

Huron Fact Sheet

Huron: A Questionable History

- Huron Consulting Group [was formed in 2002 by 25 former executives of Arthur Anderson, an accounting firm that went under as part of the Enron scandal in 2001-2002.](#)
- Huron is a global management consulting company offering services to sectors including Education, Energy Utilities, Financial Services, Health Care, Industrials and Manufacturing, Life Sciences, and the Public Sector.
- [In 2009](#), Huron was **accused of overstating pretax income from 2005 to early 2009 and in 2012 Huron agreed to pay a \$1 million civil fine** to settle for US regulatory charges. No Huron executives contested the charges.

What does Huron Promote?

- Huron's investment portfolio reflects its values, the world it advocates for, and helps others build through its consulting services. To date, we know that **Huron leadership invests in:** [John McCain, Mike Pence, Mitt Romney, The National Republican Congressional Committee, George W. Bush, and Ted Cruz.](#)
- **Huron is an investor in [Shorelight Education](#)**, which specializes in the **recruitment and retention of international students, namely through online platforms**. In 2019, Huron's investments in Shorelight were valued at \$49.5 million.
- **Peter Stokes** (Managing Director of Huron's Higher Education Practice) advocates for **universities to align curriculum with corporate needs** through ["economic clusters" and what, in some instances, he has called this "experiential learning."](#) Stokes has also long been an **advocate for the merits of online teaching as well as measuring a university's "success" by the job outcomes of students.**
- Huron's metrics use the **Credit Hour Production (CHP) per faculty in order to adjust the "faculty mix" (mix of TT, PT, FT lecturers) in a cost-efficient way**. This is in-line with Peter Stokes' **plan to ["unbundle" faculty roles as part of a larger effort to "redesign of the labor model" and create greater efficiency.](#)**
- Huron promotes [Post-Katrina Dispossession](#) as a model for how we might re-build **universities in the aftermath of COVID-19**. For example, Huron points to the [value and necessity of immediate furloughs and layoffs to mitigate crisis](#). Other lessons learned, according to Huron, include the **need to declare a formal claim of "financial exigency"** under AAUP policy for universities planning on firing tenured faculty.

Huron's Track Record

- In 2017, **Huron was hired by the University of Wisconsin** to manage a state-driven austerity plan. As part of their signature protocols, **Huron established a committee to ensure “that a broad range of stakeholders” were engaged.** The state’s austerity plan and **Huron’s recommendations were strongly protested** by institutional governance bodies—**protests which included a no-confidence vote.** **The “cuts resulted in over one hundred employee layoffs and reduced employment for many non-tenure-track staff, and some tenured faculty have experienced forced reassignments and restructured positions.”**
- In 2019-**2020** the **University of New Hampshire paid Huron \$600,000** to develop a plan that would save the university 12 million over the course of two years. Staff and faculty will be involved in the teams charged with implementing Huron’s recommendations. **UNH President Dean said that there will be “no sacred cows” in the layoff process.** **The process launched at UNH was termed a “reimagining.”**
- **Sound familiar? It should. Similar language and processes have been employed at The New School** and it **remains to be disclosed** by the administration **how much Huron is being paid for what appears to be cookie-cutter approaches to restructuring.**