Herrington Bryce  
Liberal Arts University Statement

There are both sufficient room and a necessity for a strong liberal arts college in the mix of nationally prominent schools. The issue is whether we are imaginative enough to be a singularly great school by the community we create. The core curriculum of a William and Mary as a liberal arts college will not differentiate it; for the core offerings will remain similar across colleges and universities whether they are called liberal arts or not. Markets, relevance and accreditation requirements will dictate a common core.

Thus, my emphasis is on William and Mary as a community. What shall that community be? How shall the players in that community interact with the objectives of growing and of serving? Answering and exploring these types of questions will guide our modus operandi. The answers will rationalize our curriculum and how we deliver courses. Accordingly, the cutting-edge question for both purpose (call it a liberal arts education) and distinction will not be what, it will be how.

In my view, therefore, “how” should be the driver in planning a distinctly superior liberal arts curriculum in the 21st Century. It should be the change driver and the basis of sharpening our brand. The "what" or the curriculum is hardly as flexible as is the method, and both are stronger in their contributions when placed within the proper community setting. Therefore, I go community, method, and curriculum in defining the differentiating character of "liberal arts" at an institution such as William and Mary into the 21st century.