A “revolution” is taking place within the German university system. For the first time in their history, universities are engaged in direct competition with one another. Under the auspices of the so-called “Excellence Initiative,” they are competing for almost two billion Euros in extra research funding, and for the prestige of being designated as a “Leading University.”

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Professor Kaiser’s lecture provides an overview of the Initiative process and a report on the preliminary results of the competition. He also offers an initial appraisal of the Initiative from the perspective of a former university president.