Dr. Cathy Meschievitz (Director, Office of International Programs) outlined the new initiative and what will happen over the coming months. The India 2010 Initiative is designed to canvas university-wide interest and capacity to promote academic partnerships between FAU and universities in India. FAU is one of ten universities and colleges in the U.S. selected to participate in this pilot project. Supported by the IIE International Academic Partnership Program, a university India Task Force will be named and will meet over the summer and fall 2010 to create an inventory of current activities and to identify goals for new ties to Indian institutions.

Major things we will do:

► Form an on-campus task force of faculty/administrators to take the lead on discussions and brainstorming

► Conduct institution-wide inventory of activities pertaining to India –IEA will assist.

► Participate in multiple IAPP program webinars.

► Develop a strategic plan focused on partnership with India.

► FAU Coordinator and others from FAU will be invited to attend one-week study tour in India (Fall 2010) – number able to go is not known yet

► Share best practices with other campuses participating in the IAPP program

Timeline:
Calendar 2010 for Phase 1, thereafter in 2011+ as needed in order to pursue promising partnerships and affiliations

What Happens Next?

► Dr. Meschievitz to attend initial meeting of all 10 schools and IAPP Advisory Board June 2, 2010, do follow-up memo on what is learned

► Web site established to post information to share

► Name Task Force and meet with IEA to plan data gathering steps
Hold 1:1 and group/college meetings as needed over summer and early fall

Questions/comments
Answers and comments provided at the time by Dr. Meschievitz or added now as a reply, and incorporated into these minutes.

Q - What are the tangible goals?

Tangible goals are going to be what FAU collectively and colleges individually want to pursue. Most logical things to shoot for are student exchange, scholar exchange, faculty exchange, international student recruitment to FAU for degrees or co-op studies, 3+1 projects, joint research, joint curriculum projects, capacity building.

Q - Leverage with the Fulbright program ➔ connect with those institutions IIE has

IIE will be providing ample access to their ties and connections in India and Washington DC.

Q-Is there a predisposition to certain disciplines (for task force or partnerships)?

No, partnerships are open to all disciplines. Having said that, India has several universities and institutes famous for top notch engineering, computer science, business and public administration programs that may be attractive to FAU. There is also interest in Asian Studies development at FAU and this can lend a hand to that with a few good student study abroad programs to India.

Q-Look into a different process-India experts or Fulbright scholars, FAU currently uses “class system”

The Task Force will combine personal and professional interest and knowledge of India, and help develop campus and college dialogue. The TF will work closely with established processes in each college and across FAU for the eventual creation of any agreement(s) or partnership(s) that may emerge. Nothing will be done without the express approval of colleges and the university using standard operating practices for agreement formation.

Q-What is the timeline from now until fall?

A lot of the data gathering has to be done in the summer and early fall to meet the IAPP timeline, and be ready to travel to India in Nov 2010.
Q-How can side offices contribute?

In addition to college, all offices that handle aspects of international education academics can be involved. The TF will have some members on them from obvious offices (e.g. ISSS) and we will consult others as needed.

Q-Is there any financial support?

IAPP and IIE are assisting with their staff expertise and some financial coverage for part of the India Study Tour. They will also put us into touch with grant agencies and sources of funding we can apply for eventually. IAPP offers no grants per se. FAU needs to be entrepreneurial as we approach what we want to do.

Q-Is there any help and support that the India government may want: nursing?

Yes, India may have some needs we can learn about as we move ahead. Nursing seems to be one, education another.

Q-If someone has contacts in India, can they be brought here with financial assistance from DOE or IIE?

Not likely.

Q-Can we contact the Ministry of Education in New Delhi with areas of interest in India?

The Ministry will be involved in the advisory board to IAPP.

Suggested ideas for good exploration possibilities:

--Web classes: shared curriculum, language classes

--President Saunders will be supportive of the development of distance-learning capabilities at FAU (thinks this is very attractive to new President)

--International student recruitment (but out of state tuition is expensive)

--Faculty teach course in India through e-College (international), only pay cost of faculty

--Developing jt curriculum

--Field placements for social work