New Directions Pre-Retreat Town Hall Discussion (April 10, 2008)

**Topic: Library Space and Its Relationship to Services**
Session: 1 | Table: 8 (1st Table)
Participants: R. Heckart, T. Leonard, J. McKenzie, B. Krell, D. Duer, J. Dorner, E. Woods

**Comments about Proposed Starting Points and New Suggestions for Consideration**

- Possibly some of the steps outlined for a task force will actually be accomplished through the New Directions process, for example, identifying services “vital to a thriving research-oriented university.”

- Perhaps clarify that first five starting points are part of the strategic planning process described earlier in the document.

- Possibly move ahead with experimenting with new space uses and services in a current space, such as the Ed Psych library.

- Collect additional information (such as the documents referred to by Tom Leonard) about campus and Library space planning issues and consider how Library space planning operates in the broader university environment.

**Session 1 | Table 8 (2nd Table)**

1. Technical Services functions must remain on campus and in central space because their functions are closely connected to the physical collections. All technical service functions are inter-connected and cannot be separated.

2. Serving patrons with disabilities is a large space issue. Too many library spaces and meeting rooms are inaccessible or difficult to reach by disabled individuals. There is a major lack of adequate disabled parking space near campus libraries.

3. A high level strategic plan for library space usage is critical. The Library must be prepared to respond and cooperate with academic departments and campus administrators.

4. Many library spaces need major technological upgrades to function as modern information and study facilities (e.g. insufficient electrical outlets). A strategy needs to be developed and articulated for improving the Library’s technological infrastructure.

5. A physical space assessment and inventory needs to be done to determine major problems with facilities, such as roof leaks, bad windows, inadequate air circulation, etc.

6. Locating reference and information services staff in book stacks, dorms, classroom buildings, and the Free Speech Cafe are important outreach opportunities. The Library needs to explore more avenues for nontraditional approaches to services.
7. Many libraries have problems with the lack of flexible and differentiated spaces for student uses. There are problems with students who want noisy versus quiet areas. Many GSIs conduct office hours in library spaces and create noise difficulties for other users.