

# **The „German dimension“ in Quality Assurance**

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# European Standards and Guidelines

## - in Germany -

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### 1. External quality assurance

- Programme accreditation
- State control (heightened)

### 2. Peer review of quality assurance agencies

- Accreditation
- National register

### 3. Internal quality assurance

- ... Black box ■
- Model-project „process quality“ by the German rectors' conference

## Berlin, September 2003

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„Ministers commit themselves to supporting further development of quality assurance at the institutional, national and European level (...) They also stress that consistent with the principle of **institutional autonomy**, the primary responsibility for the quality assurance in higher education lies with each institution itself and this provides the basis for real accountability of the academic system within the national quality framework“.

# **The transformation of teaching**

<b>old academia</b>	<b>new managerialism</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• individual ethos</li><li>• informal communication</li><li>• personal approach</li><li>• teacher-student interaction</li><li>• individual (departmental) culture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• institutional responsibility</li><li>• formal procedures</li><li>• standardisation</li><li>• manager-teacher-student interaction</li><li>• institutional quality assurance</li></ul>

# Creating a new paradox?

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- The more institutional structures the less individual responsibility?
- The more administrative procedures and routines the less faculty motivation and interest?
- Biggest threat: Erosion of quality culture (academic ethos) through institutional quality assurance !

# Quality of teaching - A Bremen (German?) perspective

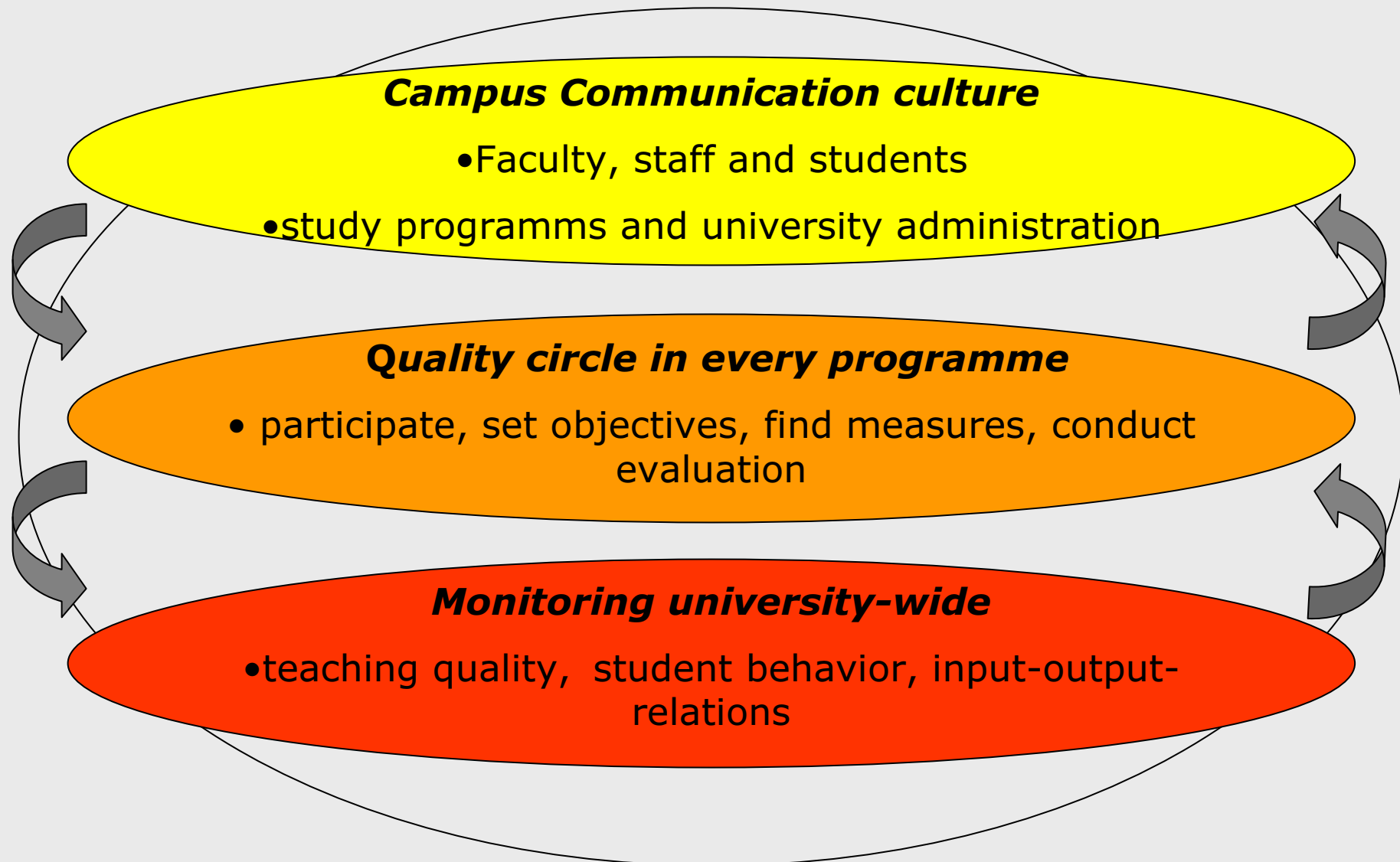
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- Contested terrain: contested by persons, disciplines, universities, national cultures ...
- Agreed agenda: fit for purpose
- Main thesis: front-line academics are the real makers and shapers of teaching quality !

# The Bremen model – A third way ...

*Living institutional culture*

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# Fostering teaching quality in European HEI

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## **Strengthen:**

- Institutional and individual responsibility
- Embedding quality culture in national systems
- European debates as professional discourse arenas

## **Beware:**

- European standardization of quality concepts and policies
- European register
- Control of learning outcomes