

**THE REPORT ON THE EVALUATION
OF THE FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
OF THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY IGNATIANUM IN CRACOW
(AKADEMIA IGNATIANUM W KRAKOWIE)**
*for the Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality
in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties (AVEPRO)*

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Introduction

From November 13 to 15, 2017, the Commission appointed by AVEPRO came to Kraków to the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow (Akademia Ignatianum w Krakowie – short form: AIK) and carried out a visit related to the Faculty's accreditation.

The Commission was composed of: Father Prof. Dr. hab. Marian Nowak – Director of the Institute of Pedagogy of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin – as chairman, members: Prof. Dr. hab. Piotr Francuz – director of the Institute of Psychology of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in Lublin, Prof. Dr. hab. Tadeusz Szubka from the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Szczecin and Agata Rujner, MA – PhD student at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (as a student representative).

A very intensive visit allowed the Commission to form an overall opinion on the high quality of education in the visited unit and is, in the opinion of the Commission, a good basis for preparing this report. The visit itself, as presented in the program (attached), consisted of the following meetings: with Father Rector, Prof. dr hab. Józef Bremer SJ, with Fr. Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy Prof. AIK, Dr hab. Tomasz Homa SJ from Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow (AIK), then with the team responsible for preparing the application, appointed on February 4, 2016 as the Coordinating Committee for the preparation of the Own Philosophical Department Report for the Holy See's Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of the Quality of Education in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties – AVEPRO, also with directors of Institutes forming the Faculty, which are: Institute of Philosophy, Institute of Cultural Studies, Institute of Psychology; and with the head of doctoral studies at the Faculty, also with the students of the Faculty of Philosophy, with academic teachers, with stakeholders, and finally with non-teaching staff - technical and administrative personnel.

As a result of these meetings, the Commission succeeded in forming an overall opinion concerning the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow and is convinced of the possibility of expressing an objective, high evaluation of individual areas related to the quality of education in the unit. Therefore, it was decided to present the basic areas of self-assessment in the following five points.

First of all, we present a general comment in accordance with the Self-Assessment Report (RAV) prepared by the Faculty itself, followed by a detailed analysis of the mission, objectives and strategy of the Faculty; its teaching and research activity; management, autonomy and resource management and a SWOT analysis carried out by the Faculty, particularly with reference to the points considered to be weak and strong, opportunities and vulnerabilities, and even threats to its stability.

General comment on the Self-Assessment Report (RAV)

The Commission underlines the very satisfactory preparation of the Faculty's proposal for self-assessment, which took the form of an internal evaluation and was presented to the Commission.

This very accurate document is assessed as an expression of great commitment and serious consideration of the task of preparing its own assessment, which is expressed in its structure and content allowing for the recording of the above mentioned aspects related to the Commission's opinion on the quality of education carried out at the Faculty of Philosophy.

After the introduction, in which the Faculty was presented, with comments on its history, organisational structure and the functioning of the Faculty, the Report goes on to discuss the mission and strategic goals of the Faculty in the field of education, research and education. Then the weak and strong points of the Faculty were shown based on the SWOT analysis, as well as opportunities and threats. The report clearly describes the didactic work and research activity of the Faculty. The final part was devoted to the human and economic resources of the Faculty, management and organisation of these resources, and finally, the assessment of the quality of the proposed and implemented scientific and didactic work.

The document was prepared as a result of cooperation of many of the persons involved, particularly those constituting the Team of directly appointed persons for the preparation of this Report, with the clear effects of integration between the members of the Commission and the Team's accomplishment of the set goal.

The only remarks that the Commission would like to express in relation to this document are some gaps related to information on the third cycle of education (doctoral studies), which in the description are presented as studies with a clear tendency to improve quality, although there are no further indications of the earlier state of these studies, as well as the current directions of reforming them. According to the Commission, their curricula should be more elaborate in their detail, as well as the need for more complete information should be released concerning the Faculty's academic journals and their priorities. The mission and vision of the Faculty in the Commission's opinion could be further expounded also in order to allow for a better understanding by all interested parties.

Vision, mission, goals and strategy of the Faculty

The Faculty of Philosophy functions as part of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, which has the status of a higher church university and is run by the South Polish Province of the Society of Jesus, which has state rights. The legal status of "Ignatianum" is defined by the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Bishops' Conference on the legal status of higher education schools established and managed by the Catholic Church on 1 July 1999 (Dziennik Ustaw RP, 1999, No. 63, item 727) and the Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia christiana* and University Statutes, approved by the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

As a Catholic University: the Ignatianum draws inspiration from the Christian vision of life, serves the human family in the spirit of the Gospel, engages in the service of faith and the promotion of justice, strives to be the privileged place of dialogue between the Gospel and culture.

In turn, as a Jesuit school, the Ignatianum shares the centuries-old world-wide educational experience of the Society of Jesus, of which it is a part, and follows the principle "*ad maiorem Dei gloriam*" (for the greater glory of God) expressing the spirit and style of the Jesuits.

The mission of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow was clearly expressed and presented on the University website: "It provides students with high-level education through acquired knowledge and skills, professional development and self-realization, as well as through Ignatian pedagogy, spiritual, moral and social development."

In the Development Strategy of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow for the years 2015-2020 of June 27, 2017, the mission is defined in a more elaborate manner as per the following three points:

1. Providing education based on universal and evangelical values as well as the latest scientific achievements, allowing for the realisation of individual and social needs (in the sphere of '*profanum*' and '*sacrum*', in the regional, national and European dimension), and creating conditions for conducting scientific research corresponding to modern standards;
2. Educating and nurturing open, stable, competent and creative, responsible and committed people, ready to undertake professional and social duties, prepared for lifelong learning;
3. Participation in international research and expert teams in the field of cultural-religious relations research between East and West in addition to the socio-cultural processes in Europe.

This mission is carried out in three aspects:

- 1 / educational – educating intellectuals in the scope of their didactic offer of future cadres, especially for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In extended terms, we talk about the scope of education, culture and its heritage, socio-political life, philosophy and ethics, world-view issues and social issues. Education in the field of medical sciences and health sciences (nursing, obstetrics and physiotherapy, public health) and social sciences that make a significant contribution to the development of science, broadly understood prevention as well as education and culture;
- 2 / research and development – development of humanities and social sciences practiced at the Ignatianum Academy, studies of cultural and religious relations between East and West, study of socio-cultural processes in Europe, research in the field of medical sciences (with particular emphasis on geriatrics and gerontology), sciences health and physical education sciences;
- 3 / attitude-shaping – forming an intellectually mature, emotionally and spiritually mature person, open to the challenges of our time, responsibly and creatively realizing his professional

and social commitment while respecting his own and other human beings dignity, as well as being able to follow the principle of "for the greater glory of God".

However, the depiction of this mission would require unification due to the multitude of versions: the approach on the official website differs from that in the Self-Assessment Report ... and yet it sounds different in the Development Strategy ... Which version should be considered as the leading and currently binding?

It seems clearer to present the aims of the Faculty, which is identical with the goal of the Ignatianum Academy, and the following is indicated as the main goal: "The aim of transforming the Ignatianum Academy in Kraków into a socio-humanities university and creating a leading Jesuit research and development centre in Central Europe and Eastern Europe", where the exchange of goals with the Faculty's development strategies has also occurred (in the Development Strategy we find an indication of such goals which in the Internet Information and in the Self-Assessment Report are given as the Faculty's strategies).

As for the mission, as can be seen on the Faculty's website, recorded by Ignatianum Fr. Prof. AIK, Dr. hab. Tomasz Homa SJ, Dean of the Faculty, as two basic aspects are listed: 1 / special attention devoted to methodological issues – method of practicing philosophy, to build the unity of such a diverse Faculty, to counteract the fragmentation of disciplines, specializations and theories, and focus on the relationship between truth and history and between knowledge and freedom; 2 / the need for greater coherence between Christian formation and philosophy and faith.

The basic strategic goal of the Faculty seems to be organising academic work, on the one hand to support the autonomy of particular specializations and fields of education, and on the other hand to consolidate everyone around the common mission and vision of the Faculty. The Faculty in the Dean's opinion faces serious initiatives of pro-quality transformation, one of which seems to be the assistance in organising the visit of the AVEPRO Commission.

Such requirement seems to also result from the current situation: while separate Institutes and their respective fields of education are prosperous, there is a notable lack of cooperation of the entire Faculty, as represented and unified by the person of the Dean, who is highly regarded and perceived as "somebody who really cares about the Faculty."

This conclusion seems to emerge from the completed evaluation questionnaires, as well as from the observed interdisciplinarity, still implemented inadequately within the Faculty.

The Commission therefore encourages further work on such fine-tuning of the Faculty's objectives and that the autonomy of individual Institutes, however, improve their participation

in the general clear vision of the Faculty and its strategy so that it can be shared by all Institutes within the Faculty.

The Commission also encourages a greater emphasis on employment according to the demand for specific specializations in accordance with the education held, as well as providing greater care to employees who undertake research and teaching in the first years of their employment to support their search for a specific profile of specialization.

The Commission approves the current concept of the Faculty's structure and work. It sees in it the possibilities to carry out interdisciplinary cooperation between the different fields of education in a broader scope. It also points to the need to pay attention to the possible isolation of particular major directions of research and dispersion within the Faculty, which can easily arise if there is no clarity and uniformity of objectives, mission and vision of the Faculty, as well as greater cooperation and proper coordination of research on the part of the Faculty. Although the Faculty has a compact campus base that allows – as the employees themselves emphasized – to meet directly, it was also stressed that the housing situation, which prevents direct contact due to recovered or rented premises in the city, is changing.

Finally, the Commission encourages the Faculty to strengthen and increase the interpersonal relations noted in conversations with employees, assessed as too rare and expressed directly in the words of the Commission meeting with employees that, "such meetings should take place more often."

The Commission also encourages more relations with other institutions of academic education in the city of Krakow itself, as well as in Poland and in the world. The current absence of a cooperation agreement with the Jagiellonian Library, the largest library in the country, indicates the directions for a possible correction of this situation. In conversations with employees, some expectation of greater cooperation was also found to be needed with the Jesuit institutions in the world, especially within the Church itself. The Commission also encourages the University to increase its own presence in social and scientific life, also through its own website, the current state of which encourages the students themselves to improve its website organisation. Among many initiatives highly rated by those interested (e.g. opportunities to visit the University by high school students run by Jesuits), it is worth considering initiatives of open days or debates, e.g. doctoral candidates also invited from other centres, or the participation of own doctoral students in such initiatives in other centres. Special activities seem to be advisable in this respect precisely in relation to quite a large group of doctoral students who are – in the opinion of the Commission – mostly not active enough in scientific and organisational fields and in social experiences (including too little activity in the field of submitting original research projects).

Teaching and research

Based on information obtained during meetings with groups creating the Faculty's community, the Commission realized the very good relationship and family atmosphere that prevails within the Faculty structure, in which it notices an essential element of the climate prevailing among teachers, students and non-teaching staff within the entire Faculty.

Students, as well as doctoral students, spoke very positively about the studies, about the choices made in their majors and specializations, stating that if they could choose them again, they would make the same choice. The list of fields of study and specializations are assessed as a, "very good offer."

They also assessed the Faculty through a questionnaire, concerning all aspects of academic life, completed in the period preceding the visit.

Members of the Commission randomly selected and analysed bachelor and master theses and recognize that they are written at a high level, as well as the conduct of all procedures related to diplomacy. Topics taken by students in the analysed work were ambitious (one of the analysed works was even written in English).

Students, especially doctoral students, pointed to some deficiencies in the study program related to workshops on methodology of research and difficulties with the perception and understanding of scientific language in the early stages of study. The Commission encourages the use of their dynamism to engage them in research and forming of, for example, research teams. On the other hand, participants of BA and MA studies pointed out that the *curricula* are not consulted enough with them, and that in classes at the various levels, the same content is repeated. The Commission therefore encouraged more attention to be paid to the descriptions of subjects and activities in the Syllabus.

There is some risk related to the specializations and the loss of their ties with the Faculty and its philosophical profile of learning – when focusing on interesting specializations that would attract students, there is a risk that the new and attractive specializations may diminish of the philosophical profile of studies. In the current state of affairs, graduates of philosophy obtain somewhat syncretic knowledge of classical and Thomistic-Suarezian philosophy and practical disciplines, such as detailed ethics and the trendy philosophical coaching.

Worthy of note is very adequate number, corresponding to the Polish requirements, also adequate in relation to the number of lecturers.

The increase in the number of foreign students, especially from Ukraine, brings with it two problems: firstly, these are linguistic problems that would require more decisive and clear rules

for their admission to university; followed by methodological and cultural problems related to both other foreign centers and other universities in Poland, where these students completed their first or second degree.

Considering the fact that the lecturers are clergymen and laymen, including members of the Society of Jesus, the problem arises of how to regulate and coordinate the types of activities they undertake more clearly. For example, the Rector or Dean's consent has to be given to yet other obligations – outside the university – of employees at other posts, or those related to pastoral and religious tasks, etc.

There is also the issue of University Publishing Company – this role has so far been held by the Publication Company of the Apostolate of Prayer, which has its own brand in the country and abroad, in the recent period, for commercial reasons, publishing religious, and religious or so-called texts and practical guides. In this situation, the Faculty intends to set up its own Publishing House suitable for the profile and academic level. The Commission encouraged reflection in this regard, however, due to the position of the WAM Publishing House may rather consider the issue of possible publishing because of practical problems and other matters.

As for the structures, the importance of the Library, currently very intensively adjusted in terms of service quality, the number of magazines and publications available, including online databases, should be emphasized. The Commission positively evaluates access to databases such as EBSCO, ScienceDirect or Springer. Already, even at this stage, the overall quality is impressive.

The Commission emphasizes the high quality of teaching, attributed in particular to the academic staff, also recognized by students and PhD students themselves. However, it would be necessary to further ensure that the didactic activities of the employees are more suited to their research profile and that didactic research does not diverge.

In connection with teaching, the Commission encourages a clearer defining of the objectives of particular activities in the Syllabus and strengthening the teaching of methodology, especially at the third level of learning, when they undertake studies with foreigners or graduates of other centers. In connection with specializations, the establishment is suggested of the importance of the basic direction and preservation of its philosophical profile before specialization giving meaning to the direction and philosophical profile, and only then to the specialization.

Therefore, it would be advisable to intensify the teaching of philosophy during the first course, i.e. teaching more in accordance with the indications of the Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia Christianiana*, Article 72, and the current indications of the Congregation in this regard.

In anticipation of a more in-depth reform of the Faculty and University, also in anticipation of announced changes in the organisation of higher education in Poland and postulated changes in the functioning of doctoral studies, refining at this stage the rules of admitting candidates is suggested for doctoral studies and the program itself, mainly for methodological subjects.

The Commission noted there is also a lack of criteria for evaluating research, thus indicating a need for a more explicit description of the objective principles of such evaluation.

Management, autonomy and resources management

Within the Faculty, the Commission noted the atmosphere of distinct and intensive cooperation between the different groups, both in terms of teachers and non-teaching staff, including IT staff, which is undoubtedly a great added value. Due to the division tasks are also indicated by the need to define more clearly the duties in specific areas of obligations arising from employment contracts.

The increase in bureaucratic procedures and the need of employees specialized in various sectors of administrative work, necessitates employment, in a changing situation on the labour market, of new employees on terms agreed with them, which causes a sense of injustice and grievance among employees who have been working for many years. Such a situation would require greater transparency in these matters and the development of clear rules for hiring, promoting and rewarding employees at the University and at the Faculty.

As far as financial resources and associated financial autonomy are concerned, the Faculty, in addition to student fees, is based on the resources of the Order – the South Polish Province of the Society of Jesus and state subsidies. The Faculty is subject to the University's central financial management system and does not have its own budget. There is a fund set annually by the Ignatianum Rector to cover the Faculty's costs in the area of participation in conferences, delegations and training, organisation of conferences and symposia, and co-financing of scientific publications.

The appointment of new faculties at particular levels is carried out according to the requirements of both Polish legislation and the Congregation for Catholic Education. In the field of scientific and research autonomy, the Faculty is guided by the University Statute and its own mission. The organisation of studies, however, is associated with the initiatives of the Rector and Dean and the directors of the Institutes and fields of study. It would be advisable to open up more to the interested persons – students with information from the career office (Academic Career Office of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow).

The Faculty does not yet apply and does not implement a more consistent logic of rotating basic functions and appropriate selection of personnel to perform that functions.

The Commission concludes that there are no clear procedures for recruitment of employees, and the Commission therefore encourages the development of clear rules on competition and clear criteria for recruitment of new staff for both teaching and non-teaching positions.

The Commission emphasizes the preserved representative criterion for the participation of members in the management of the unit (Faculty), but draws attention to the development of principles for the functioning of individual bodies: the Faculty Council, the Institute Council, etc.

Finally, the Commission encourages the search for greater stability and financial autonomy, allowing the recruitment of more permanent professors and greater employment stability also for lay and non-teaching employees. It is worth considering the establishment of, for example, the Faculty foundation.

SWOT

The Commission drew attention to the SWOT analysis carried out by the Faculty in terms of reliability and accuracy as to strengths, weaknesses and threats.

The Faculty can boast of a large number of noteworthy teachers in many fields of scientific research both on the Polish and foreign forums, which guarantees the good functioning and further dynamic development of the entire structure.

Unfortunately, arbitrariness in selecting the teaching staff, employing senior academic teachers and their unpredictability are the weaknesses of the Faculty in terms of personnel. In connection with future possibilities, the Commission recommends a closer co-operation with other academic and educational institutions both in the immediate surroundings, especially in the city of Krakow and the region, as well as with foreign centers – including Jesuit ones, in which greater opportunities for realizing the mission and the charism of the University are seen.

Attention is also drawn to a certain clarity in the description of one's own profile in research, as well as in the role of a school of thinking and practicing philosophy with reference to the mission and the charism of the Order but also in frankness to dialogue and coexistence and competitiveness of the educational proposal on the Polish market.

The existing indicators of the achieved output, currently assessed as the "B" category, should be objectively evaluated as high. In addition, the Commission considers positive the actions taken at that time and changes in emphasis in motivating employees and doctoral students as well as in promoting team activities of employees in the field of scientific research.

In the Self-Assessment Report of the Faculty of Philosophy there was no information about scientific and research institutions such as: Institute for Historical Research and Center for Christian Ethics, Tadeusz Ślipko SJ. Both institutions are also an important basis for building the

Faculty's education quality. There was also no information about magazines published at the Faculty, and in particular about the "Philosophicum Forum," which is a genuinely international periodical deserving stronger support and development.

Generally, however, the Commission has developed a positive, high opinion of the Philosophy Department of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow and submits such an opinion to the Holy See's Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of the Quality of Education in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties – AVEPRO.

Program implemented by the Commission appointed by AVEPRO

Program of the visit of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow

Day 0 (Monday 13/11/2017)

Afternoon – Arrival of the Review Group in Hotel Campanille in Krakow

19.00 - 21.00 – Briefing meeting of the Review Group in the hotel followed by dinner

Day I (Tuesday 14/11/2017)

9.00 - 9.30 – Meeting with the Rector of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow in Krakow, Fr. Prof. Dr. hab. Józef Bremer, SJ and Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Fr. Dr. hab. Tomasz Homa, SJ, Prof. AIK – Senate Hall – *Zofijowka* Building ul. Copernicus 26

9.40 - 11.00 – Meeting with the Co-ordinating Committee for the preparation of the Self-Assessment Report – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM ul. Copernicus 26

11.00 - 11.30 – Coffee break

11.30 - 12.30 – Meeting with the Directors of Institutes and Head of Doctoral Studies – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Media Center WAM

12.30 - 13.00 – Visiting the University

13.00 – Lunch break

14.30 - 15.00 – Meeting with students of the Faculty of Philosophy – Assembly Hall 412

15.00 - 15.30 – Meeting with the Editors of the Scientific Journals of the Faculty of Philosophy – Assembly Hall 412

15.30 - 16.30 – Meeting with research and teaching staff of the Faculty of Philosophy – Assembly Hall 412

16.30 - 17.15 – Meeting with Deputy Dean for General and Quality of Education and Vice-Dean for Students and PhD Students – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM

17.30 - 18.30 – Meeting with External Stakeholders – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM

18.30 - 19.00 – Meeting with PhD students of the Faculty of Philosophy – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM

Day II (Wednesday 15/11/2017)

9.00 - 10.00 – Meeting with the Rector's Council of AIK (Rector, Prorectors, Deans of the Departments, Administrative Director, Head Accountant) – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM

10.00 - 11.00 – Meeting with administrative staff – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM

11.00 - 12.00 - Meeting with technical staff – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM

12.00 - 13.00 – Time for internal deliberations of the visiting committee

13.00 – Lunch

14.30 - 15.00 – Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy – Meeting Room of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Media Center WAM

15.00 - Presentation of results and recommendations for the Faculty (meeting with the Coordinating Committee for the preparation of the Self-Assessment Report).

The response of the *Coordinating Committee for the preparation of the Self-Assessment Report of the Faculty of Philosophy for the AVEPRO Agency*

concerning

“The Report on the Evaluation of the Philosophical Faculty of the Ignatianum Academy in Cracow for the Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties (AVEPRO)”, prepared by the AVEPRO Commission of Experts who visited the Philosophical Faculty of the Ignatianum Academy on 13-15 November 2017.

Dear Sirs,

thank you for your Report which our Faculty finds very important in implementing the strategy of increasing the Faculty’s quality in terms of science and research, didactics and administration. After detailed analysis of the contents of the Report, and after discussing it with the members of the *Coordinating Committee for the preparation of the Self-Assessment Report of the Faculty of Philosophy for the AVEPRO Agency*, we feel honoured by your good opinion and we are grateful for valuable remarks and notes included in that document.

On this occasion, we would like to mention several aspects we suggest you take into account while preparing the final version of the Report (the numbers of pages refer to the Polish version of RAV and the *Evaluation Report* of the AVEPRO Commission of Experts).

1. While preparing the Self-Assessment Report (RAV), we aimed at maintaining the required briefness (our report is already too long as compared with the requirements of *Preparing the Self-evaluation Report – Notes of Guidance for Faculties and Service Units*, which says that “it should not exceed 25 pages, plus annexes”). Therefore, we tried not to include too many details in it, which is why we suppose that the AVEPRO Commission of Experts might have thought that we did not provide enough information in our document. Indeed, as for the Faculty’s journals, on page 26 of RAV we only mentioned a brief paragraph – “The Faculty’s Scientific Journals” which included the most basic data concerning all the journals of the Faculty. Also, on p. 25, only one separate paragraph, entitled “The Faculty’s scientific and research institutions”, is dedicated to the activity of the Tadeusz Ślipko Centre for Christian Ethics, and to the Institute for Historical Research (which was established after the end of the period subject to the evaluation). Moreover, the Centre’s book series was only briefly mentioned in the paragraph “The Faculty’s scientific book publications”, on p. 27.

2. Thank you for noticing the limited autonomy of the Faculty of Philosophy. In certain areas of its activity, the Faculty is indeed dependent on the decisions made by the authorities

of the whole University (e.g. financing the Faculty's activity, the procedures of employing the teachers, the criteria of research evaluation, contacts for the cooperation with the Jagiellonian Library). Thus, some remarks of the AVEPRO Commission of Experts concerning the Faculty of Philosophy first of all refer to the whole University and, as a consequence, also to the Faculty of Philosophy. We believe that they shall be taken into account by the authorities of the whole University, which shall make it possible to implement them at the Faculty.

3. We have the impression that the Faculty of Philosophy, which is very varied as for its disciplines and specialisations of studies, is mainly viewed in the Commission's Report from the perspective of the Institute of Philosophy and its activity. There is no doubt that the elements of philosophy should be present in specialisations other than philosophy. However, we are obliged to limit the presence of philosophy in other specialisations due to the resolution of the AIK Senate concerning the time and point limitations (ECTS) for particular specialisations and levels of education.

4. With regard to your statement that there are no "current directions of reforming" doctoral studies (*Report...*, p. 3), please be informed that we have been trying to reform them for a year. In order to achieve this aim, the Faculty's authorities and the directors of doctoral studies have increased the rank of seminars with the scientific supervisor in a didactic process, they have introduced additional courses in the methodology of humanist research, and they linked the scientific and organisational activity of doctoral students with the current work of particular departments.

5. While reading certain fragments of the AVEPRO Report of the Commission of Experts, we had the impression that two separate but closely related documents were merged. The two documents are: the Faculty's mission and strategy, and the Academy's mission and strategy, as well as amendments to the Academy's mission and strategy (*Report...*, p. 5). Thank you for noticing the problem with their proper interpretation and for indicating unclear fragments. Your remarks shall make it possible for us to correct the inconsistencies.

6. As for the lack of cooperation agreement with the Jagiellonian Library, which is emphasized by doctoral students (*Report...*, p. 7), please note that all our students and employees could and still can use the resources of the Library in its reading room. In the evaluated period of time, we had an agreement with the Library concerning borrowing books by scientific and administration employees. In January 2018 we also signed an agreement according to which students and doctoral students of AIK may also borrow books from the Jagiellonian University.

7. We would like to suggest correcting the information related to secondary school students who visit our Academy, including the Faculty of Philosophy (*Report...*, p. 7). They include students of various state and private schools, not only schools managed by the Jesuit Fathers. The students of Jesuit secondary schools (from Nowy Sącz and Cracow) constitute only a small percentage of the youth visiting our Academy.

8. Thank you for your important remark according to which “there is some risk related to the specializations and the loss of their ties with the Faculty and its philosophical profile of learning” (*Report...*, p. 8-9).

9. However, we need to explain certain details related to the kind of philosophy taught at the Faculty of Philosophy of AIK. In particular, we mean the sentence: “In the current state of affairs, graduates of philosophy obtain somewhat syncretic knowledge of classical and Thomistic-Suarezian philosophy and practical disciplines, such as detailed ethics and the trendy philosophical coaching” (*Report...*, p. 9). Perhaps, the *Report* should mention the fact that what the Commission understands as “syncretism”, and what the Institute of Philosophy calls “pluralism”, results from the guidelines issued by the authorities of the Jesuit Order. In the document entitled *Guidelines for Formation in the European Centres of the Society of Jesus*, which we have to take into account, since we also teach philosophy to Jesuit seminarians from Slavic countries (such as Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic), in the chapter describing philosophical studies (2,19 – 2,26), we read that “the Jesuit philosophical formation in twenty-first century Europe cannot be confined to one school of philosophy”. Also, the document recommends “sensitivity to pluralism”, and explains that “we need to lay particular stress on developing a genuine literacy in a variety of philosophical approaches”. Moreover, the practical dimension of philosophical studies is emphasized, as the preparation for a dialogue with various European orientations and trends in thought is given the priority. Therefore, our curriculum of philosophical studies should support the “sensitivity to pluralism”, or – more directly – the pluralism of approaches.

10. As for the indication that there should be “more decisive and clear rules for the admission [of foreign students] to university” (*Report...*, p. 9), please note that the Academy has proper Regulations concerning the recruitment of foreign students (including those from Ukraine) which specifies proper requirements for those students. Perhaps, if we had submitted those Regulations to the Commission of Experts, the above mentioned suggestion would not have been formulated.

11. As for the issue of the “University Publishing Company” (*Report...*, p. 9) – perhaps in the course of our discussions certain inconsistencies occurred, which we hereby wish to

correct. The situation is as follows: the Ignatianum Academy in Cracow has its own Publishing House in which the books by the Faculty's employees are published. In the evaluated period of time, the Publishing House published scientific books in co-edition with the WAM Publishing Company. WAM's scientific series, e.g. "Philosophical Thought", are appreciated in the academic environment and make a major contribution to the development of science in Poland. Recently, the co-editing cooperation between those two publishing companies has finished, which was rightly evaluated by the AVEPRO Commission of Experts as a decision that weakens the range of influence of the Ignatianum Academy Publishing House.

Also, we wish to explain (if we did not make it clear during our talks) that the Faculty of Philosophy, while managing its own book series and issuing its own magazines, was not going to and is not going to create any publishing companies on its own.

12. We suggest you indicate that both the Faculty and the whole University are mainly financed by state subsidies (*Report...*, p. 11) – the resources of the Jesuit Order (mainly infrastructure and human resources) make only a small contribution. Full-time students do not pay for their studies and they do not pay any entrance fees. Students of extramural courses or postgraduate students pay fees for their studies (it is a common practice at most universities).

We believe that our remarks shall help you to prepare the final version of the *Report on the Evaluation of the Philosophical Faculty of the Ignatianum Academy in Cracow for the Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties (AVEPRO)*.

Yours faithfully,

Members of the Coordinating Committee

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Wydziału Filozoficznego
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