Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger attended the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, in late January, as did a number of distinguished Columbia faculty members. Bollinger’s presence at the forum underscored the leadership role Columbia plays in addressing the many global issues that affect global societies today. Attending Davos was also an opportunity to increase connections with the world at large.

Bollinger was joined by Columbia Business School professor Charles Calomiris, Eli Noam, Xavier Sala-i-Martin and Joseph Stiglitz, newly appointed to the SIPA faculty, also attended.

Bollinger participated in three panels. A noted First Amendment scholar, Bollinger also threatened to kick off the workshop.”Beyond the Slogans—Making Real Trade offs Between Civil Liberties and Security” by offering an historical perspective on the evolution of freedom of speech, he said, “It’s a 20th century invention.”

Bollinger said that after the 1950s, it ebbs and flows depending on whether the U.S. feels it’s under threat or not.”

Bollinger said that after the 1950’s and 60’s, there had been a lot of strong protection for freedom of speech until recently.

Bollinger warned that under the Patriot Act the government might have access to library records and that universities might be obligated to turn over these records.”

While there have been no requests so far, Bollinger said that we’re facing a cultural shift about freedom of speech.

Nadine Gordimer, the Nobel Prize-winning author from South Africa, noted that her country had only enjoyed the protection of civil liberties for ten years.”We have to define what we mean by civil liberties,” she said. “We must beware of war, as it can legitimately provide reasons for limitation to civil liberties. But terrorism is an undecided war with no clear end or limit to its scope.”

The panel addressed two specific questions: Are universities part of the problem or part of the solution? And what can developing countries do to attract the most talented students from developing countries to colleges and universities in industrialized nations, and the tendency not to return to their native lands.

Bollinger pointed out that the return rates of students who come to the U.S. There aren’t many mysteries in the world of economics.”

Charles Calomiris, Henry Kaufman Professor of Financial Institutions, moderated a luncheon panel, titled “Why All Financial Regulation is Not Now Global,” which discussed the effects of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the 2002 bill Congress passed in the wake of Enron’s collapse to restore public confidence in corporate accounting practices. Calomiris called for more discussion of how it affects firms outside the U.S. that need to comply with its rulings.

Eli Noam, professor of Finance and Economics and director of the Columbia Institute on Tele-Information, spoke on “Searching for Growth’s Mysterious Missing Ingredient.” Sala-i-Martin said that the panel didn’t reach a consensus on growth. “I mean, who can you learn from the most?”

Professor of Economics Sala-i-Martin contributed to several panels, among them “Sharing Growth’s Mysterious Missing Ingredient.” Sala-i-Martin said that the panel didn’t reach a consensus on growth. “I mean, who can you learn from?”

One session comprised CEOs of Chinese students who graduated from U.S. universities returned to China in 1999—when the U.S. economy was booming.

More recently, with the Chinese economic expansion, up to 50 percent are going back.”

Despite the availability of some statistics, Bollinger said that very little hard data exists on what actually happens to foreign students who come to the U.S. There is little data on where they go after they graduate or what happens in their careers.”

Some scholars have a condition as you can leave, Bollinger said, “and there are people who feel that’s a problem. By restricting the flow of education and opportunities, you could create enormous frustration.”

To what extent do you indoctrinate the value that students should give back and return?”

Dean Tyson said that the benefits of education at the world’s great universities return to the developing world, even if the students themselves don’t.”

“I think there is a theoretical and cultural life,” she said, “and knowledge knows no boundaries.”

Given Columbia’s deep historic connections with and leadership role in New York City, Bollinger also participated in a panel, “The Global City,” led by Dan Docto- roff, New York City’s Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. While the informal session was not specifically about New York, the Big Apple was discussed at length. With its multi-cultural population, New York typifies a global city.

The panel, which included Guggenheim Professor Thomas Krens and Harvard Professor Michael Porter, reached a consensus on growth. “I mean, who can you learn from the most?”

Sala-i-Martin typifies a global city.

The panel addressed two specific questions: Are universities part of the problem or part of the solution? And what can developing countries do to attract the most talented back home?”

In the panel discussion, the conditions that will continue to be attractive to talented and creative people. New York needs to invest in its future, in its infrastructure.”

“Just as New York is an archetypical city, we have initiatives reaching out to every part of the globe. In addition, Columbia is a partner with the city we call home, and we are committed to its intellectual and cultural life.”

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