To: Members of the Academic Policies Committee

From: College of Arts and Sciences Chairs and Directors

Integration is an important part of a student’s baccalaureate degree and we wholeheartedly agree that integration should be a baccalaureate degree goal as well as a liberal education core goal and outcome. We are concerned about the number of experiences required for all students in the current APC draft for the liberal education core framework. In particular, we feel that three experiences is probably at least one experience too many.

We are excited to see the range of experiences available for all incoming first year students through living-learning communities, blugold bundles, first year living courses, introductory honors seminars and the collegiate bridge program. These experiences have the potential to deliver a foundational integrated experience to a majority of our students. We see the potential for contributing another integrated experience through a variety of approaches, including selected liberal education core courses at both the upper- and lower-division level, further blugold bundles or paired courses, study abroad or domestic immersion experiences.

The depth of integrated experiences for most students is likely to occur through their selected primary programs of study. As such, we feel that two integrated experiences within the liberal education core will suffice. We are concerned about the resources required to deliver three high-quality integrated experiences for all students through the liberal education core, and ask that the Academic Policies Committee consider reducing this core requirement to two experiences.