improbable color, they are not often missed.

The bursting of warnings and visible evidence. The main question Wucker asks is, “Why are we not ready to face the gray rhinos?”

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