Dean’s Response to the Program Review Committee’s Final Report  
Asian Studies Program  
July 10, 2001

As the results of program review indicate, Asian Studies is a strong interdisciplinary program that makes significant contributions to the University’s mission. It has established an admirable record of outreach to alumni and the Northwest Ohio business community, developed exchange programs that offer our students rich opportunities to study abroad, provided undergraduates opportunities for systematic study of East Asia at a time when that region is becoming even more critical in world affairs, and made significant contributions to international study at Bowling Green State University. With minimal support from the College, the Asian Studies faculty and the Program’s Director have shown great dedication to the program and to informing Bowling Green students about Asia. Theirs has been a labor of love that has benefited the University in significant ways.

The Program Review Committee’s final report calls attention to the high quality of the program and underscores its many contributions to the University. The report recommends that the Asian Studies Director and faculty should be more aggressive in fostering awareness of Asia and Asian Studies on campus, devote greater attention to student recruitment, and develop assessment procedures more closely linked to learning outcomes. It also calls upon the College to provide greater support for the program, emphasizing the immediate need for compensation for the Director, office space and equipment, and secretarial support.

Dr. Fuji Kawashima’s response is largely in agreement with the findings and recommendations of the PRC’s final report. He suggests a different name for the proposed International Programs Council, urging that it be sharply differentiated from the existing Office of International Programs. He also cautions against combining Asian Studies with an Office of International Studies, emphasizing that the two programs have different orientations and should retain separate identities. Finally, he urges that the College give serious attention to the external reviewers’ recommendation that a tenure track line in Japanese language and literature be added to GREAL.

I concur with the findings and recommendations of the Program Review Committee, subject to the following stipulations:

1. The College will provide the Director of the Asian Studies Program with released time (one course per year with funds to enable her/his home department to hire a part-time replacement) beginning in the 2001-02 academic year. The College will also provide the Director with a stipend of $1,500 per year as additional compensation for administrative duties performed, beginning in the 2001-02 academic year.

I will discuss with the Provost the best name for the council he will form to coordinate international studies at Bowling Green State University.
While it is my intention to provide space for Asian Studies in close proximity to International Studies for the purpose of enabling the two programs to share a copy machine, fax machine, and secretary, it is not my intention to make Asian Studies part of International Studies organizationally. Nevertheless, I do envision close collaboration between area studies programs like Asian Studies, foreign language departments, and International Studies to promote international education at BGSU and increase the number of our students who study abroad.

During the next three years, the College will work with the Director of Asian Studies and other Department Chairs—including the Chair of GREAL—to identify an additional tenure track line that would support Asian Studies. Because of pressing demands for faculty in a variety of other areas, the College is not able to make promises about this line.

I congratulate the Asian Studies Program on its achievements and look forward to working with its Director and faculty to help it strengthen its programs and enhance its visibility in the campus community and to prospective students.

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Donald G. Nieman, Dean                  Date

Concurred:

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John W. Folkins, Provost                 Date