Action Plan Meeting
April 25, 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.

Applied Health Sciences:
What will current space be used for after it is vacated? Kaufman responded that no plans have yet been developed for this space.

Area and International Studies:
Difference among area, international, humanities disciplines like history not appreciated by LAS Administration or the Library

Intermediate moves not most efficient and disruptive

Title VIII – Slavic Summer Lab; 100 people – won't be able to be accommodated when Slavic is in Room 200; need discussion about timeline

Need more vision to frame the document, rationale for the International and Area Studies Library; Area Studies Centers are on board – but the Library should discuss with them and then articulate how new space will function

Concern about recruiting grad students, faculty, undergrads if there are no separate area studies libraries. We need to compete with Harvard and Columbia.

Biology:
Faculty retention issue for Entomology; need to know plan – especially expertise

English/Literatures
Collections will be decimated; delete paragraph and replace with statement saying English and Modern languages collections and services will be examined by faculty, students, librarians to determine new model.

Humanities:
Work with Humanities Council; Library is lab for humanities; Provost should offer equivalent funding of a science lab to the Library for benefit of humanities faculty

Scholarly Commons:
Improve faculty input in Scholarly Commons.

Collections:
Print collections are important and will remain so into the long-term.
Space:
Possibilities for internal renovations to bring units together, such as an elevator form Slavic to English with Asian as an access point into Stacks have been ignored explicitly.

Study spaces – is the Library looking to recapture the lost seats?

General Comments:
Need to talk with faculty in groups of 1, 2, 3

In times of change, people need to hear “What’s happening and why? How will it affect me?“

Need to maintain experts.

Action plan not clear about staffing levels, need to specify current staffing levels and future.

Provost needs to commit to supporting this initiative, it will be disruptive and expensive if not properly funded.

What are the priorities for scholarship?

Online portals and guides are insufficient markers of identity for distinct areas of inquiry

Action plan needs vision to be more explicit

Sense that the proposals mean decreasing access to books, people

Only certain people know what “the plan” is; what’s the hidden agenda?

Action plan too vague. Should be a plan of leadership with a vision, and should reflect the vision of the planning groups

Extend timeline of closings – not enough time to do it right

Action plan will be posted for comment by all Library Faculty before is submitted

Transparency and trust are close to zero; work of teams was ignored

Level of uncertainty is stressful, especially to staff