

Presidents Office

9:05 AM (2
hours ago)

to bcc: faculty

Dear Faculty,

Last time we spoke, I said that we needed to work quickly on the core curriculum development for the fall. I know a lot of you have been anxiously waiting for more information, and I'm happy to have the opportunity to update you before the end of the semester.

I received a lot of feedback on my Executive Summary. Many thanks to everyone who commented. One thing is clear: the number 16 is too big. It would interfere with some AOCs and all double majors and senior theses and the rest. There are so many great things happening at the college, and we want that to continue. In particular, we don't want to discourage any students from applying, whether they're interested in Great Books, Chemistry, or Economics. So, for now I am proposing a goal of 8 classes (four in techne and four in virtue), the equivalent of a solid minor for all students. I think these classes are going to be really exciting and generate a lot of positive press. They will also create a meaningful sense of community and help the college grow.

One proposal that caught my eye for how to structure the curriculum was by Carl Shaw, and I had a really productive conversation on Monday with him. I'm going to ask him to take an organizing role over the summer, working with others to put together classes for the fall. Carl has in mind a literature class, but we'd love to see something in philosophy, history, art history, something in the classics of the social sciences. We want strong classes that professors are excited to teach and students are excited to take.

We're also going to want to try out some techne classes (today I am going to reach out to Chris Kottke and Melissa Crow to work on that). These groups will be working with the EPC and, most likely, the director of CYC to ensure faculty input and a smooth transition. If you're interested in working with Chris (if he accepts) or Carl over the summer, please reach out to them. Summer stipends will be available.

If we can get four good classes rolling in the fall, we'll have something positive to show the board and the legislature, and we'll be able to figure out what worked and what could be improved so that these kinds of classes will get better and better.

Finally, I know things have been difficult, but what we're doing here is unprecedented and great things are happening. We've got money coming in. Negotiations are nearly

complete for salary increases. We are on pace to pass our record for new student enrollment. If you're thinking about leaving, give it another year. If we continue to work together, there is no doubt in my mind New College will be the envy of liberal arts colleges throughout the nation.

Richard Corcoran
Interim President