

AUG 4 - 1955

Staff Minutes  
September 8, 1954

Present: CBF, JM, CG, EFD

1. In connection with the ACLS request for RF consideration of further help on personnel studies, CBF suggested that DH officers look over the material already produced by Wellemeyer and his assistants. This includes the recent analysis of Latin American personnel and earlier studies of Near Eastern and other specialists. EFD will circulate these reports.
2. EFD reported the arrival of the new request from W.R. Parker for additional assistance of one or two years to the MLA for the Foreign Language Program. EFD will circulate this for later discussion and meanwhile will write Parker saying he will get in touch with him after DH discussion.
3. [In connection with the DH survey of area studies, CBF reported that he had read JM's memorandum on the Harvard situation and that his chief impression was that this represented the position of DH five years ago on how to maintain and enhance the study of foreign areas. It is difficult to determine to what extent Harvard is typical of other American universities in its planning and accomplishment. As things stand there now, several things appear clear. All Ph.D.'s in area studies are joint at Harvard. The limit on the absorption of Far Eastern personnel seems to have been reached. Adequate funds are available for travel and there appears to be no need for DH to consider assistance for graduate fellowships. Perhaps some free time for staff members is needed which could be provided by RF funds. JM modified this phrase in favor of unspecified research funds. CG pointed out that Harvard is unusual, if not unique, in the incentives which exist there to write and publish through the research programs and the Harvard Press. JM believes that the principle of "inner persuasion" is now sufficiently established and there are enough key people in the administration and faculty who believe in the importance of area studies to guarantee their continuation. Actually Harvard is prepared to continue its commitments for Far Eastern, Russian and Near Eastern studies. For the other areas Harvard will be content to have a single spokesman or representative.

CBF emphasized his earlier remarks by pointing out that Harvard has not concerned itself with new outlets for its trained area personnel. In general education little is being done with the non-Western areas, and although inclusion of work of this kind creates many theoretical and practical problems, it is of great importance for American education. At the present time Colgate requires one area program course in the sophomore year for all of its students. The Far Eastern general education courses at Harvard now draw about 200 students per year, but no similar courses seem to exist for Slavic areas, Near Eastern or other non-Western areas. If such courses were developed, they might serve to cut down enrollment in the Far Eastern course. This whole problem of area courses in general education is one to be kept in mind for further exploration. What problems do general education courses in foreign areas create for people teaching in the field? What needs to be done for

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Harvard Univ.  
Area studies

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Area studies

the broadening of disciplines? Is the present organization of the few area courses given arbitrary or artificial? It is worth noting that the Board of Overseas Training and Research of the Ford Foundation is now awarding grants to teachers giving general area courses. ]

This led to a discussion of why there exist no area study programs for Europe or Latin America. All American universities have heavy commitments on Europe. Why is the area type approach proper for Far Eastern and other non-Western areas and not for Europe and Latin America?

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*African studies* [ In connection with JM's visit to Boston University and its program of African studies the question was raised concerning employment of graduates of the African program. The Latin American program at BU at present is entirely at the undergraduate level and no mention was made of the Brazilian Institute, which is at present without a director, if indeed it still exists. ]

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