International and Area Studies Action Plan Meeting March 31, 2009

This meeting was one of a series of open meetings the Library held to gather input for the final Action Plan report to the Provost. The following notes report on the general themes and concerns about the draft Action Plan expressed at the meeting.

International and Area Studies:
Concern expressed that this model is organized to support undergrads at the expense of scholars
Direct stack access in Asian is a boon; as is direct access to collections in Stacks.
Asian as now configured meets the needs of one participant in the discussion and should not be changed.
Concern that the proposed Area Studies model skewed to Title VI
Foreign languages lost lots of staff with specialized skills when they became a school, concern that the International and Area studies team’s recommendations will affect ability to attract grad students and faculty
International documents should be part of this unit?
How to provide better access, longer hours to these collections and deep expertise?

Humanities/Literature/Languages:
The team’s report did not adequately address the need of humanists; Literature & Philosophy doesn’t fit with area studies for research; need support for literature, humanities, linguistics worthy of a strong research university
There was no consultation with Modern Languages and Linguistics (MLL) faculty regarding literature analysis, other than the MLL librarian on the Team. The English Librarian was invited to meet with the committee but was asked only to provide brief information about the English Library.
Propose that we take out MLL and have new committee to look at NSM #16—combining English and MLL.
There was no consultation with humanities faculty.
Kaufman agreed that support and services for humanities, particularly for those who study literature, was not addressed adequately in the team’s report. She agreed to establish another group to identify and focus on these needs and that will consult widely with humanities faculty. (Note, this team is being formed currently and will be charged the first week of May. Its recommendations will be due for submission by October 15, 2009.)

Collections:
Need open major working collections; a draw for visiting scholars
Dismay that French Literature collection in Stacks was split between two floors

Spaces:
Suggestion to move English to Slavic Library space on the 2nd floor, move Area Studies into English on the 3rd Floor
Consider spaces – make clear who gets what and why
Make 2nd floor a humanities floor
What goes where? English/Modern Languages 2nd; area and international 3rd? Should the 2nd Floor be exclusively European-focused? (No, was the general consensus)

Staffing:
Still have German or Korean vacancies; staffing needs should be included in our report to Provost

General Comments:
Need broad faculty consultation
Name/identity – how do we make sure that distinct areas of specialization are visible?
What are the guiding principles?
Bringing smaller units together would increase hours and access to expert staff