

Rethinking Area and International Studies at the UW-Madison

Leveraging Mellon Foundation Support

Approved by the International Institute Advisory Committee

November 7, 2012

Guiding Principles

1. The Mellon Foundation grant to the UW-Madison to develop new models of structuring, supporting, and conducting area and international studies was intended to spur sustainable institutional *and* intellectual innovation. We will measure our success by the progress we make in promoting both.
2. Our intent is to strengthen area and international studies as foundational knowledge for international and global scholarship broadly defined, hewing to a central premise of the Mellon proposal: Deep knowledge of regional particularities, including language knowledge, and systemic and theoretical advancement in and across the disciplines go hand in hand. The Mellon proposal argues for redefining area and international studies as a theoretically and disciplinarily attuned cross-regional *conversation* among scholars who are regionalists *and* globalists, systemic thinkers *and* reservoirs of particularistic knowledge, including language knowledge. We seek new ways of spanning the theoretical and the empirical.
3. Title VI support for research and faculty development has slipped during the past 50 years as other grant mandates such as funding language courses, funding library acquisitions, conducting outreach programs, and evaluating impact have taken up more and more of the Title VI budgets. Yet the core of every strong area studies center is a prominent, engaged faculty community brought together by their research in a region. We should redress slippage in faculty research support to the greatest extent possible.
4. Supplemental funding from the Division of International Studies should buttress all elements of the Mellon initiative, including building sustainable structures for area and international studies on campus.

Key Initiatives

1. **Area and International Studies Fellowships for Incoming Graduate Students**
 - a. To recruit strong incoming graduate students in the humanities and social sciences and related fields.
 - b. For incoming graduate students.
 - c. One-time awards for up to \$5,000 for field research, or the development of language or cultural competence, to be used in the student's first three years of graduate school (typically taken in the summer), timing determined in consultation with advisor. These awards can supplement other funding.
 - d. Departments will submit a ranked list of up to 3 students. A faculty committee from the International Institute will evaluate applications. This process should conclude in early 2013 in time for fellowship offers to be included in letters to recruited incoming students.
 - e. Twenty fellowships are expected to be awarded each year.

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2. Area and International Studies Research Awards

- a. To support single or multi-scholar research in one or more regions. *Projects funded through these awards should have transformative intellectual or institutional potential.*
- b. For UW-Madison faculty, staff, and students.
- c. Grants of between \$5,000 to \$50,000 for a period of one to three years to directly support research and other work whose deliverables might include scholarly publications, teaching and learning, improved public understanding, institution building, and development. Grants normally do not support faculty salaries or graduate assistantships, but may be used for staff or hourly salary support.
- d. Examples might include *but are not limited to*:
 - Individual or collaborative faculty research
 - Research seminars, workshops, or conferences
 - Co-teaching courses or other innovative approaches to teaching in area and international studies
 - New language training methods or modules
 - Funding for graduate students in area and international studies, including language training
 - Outreach that will foster increased interest in area and international studies
- e. Faculty and staff can apply individually or in teams to the International Institute, where a committee will evaluate applications.
- f. For 2012-13 the application deadline will be in early spring term 2013.

3. Area and International Studies Institutional Transition Planning

- a. To develop improved, sustainable structures for funding and organizing area and international studies at UW-Madison.
- b. The International Institute welcomes ideas from UW-Madison faculty and staff that concretely address any number of future possibilities in international and area studies, including *but not limited to*:
 - New organizational configurations for centers, institutes, and programs
 - New incentive structures for faculty and staff, including improvements in staffing efficiencies
 - New approaches to faculty hiring in departments
 - Rationalization of existing and future degree and certificate programs
 - New methods of funding, teaching, and learning for low-enrollment languages
 - Plans for improving competitive graduate student recruitment
 - Plans for advancement and sustainably funding foreign area research
 - Innovative approaches to increasing library resources
 - Innovative ways of crossing institutional boundaries (centers, departments, and schools) in both intellectual and administrative work
 - Plans for improving technology that can be used for innovative teaching and conferencing
 - Plans for evaluation of area and international studies on campus
- c. The International Institute Advisory Committee will review proposals for Institutional Transition Planning at its monthly meetings on a rolling basis.