ABSTRACT

This article presents some of the preliminary results of a study on the contents of the institutional missions declared by the most recently established private universities in Chile, establishing a contrast between the discourse and the already existing reflection on the mission of the university. In that framework, it explores, firstly, the topic of the scope of the university in terms of the magnitude of the contribution that the university wishes to make to its setting which thus leads to the question about the place that the university occupies in society. Secondly, it identifies and analyzes some of the most frequently used concepts in academic language to describe the mission of these institutions as universities. Thirdly, it addresses the theme of university functions based on the statement of the University’s mission and the language with which the discourse regarding such functions is usually structured. Finally, it raises three questions about the mission statement, namely, whether these are generally descriptive, whether they are viable and lastly whether they are appropriate.