IUB Organizes Conference at Warsaw University on Strategic Planning for Polish Universities

The Polish Studies Center at Indiana University Bloomington completed its U.S. Department of State-funded program entitled “Strategic Planning for Polish Higher Education” in June by sponsoring a conference in Poland for rectors and vice rectors of research universities. On June 19-20, IUB’s long-term exchange partner, Warsaw University, hosted the event, which drew representatives from 11 Polish universities and several European partner institutions.

The June conference included seminars on strategic planning and management conducted by several leaders of administrative divisions across IU. Midwestern university partners in this program also sent planning specialists to Poland, including Charles Strain, associate vice president for academic affairs at DePaul University; Scott Olson, dean of the College of Communication, Information, and Media at Ball State University; and DePaul University’s president, The Reverend John Minogue, who gave the keynote address.

The U.S. team was pleased to learn that strategic planning had already been initiated in Poland—four Polish rectors outlined their schools’ plans—but they cautioned that the process must be comprehensive and long-ranging. Faculty and staff from all university divisions must contribute to the process. Ways to involve and motivate the faculties were discussed by Moya Andrews, IUB’s dean of the faculties and vice chancellor for academic affairs; John Parrish-Sprowl, IUPUI’s chair of the Department of Communication Studies; and William Plater, executive vice chancellor and dean of the faculties at IUPUI, who discussed the transformation of IU’s major urban campus over the last two decades as a process of continuing refinement of the campus mission and redefinition of what comprises “faculty work” in the newest phase of IUPUI’s history.

The coordination of financial and operational planning was presented by Maynard Thompson, IUB’s vice chancellor and dean for budgetary administration and planning. He entered into comparative discussions about financing with several key participants who share this expertise, including Warsaw University’s vice rector for development and research, Wojciech Maciejewski, and former rector Włodzimierz Siwiński, both economists who have taught at IU’s Kelley School of Business and been actively involved in the interuniversity exchange over the years. The philosophy behind this kind of planning, and some caveats about conducting it uncritically, were explored by Donald Warren, outgoing dean of IU’s School of Education, and several other IU delegates at the conference, including Giles Hoyt, associate dean for International Programs at IUPUI, and Timothy Wiles, special projects coordinator, who directed the program.

The conference also offered the occasion for official meetings related to IU exchanges in Poland, and opportunities for IU faculty to visit several universities and attend receptions hosted by their leaders. Piotr Węgłeński, rector of Warsaw University, opened the strategic planning conference and also hosted a grill party for participants at the Kazimierzowski Palace. At that time, Rector Węgłeński met with IUB’s Dean for International Programs Patrick O’Meara to renew the exchange agreement.

Warsaw University Rector Piotr Węgłeński (right) and IU’s Dean for International Programs Patrick O’Meara sign documents to renew the interuniversity exchange agreement.

Edda Callahan and Susan Carty, both of the Office of International Programs, assisted with the conference.
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ence and the exchange agreements, respectively. These two accompanied O’Meara to Kraków for meetings with Jagiellonian University administrators. After official meetings ended in Warsaw, the American team visited two universities in Lublin, where they were guests of the rectors of the Catholic University of Lublin and the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.

—Timothy Wiles
Department of English, IUB

Warsaw Administrator Visits IU Bloomington

After participating in the strategic planning conference, the administrative director of Warsaw University, Jerzy Pieszczurykov, came to Indiana University Bloomington September 3–9 as a visiting scholar under the administrative exchange program with WU. During that week, he had meetings with several high-level IU Bloomington administrators to learn about various administrative structures, and he visited the offices of the chancellor, dean of the faculties, dean of students, budgetary administration, enrollment services, information technology, career development, university libraries, and alumni association. He also paid a visit to IU President Myles Brand.

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analysis. His many joint contributions on convergence rates with Professors R. N. Bhattacharya (Mathematics, IUB), M. Harel, S. Ralescu, M. Seoh, and T. J. Wu; on generalized inverses with Professor S. K. Mitra; on fuzzy sets and measures with Professor D. A. Ralescu; on invariance principles for stochastic processes with Professors M. Denker, G. Haiman, and M. Harel; and on rank-based methods in the analysis and design of experiments with Professor E. Brunner are just a few of his many outstanding accomplishments.”

Next year, another book will appear, Selected Works of Madan L. Puri, to be published by International Science Publishers. It will be a selection of Puri’s papers covering different areas of mathematics and statistics that he has specialized in and which, in the opinion of the editorial board, have most influenced the direction of research and have created a lasting impact in these respective areas. In his discipline, within the past decade, only three scholars nationwide have been accorded the honor to have such a collection in their name.

Over the years, Puri has collaborated with 84 people from 22 countries on five continents, presented more than 300 invited lectures and colloquia, and been a plenary speaker for conferences in the United States, several European countries, and Taiwan. He has also held visiting professorships at many universities around the world. On three different occasions, he was given the “Senior U.S. Scientist Award” by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany. Among other recognition of his work has been an invitation to participate in a White House planning project on federal statistics, a Japanese Society for Promotion of Sciences Award, and a Distinguished Visitorship from the London School of Economics and Political Science.