

Notes from DRTF Retreat
28 September 2018
Grossman 209

The task force decided that we should make the following recommendations to the faculty:

1. The existing Precepts shall be replaced by the Core Capacities. The following edits should be made to the version of the Core Capacities that was presented at the May 2017 faculty retreat.

- a) In the Collaboration circle – “leadership” and “cooperation” should be added.
- b) “Creative Capacity” should be changed to simply “Creativity”.

2. Students shall be required to build (over the course of four years) a Portfolio that demonstrates how they have addressed the Core Capacities. The portfolio will showcase work from classes, co-curricular activities, athletics, etc.

3. All students shall complete a “first-year seminar” course. This course will explore the general philosophy of a liberal arts education, how the core capacities (and other requirements) serve to ensure a liberal arts education, and how core values of DEI are essential to the liberal arts mission.

We will make this recommendation with the full understanding that implementation (and maintenance) of such a requirement will require substantial logistical effort. We would need to have a director of the first year program, substantial participation from current faculty members, and possibly some additional staffing.

4. The W1 requirement should be retained.

Note: It was not formally decided that the three-semester language requirement should be retained as currently formulated. However, our conversations have always led in that direction. It may be a good idea to formalize this “recommendation” as part of an overall set of recommendations being brought to the faculty.

5. The existing “Area” requirements should be replaced by a set of “Modes of Inquiry” requirements.

- a) We may wish to use a different name than “Modes of Inquiry”.
- b) We will work with faculty to determine the number of “modes”
- c) We will work with faculty to determine what specific “modes” to have.

6. We should bring in a visiting speaker from a peer institution that has recently completed a revision of its general education requirements. The visiting speaker can meet with the DRTF and hold an open talk with Colby faculty.