

Curricular Essentials Retreat
August 19, 2013
Peirce Hall

8:15-8:50—Breakfast in the Alumni Dining Room.

9:00-9:20—Welcome and general comments by President Decatur, Provost Klesner, and Professors David Rowe and Carol Schumacher, co-chairs of the Curricular Essentials Committee.

9:20-10:20—Breakout session: *What are the attributes of a liberally educated person?*

Relevant documents: The College's mission statement and statements about learning goals, a summary of the Curricular Essentials committee's discussion of this question, a summary of the Mellon CIP/Essentials grant on the six essentials and how general education might be imagined.

10:20-10:30— Break

10:30 - 12:00— Breakout session: *Different approaches to fostering the attributes of a liberally educated person.* Discussions of the three heuristic approaches generated by the committee plus the current general education curriculum.

Questions for discussion: What does this approach do to foster the traits of a liberally educated person (as identified in the previous session)? What are the tradeoffs inherent in the approach?

12:00 -1:00—Lunch and whole group discussion of *Approaches to liberal education.*

1:10 - 2:10— Breakout Session: *Other Curricular Elements:* experiential learning, freshman seminars, January terms, student portfolios, Health and Physical Fitness. (Groups should feel free to add a sixth element, if they wish.)

Questions for discussion: Discuss the role these curricular elements play in fostering the traits of a liberally educated person. In thinking about institutional priorities¹, which three of these are most important?

2:10-2:15— Break

2:15 - 2:45— Whole group wrap-up on *Additional Curricular Elements.*

2:45 - 3:15— Whole group discussion: *Where do we go from here?*

Reception in the Peirce Pub.

¹ The phrase “institutional priority” should not be equated with the phrase “graduation requirement.” We can put institutional resources into enhancing our offerings and encouraging students to take advantage of opportunities, whether or not we choose to require them.