

The Ideas and Universities project held its third international conference, entitled *The Global University: Past, Present, and Future Perspectives*, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on 5-6 February 2010.

There were many contributors to its success. Generous sponsorship was provided by the Worldwide Universities Network, the University of Bristol, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison by the Division of International Studies, the Department of Educational Policy Studies, the School of Education International Education Committee, and Global Studies. Essential preparatory work was performed by Louise Heery, General Manager of WUN, and by Isobel Howe, WUN Development Manager at the University of Bristol, who also provided invaluable support at the conference itself. The conference was hosted brilliantly by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A warm welcome was extended by Paul DeLuca (Provost, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Professor of Medical Physics, Radiology, Human Oncology, Engineering Physics, and Physics) and by Gilles Bousquet (Dean of the Division of International Studies, Director of the International Institute, and Pickard-Bascom Professor of French), both of whom gave important papers at the conference and participated in informal discussions with the other speakers. Sessions were perceptively and efficiently chaired by professors from across the university. The conference took place in the Fluno Center which offered excellent facilities and whose staff were unfailingly helpful. Graduate students provided thoughtful support throughout the proceedings. Kim Santiago, Assistant Director of Development at the Wisconsin Institutes of Discovery, took speakers on an inspiring tour of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery and Morgridge Institute for Research. Presiding over all aspects of the conference was Adam Nelson, Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies and History. He was responsible for the initial conceptualization of the conference and its organization. He ensured that the conference retained a sharp intellectual focus throughout, and that a spirit of generosity pervaded every conversation.

Some of the speakers were longstanding participants in the Ideas and Universities project, while others were joining for the first time. Eight WUN universities were represented: Bergen, Bristol, Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Southampton, Sydney, Toronto, Wisconsin-Madison, and Zhejiang. Professors from four other universities were involved: Hong Kong Institute of Education, Oslo, Peking, and Royal Holloway.

The conference was set up around a number of themes pertaining to the global university: regionalism(s) in global higher education; international economic development; administrators, academics, and university governance; aspirations to 'universal' significance; universities and industrial revolution(s); and the experience of graduate students in global universities. Collectively, the papers offered a distinctive blend of historical analysis and multi-disciplinary engagement with issues facing universities today. Recordings of the papers will appear on the website shortly, and full written versions will be assembled and submitted to a leading publisher for publication as a book edited by Adam Nelson and Ian Wei.

At the end of the conference, a full morning was devoted to planning the future of the project. Strategies were formulated for making our activities part of teaching and training in our own universities (we know that recordings of our video seminars are being used by other universities), and for engaging more effectively with policy-making. Plans were made to bring participants' research into closer alignment and then to apply to the Leverhulme Foundation for international research network funding, with the title 'The changing roles of academics and administrators in the global university'. Professor KaHo Mok and

Professor Xu Xiaozhou generously offered to host our next international conference on behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Education and Zhejiang University. It is expected to take place in Hong Kong on 3-4 November 2011 with a post conference trip to mainland China on 5 November. We are very grateful to Professor Mok for undertaking to obtain funding for the conference itself, so that the Ideas and Universities project has only to raise funds for travel. Overall, we consolidated our activities thus far, and put ourselves in a position to step up a gear in the next year.