

## April 14, 2016 Town hall - What does the Ursinus of the future look like?

- What is our mission/values?
- Who are we? Who do we want to be?
- What do we do well? What are our special characteristics?
- Where do we want to go? How do we get there?

### Missing questions:

What are the challenges coming from the environment?

Are we positioned to address the challenges? How can we respond to external pressures?

What are we not doing well?

### Mission and Values

General consensus about our mission and values: liberal education, CIE, Core, Inquiry, answers to questions that shape our lives, Egalitarianism; shape our students to be useful/civic engagement

Liberal Education-Inquiry

Egalitarianism

Useful and engaged students

Socio economic diversity at the college that benefits our students; our students don't know what opportunities they have and we can show them (our students do not have a sense of entitlement)

Residential experience – not lose this aspect as part of liberal education; living in community

### Who are we? Who do we want to be?

We need to become better at explaining to the world why what we offer is better/ is valuable; Educating the whole person; Need to present ourselves in a coherent way to the world; Do what we do well, do it better, explain to the world why it's important; We understand who we are and need to work on how to present it; Ursinus is the most overly humble place; The way we present ourselves needs to be coherent.

Competing with other places; What we do well; doing it better

Deep genuine commitment to liberal education; CIE, new core, centers all hang together as solid liberal arts mission

Looking to the future we want to be clear to outside world about how all these come together.

4 year liberal arts college – if explore graduate programs how would be support this? Would post bacc change the nature of the college; going toward graduate may be a mistake; Arcadia – nice bio department but just as crowded and financially limited as us; wasn't reflecting that well on their ug program; Might dilute out our ability to do what we do well; What makes us think we can compete in the market (graduate)?

Is it possible to do graduate programs differently? Can Ursinus design a program for business exec that gives something extra; Raising the level of liberal arts beyond 4 years

Graduate programs – expands opportunities for study; are we doing things to get better; how are we re-evaluating the right thing to do; being creative and be unique

Graduate experiences are becoming more of a necessity in the world

Meet the needs of the current market; graduate experiences are becoming part of the norm

Start looking outward about what we like about other colleges; experiences at other liberal arts colleges differ; find out what we can add/change in the Ursinus environment

Online courses; Hybrid courses; Incoming students may want these options

Need to deal with the practical, day to day challenges; Lacking info technology tool to streamline admin requests

Free time up to dedicate to individual students; Don't see students proactively learning new technologies

Focus resources to help us do what we do better

Fostering different kinds of collaboration; inter-institutional collaboration; untapped potential within the college; Fostering different kinds of collaborations (in and outside institution)

Make clear the importance of a focus on inquiry to a life after college; One of the three items – inquiry

Challenge we face is the story that what we are doing may not lead to a job; come up with a way to make clear the

importance of inquiry based education to life after college; Communicate this more effectively
Things that make us successful in the past are not necessarily what will make us successful in the future; Don't disregard other paths
Take what we do well and do it better or reach a broader or more diverse group of people; Post bacc and pre-matric
We face a lot of outward challenges; Are we teaching students to work collaboratively and do we model that collaboration? Collaborative work is becoming norm/expectation

### **What do we do well/special characteristics?**

Bringing a high quality education to a diverse body of students; Working with students who experience a challenge radically different from high school; get most of them to work at a high level that is a credit to students and the college; we generate relationships (you guys are friendly with your students!); quality of engagement we have with our students from both faculty and staff
Putting students in positions of responsibility that challenges them and their judgement; relate what they are doing in the classroom to outside
Individualized education; Promoting this individualized education needs human resources to meet expectations (would like to see strategic planning reflect this consideration); Very real resource challenge (human and financial); Very difficult to meet expectations that students have in terms of level of support

### **Where do we want to go? How do we get there?**

Ursinus/Columbia connection – increase these types of connections; Use the centers as a way to bring in more post graduate/pre business world fellows; increase number of post docs through centers
Expose students to exciting new things
CLIR post doc fellows; brings in digital folks to support technology initiatives on campuses
International experiences; full semester experience
Space on campus that have potential to support student success; Working to improve the spaces we have
Weaving in the career piece into what we are doing; integrate the core questions into interactions with students
Make sure students know that they can come back to use support services; Because our students are often first generation they may not know their potential; training them to be critical thinkers; keep the door open who may need a second try at career; current CPD offers the services; make that connection more explicit to alums
Take better advantage of Post docs; good talent for little money; Look for other sources of resources.
External factors – better integration with Collegeville as a whole
Staff Assembly volunteer activities in Collegeville
Cool college town; how do we give our students more opportunity to be active in the community; CEDC
Break down of silos of how students experience the campus and see students through their whole lifetime; campus see students more holistically
Incoming students as pipeline to alumni base
Integrate the use of core questions to break down the silos; have the student experience cross all areas
Opportunities to talk to each other are few; conversations like this may be more useful to break down silos and connect

**How does this process align with current plan?** Outcomes and progress of current plan can and will inform new plan  
**Are there pieces of the current initiatives that can be leveraged for new ideas?** HUB, PhillyX, IDC, scholarship  
 Are pieces of current initiatives that we could add on to creatively?

Uncategorized comments:

Hold campus meetings in room that we can hear each other better; Introduce yourself before you speak;  
 Idea exchange – make sure it comes up search engine for Ursinus.