The Advisory Council for Polish Studies, convened by Dean Patrick O’Meara, met in Indianapolis on July 24 at the Columbus Club to discuss ways in which the cultural activities of the Polish Studies Center could be brought to a wider audience in the state, and how the Center’s resources could be useful to the business community and to Polish-American organizations.

Director of Polish Studies Timothy Wiles (center), with Polish Studies Advisory Council members Jane Misko and Dr. David Byrne

IU Business School's Central European Initiatives

The School of Business, through its office of International Programs, is creating networks far beyond Indiana borders. From July 17-24, in connection with a Central European management training project, the School hosted the Rector and two faculty from the University of Economics in Prague, as well as the Postgraduate Dean and two colleagues from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences (BUES). The Czech and Hungarian scholars attended an executive education program conducted by the Business School for managers from U.S. multi-national corporations such as AT&T and Xerox. Members of the visiting delegation gave a moving presentation about the current economic situation in their countries, in which the effects of economic shock therapy have created high inflation with little increase in wages—with annual salaries of the highest paid faculty approximating monthly earnings by the U.S. managers.

As both BUES and Prague are building management training centers, the School of Business conducted a special session for the Central European visitors to discuss how IU developed and plans to expand its present executive education programs. In October, during a four-day workshop scheduled to convene in Budapest under sponsorship of the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE), the School of Business will provide a detailed presentation regarding this IU program. Workshop participants are expected from universities in Budapest, Prague, Pecs (Hungary), Gdansk (Poland), and Ljubljana (Slovenia).

Patricia Eoyang, Director of International Programs for the School of Business, observes that the impact of recent grant activities in Central Europe has been considerable, with more than 15 Business School faculty having taught in grant-funded programs in Central Europe. Since 1991, the Business School has also provided U.S. management education and training to several hundred faculty, managers, and professionals in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia.