

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: "Plan of Education for Dickinson College," by Benjamin Rush

Date: 1785

Location: RG 1/1 - 3.2.8

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Plan of education for
Dickinson College.

I of religious instruction

As the fear of the LORD is the beginning
of all wisdom, and should be the end &

Object of all education, the youth in this
College shall be instructed in the principles
and obligations of the Christian religion.

~~The following method shall be adopted.~~

~~For this purpose, all the youth in
the College under the age of shall
be taught the catechisms of their respective
Churches.~~

For this purpose

^{It} Public prayers shall be held every morning
& evening at such hours as shall be agreed
to by the faculty of the College. For the im-
-provement of the youth of the ^{senior} first class,
they shall at the pleasure of the Principal
or professor who directs the public worship
read one or more than one Chapter
of the bible every morning & evening, some
of these ^{Students} shall set a psalm & direct the
music of the college in the evening. . . .

ly
The Principal shall preach at least
once every Sunday to the Students of the
College & to such others as chose to attend
& laws shall be made to ^{oblige} compel the
Students to attend public worship in
such ^{churches} ~~places of worship~~ as ^{are} most agreeable

to their consciences by judgements. ^{but if the Order shall}
be ^{found} ^{to be} ⁱⁿ ^{any} ^{of} ^{the} ^{cases} ^{of} ^{the} ^{above} ^{mentioned} ^{shall} ^{be} ^{deemed}
a defaultment of the above ^{Articles} ^{with} ^{respect} ^{thereto}.

3: Questions in Theology shall be given to ^{be}
each member of the Senior class to ^{be} answered
in writing ~~part~~ on Sunday evenings, ^{after}
or before public prayers in the presence
of the College, and as a necessary of the im-
bitants as clause to attend. The Principal
or one of the Professors shall preside at
the delivery of these compositions.
expunged.

II Of moral discipline

Laws shall be made ~~by the faculty of~~
~~the College~~ for the suppression & punishment
of immorality. Youth ^{in any Grammar School} ~~shall~~
~~be~~ the Subjects of corporal punishments,
~~but these shall never exceed flogging~~
~~on the hand,~~ and the Appeals shall be
made in all punishments as much as

possible to the sense of Shame in ~~the~~ ~~articles~~
general principle of censure in young minds.
youth ^{in the college} ~~above the years of age~~
youth above ~~the~~ shall be punished
~~with fines.~~

1 with private Admonition by the Princi-
-pal or one of the professors.

2 with Admonition by the Principal &
Professors.

3 with Admonition by the Principal or
one of the Professors in the presence of the
whole College, and

4 by Rustication, or ~~banishment into~~
~~the country~~, & seclusion from the Society
of the College. This punishment is to proceed
and ^{Expulsion} ~~from~~ ^{or} ~~appeal~~ to the Board of Trustees

in cases where expulsion may be
necessary. ^{such sentence} ~~The sentence~~ of expulsion shall
^{the acts of the Board only} be signed by the President or Vice President
of the Board, & recorded in the Journals

of the faculty. It shall likewise be read
publicly by the Principal or one of
the Professors in the presence of the whole
College. —

III ^{the branches of learning &} ~~of the~~ ~~branches~~ ~~of~~ ~~learning~~ ~~&~~ ~~branches~~ ~~of~~ ~~learning~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~

^{taught in the college shall be the following & in}
~~the~~ ~~order~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~faculty~~ ~~that~~ ~~direct~~
~~the~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~of~~ ~~communicating~~
instruction more easily, the youth shall
be divided into four classes viz: Senior
Junior - Sophomore & Freshman, and a
Grammar School. —

The branches of learning to be taught in
the College shall be

~~of~~ ~~languages~~ } the Latin
consisting of } Greek
 } Hebrew
 } French and
 } German

~~of~~ ~~mathematics~~ } natural philosophy
~~of~~ ~~geography~~ } including ~~the~~ ~~arts~~ ~~of~~

~~Logic~~ 15 The doctrine of being commonly
called metaphysics.

~~Moral philosophy~~ - including government
& the law of nature & nations -

~~History & [including ancient & modern
chronology]~~ civil & ecclesiastical.

~~Mythology~~ . of Antiquities - of Egypt -
Greece - & Rome

~~Philology~~ - including grammar in
all its parts - Rhetoric - Criticism - &c.

~~Divinity~~ -

For the sake of improving the youth in
composition & public speaking, the faculty
shall oblige them frequently to exhibit
exercises in both ways at such times - in such
languages - & in such manner as they
shall think proper.

or as may be thought necessary by a

grants to the Students of the College
of Scholars

IV The price of tuition shall be

25/ — entrance money & five pounds

— a year. The latter shall be
paid half yearly. ~~and if more~~
~~than 3 months shall be furnished with~~

~~adequate instruction as to a student~~
~~particulars.~~ Each graduate

in arts shall pay one dollar to each
professor for signing his diploma, &
one dollar towards a fund for en-

-creasing the library. ~~When sufficient data:~~

~~is available, pay the~~

V ~~of~~ of Examinations.

For the sake of ^{promoting &} ascertaining the progress
of the youth in the different branches of
learning there shall be held an exami-
-nation of each of the classes every Quarter
of an year before the faculty of the college, &
once a year before ~~the~~ ^a board of trustees as
well as the faculty of the college.

Each Class shall bear the name imposed
upon it for one year. youth who are
found to be deficient at either of the
above examinations shall be turned back
to study with one of the inferior classes.

The Examination for the degree of
^{master} Bachelor of ^{Arts} shall be in all the ^{such} ~~above~~
~~named~~ languages Arts - Sciences ^{which}
~~are customary in other colleges in America~~
^{are customary in other colleges in America} The examinations
or as may be thought necessary by a

for degrees
shall be held on ⁺ and
the commencement on
exactly four weeks after the examination.

The vacations shall be ~~for~~ during the
months of April & October

VI of graduation

Each candidate for a degree shall write
a short thesis upon any subject he plea-
ses within the limits of the literature
taught him in the college & the subject
to be first approved off by the Principal
of the College. This thesis shall be

written in Latin - ~~Greek or French~~, &
~~shall be printed at the expense of the~~
~~Candidate~~ on paper of a quarto size.
He shall furnish the Principal-Professor
& each of the trustees with a copy of it, & as
many of ^{the} ~~his~~ fellow students as he pleases.
- He shall likewise deposit 2 copies of it in
the public library, one of which shall be
bound up, ^{with others of the same size} & preserved ~~there~~ for ever.
This Thesis shall not be printed until
it has been examined privately by the
faculty of the College - a testimony of which
shall be the words "~~Per Legem~~"
subscribed by the Principal of the College.
Each Candidate shall defend his Thesis
publicly at the commencement against
such objections as shall be made to them
in Latin, by the faculty of the College.

The rest of the exercises of y^e Commencement
shall be regulated & altered occasionally
by the faculty of the college.

VII. of y^e Disp of the ~~the~~ Principal
Professors - & Students of the College. -

The ~~Principal~~ ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ Disp of the Princip-
al & professors upon all ~~particular~~ ~~things~~
~~shall~~ ^{consist} of black ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~or~~
~~general~~ upon public occasions they

+

shall wear gowns & bands. The gowns shall be black. -

For the sake of improving restraints upon the youth in their external behaviour by exposing them more easily to detection when faulty, by means of a dress peculiar to them, each of the classes shall wear at all times coats distinguished by the following badges. Viz: The Senior class shall wear two black topknots on each shoulder. The Junior two on the right, & one on the left. The Toplimore - one on each shoulder. & The Freshman one on the right shoulder. None of the students shall be permitted to wear gowns out of their rooms or lodgings, ~~except~~ ^{expunged} ~~except~~ this species of dress being calculated when worn constantly to produce in young men expense - slovenlyness - a lounging manner

In some instances loose behaviour,
expunged.

VIII. Of the Library

~~The~~ Library shall be open on certain
days of the week & ^{Faculty} the Principal-Professors
& students of the College shall have permission
to take out such books as they please for
a given time (to be fixed by the faculty)
provided that each person first sign
an obligation to return the same book
or the value of it ^{or if more than one Volume the value of the} within the said
limited time if it should be injured
^{Expunged}

by use or lost. One of the Professors
shall act as librarian for which he
shall receive the ~~sum~~ of

~~the~~ ~~sum~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~profits~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~books~~ ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ ~~the~~
base of the public library ~~subject~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~
~~above~~ ~~regulations~~, ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~exception~~ ~~that~~
they shall deposit ~~the~~ ~~value~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~books~~ ~~as~~
~~pledge~~ ~~for~~ ~~its~~ ~~being~~ ~~returned~~ ~~in~~ ~~due~~ ~~time~~,
to ~~be~~ ~~paid~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~year~~
for the use of the ~~said~~ ~~books~~. The money
obtained in this way ^{see} (after paying
to the librarian) shall be
appropriated wholly towards making
additions to the library. expensed.

IX - The Grammar & English Schools.

The Grammar & English Scholars shall
be ^{kept by themselves & shall be} subject to the same rules ^{as the} ~~students~~
students of the college (excepting such as
relate to them ~~as~~ as classes). The schools
shall be examined quarterly by the
Principal & professors, & annually by
before a board of trustees. ~~The English
& Grammar School as shall wear a
small star on the right breasts of their
coats. —~~

X Of boarding & lodging

Whereas the business of education is to qualify youth for the duties & manners of domestic ^{as well as of public} life, and as these are better acquired by their living in private families, than in any other way, & as the restraints ~~are~~ imposed upon young men by the difference of age & sex, often prove the means of preserving them from vice, no young man who conducts himself properly in a private family, shall be compelled to board, or lodge in the college, when suitable apartments are provided for that purpose.

XI Of Gymnastic Exercises

Whereas the health & figure of the body,
contribute much to display y^e endow-
ments of the mind, & accomplishments
of the youth in Dickinson
College shall be permitted to learn ~~the~~
~~exercises of fencing & target~~ - and
such other exercises as are innocent -
conducive to health & external elegance
& ~~shall~~ ^{such as shall} be approved off by the Principal

& professors. —

Exchanged

XII Of the meetings & Voting of the
faculty.

The principal of the College shall
have the power of calling a meeting
of the faculty when, & as often as he
pleases. Three professors likewise (when
agreed) shall possess the same power.
In the absence of the Principal the
professor of Rhetoric - Belles Lettres &c — shall

preside at such meetings, & in his absence
the ~~Professors of~~ ^{of languages} ~~languages~~ professor & In all
deliberations of the faculty, the Prin-
-cipal of the College shall have a casting
voice where the votes are equal.

Xiv of 134e Laws.

made by the faculty
all laws & regulations shall be
obligatory during the recess of the board ^{of trustees} &
provided they do not contradict the Char-
-ter of the College, or any part of this
plan of education ~~the Plan of Government~~. They shall be

laid before ^{accepted} ⁱⁿ
~~admitted by~~ ~~ratified by~~ the regard of
trustees ~~at the~~ ~~same~~ ~~time~~ ^{at the next Meeting}
after they are made, to be ratified
or ~~directly~~ disannulled by them.

24
Plan of Quaker 7
2 11

Plan of Education for Dickinson College [By Benjamin Rush]

[1785]

I Of religious Instruction

As the fear of the LORD is the beginning of all wisdom, and should be the end & Object of all education, the youth in this college shall be instructed in the principles and obligations of the christian religion.

~~For this purpose the following method shall be adopted, 1st. All the youth in this college under the age of — shall be taught the catechism of their respective churches.~~

For this purpose

2 Ist. Public prayers shall be held every morning & evening at such hours as shall be agreed to by the faculty of the College. For the improvement of the youth of the ~~first~~ Senior class, they shall at the pleasure of the Principal or professor who directs the public worship read one or more than one chapter of the bible every morning & evening, & one of them [Students] shall set a psalm [at the direction of the Pcl. or Professor], & direct the music of the College [in the Evening].

3 2ly. The Principal shall preach at least Once every Sunday to the Students of the College & to such others as chuse to attend, & laws shall be made to ~~compel~~ oblige the Students to attend public worship in such ~~places of worship~~ churches as are most agreeable to their consciences or judgements. [but if the Prcl. shall preach statedly in any of the Churches in the Town it shall be deemed a fulfillment of the above Article with respect to him.]

4 3 Questions in theology shall be given to each member of the Senior Class to be answered in writing ~~first~~ on Sunday evenings, *after* or before public

prayers in the presence of the College, and as many of the inhabitants as chuse to attend. The Principal or one of the Professors shall preside at the delivery of these compositions.

[expunged.]¹

II Of moral discipline

Laws shall be made ~~by the faculty of the College~~ for the suppression & punishment of immorality. Youth ~~under 11 Years of age~~ [in ye grammar School] shall [may] be the subjects of corporal punishments, ~~but these shall never exceed ferruling on the hand,~~ and the Appeals shall be made in all punishments as much as possible to the Sense of Shame ~~in that active & general principle of action in young minds.~~ Youth ~~above~~ Youth ~~above 11 years of age~~ in the college shall be punished

~~1~~ With fines for

2 1 with private admonition by the Principal or one of the professors.

3 2 with admonition by the Principal & Professors.

4 3 with admonition by the Principal or one of the Professors in the presence of the *whole* College, and

5 4 by *Rustication*, ~~or banishment into the country,~~ & Seclusion from the Society of the College. This punishment is to preceed ~~a reference or appeal to the board of trustees~~[Expulsion] in cases where expulsion may be necessary. ~~The Sentence~~ [Such Sentence] of expulsion shall be [the Act of the Board only] signed by the President or Vice President of the board, & recorded in the Journals of the faculty. It shall likewise be read publicly by the Principal or one of the Professors in the presence of the whole College.

¹ This is one of the few instances when the word "expunged" appears following a passage that is not lined or crossed out. We may suppose it applies only to the paragraph immediately preceding.

III ~~Of Humane knowledge & learning~~ the branches of learning & [to be taught in the College shall be the following & in the order the Faculty shall direct]

~~The~~ For the Sake of communicating instruction more easily, the youth shall be divided into four classes Viz: *Senior, Junior, Sophomore* & Freshman, and a Grammar School.

The branches of learning to be taught in the College shall be

1 Languages consisting of

the Latin
Greek
Hebrew
French and German

2 Mathematicks, natural philosophy ~~including Chemistry,~~

3 Geography

4 Logic, 5. The doctrine of being commonly called Metaphysics.

6 Moral philosophy, including government & the law of nature & nations.

7 History & Chronology, including Ancient & modern, civil & ecclesiastical.

8 Mythology. 9. Antiquities, of Egypt, Greece, & Rome.

10 Philology, including Grammar in all its parts, Rhetoric, Criticism, &c.

11 Divinity.

For the Sake of improving the youth in composition & public Speaking, the faculty shall oblige them frequently to exhibit exercises in both ways at such times, in such languages, & in such manner as they shall think proper.

IV The price of tuition to the Students of the college & grammar scholars shall be 25 / — entrance money & five pounds — — a year. The latter to shall be paid half yearly. ~~A delay of more than 3 months shall punished with a private intimation not to attend further recitations.~~ Each graduate in Arts shall pay one dollar to each professor for signing his diploma, & one dollar towards a fund for encreasing the library. ~~The English Scholars shall pay 40/a year.~~

IV V of Examinations.

For the sake of promoting & of ascertaining the progress of the youth in the different branches of learning there shall be held an examination of each of the Classes every quarter of an year before the faculty of the College, and once a year before ~~the~~ a board of trustees as well as the faculty of the College.

Each Class shall bear the name imposed upon it for one year. Youth who are found to be deficient at either of the Above examinations shall be turned back to study with one of the inferior Classes.

The Examination for the degree of Bachelor or master of Arts shall be in all ~~the above named~~ such languages, Arts & Sciences ~~which are customary in other Colleges in America~~ as are customary in other Colleges in America or as may be tho't necessary by a [*one or two words worn away at foot of "page".*] The examinations for degrees shall be held on and the commencement on exactly four weeks after the examination.

The vacations shall be ~~fe~~ during the months of April & October.

VI of graduation

Each Candidate for a degree shall write a short thesis upon any subject he pleases within the limits of the literature taught him in the college — the subject to be first approved off by the Principal of the College. This Thesis shall be written in Latin, ~~Greek or French, & shall be printed at the expence of the Candidate~~ on paper of a quarto size. He shall furnish the Principal, Professors & each of the trustees with a copy of it, & as many of his [the Trustees & his] fellow students as he pleases. He shall likewise deposit 2 copies of it in the public library, one of which shall be bound up with others of the same size, & preserved there ~~with~~ for ever. This Thesis shall not be printed untill it has been examined privately by the faculty of the College, a testimony of which shall be the words "Per legis — ~~Imprimatur~~" subscribed by the Principal of the College. Each Candidate shall defend his thesis publickly at the commencement, against such Objections as shall be made to them in latin, by the faculty of the College.

The rest of the exercises of ye commencement shall be regulated & altered occasionally ~~of~~ by the faculty of the college.

VII. Of ye Dress of the ~~Student~~ Principal,
Professors, & Students of the College.

The ~~Principal shall wear~~ Dress of the Principal & professors upon all ² public occasions shall ~~[deleted and illegible]~~ consist of black ~~[deleted and illegible]~~ Upon public Occasions they shall wear gowns & bands. The gowns shall be black.

~~For the sake of imposing restraints upon the youth in their external behaviour by exposing them more easily to detection when faulty, by means of a dress peculiar to them, each of the classes shall wear at all times coats distinguished by the following badges. Viz: The Senior Class shall wear two black tassils on each Shoulder. The Junior two on the right, & one on the left. The Sophomore, one on each Shoulder, & The Freshman one on the right shoulder. None of the Students shall be permitted to wear gowns out of their rooms or lodgings except~~

[Expunged]

~~This Species of dress being calculated when worn constantly to produce in young men expense, slovenlyness a lounging manner & in some instances loose behaviour.~~

[expunged]

VIII. of the LIBRARY

The library shall be open on certain days of the week, & the [Trustees] Principal, Professors & Students of the College shall have permission to take out such books as they please for a given time (to be *fixed* by the faculty) provided

² The preceding two words should doubtless have been lined out for deletion, along with those that follow. On the other hand, the whole of this paragraph is redundant in phrasing and is difficult to reconstruct with certainty. Though its meaning is clear enough, different readers will have different opinions on what was intended for omission and what for retention.

that each person first sign an obligation to return the same book or the value of it [or if more than one Volume the Value of the Sett] within the said limited time if it should be injured by Use or [Expunged]³ lost. One of the Professors shall act as librarian ~~for which he shall receive the sum of~~

~~The citizens of Carlisle shall have the use of the public library subject to the above regulations, with the exception that they shall deposit the value of the book as a pledge for its being returned in due time, & shall pay one dollar specie a year for the use of the said books. The money obtained in this way (after paying to the librarian shall be appropriated wholly towards making additions to the library.~~

[expunged]

IX. The Grammar & English Schools.

The Grammar & English Scholars shall be kept by themselves & shall be subject to the same rules ~~except~~ as the Students of the college (excepting such as relate to them as classes). The Schools shall be examined quarterly by the Principal & professors, & annually ~~by~~ before a board of trustees. ~~English & Grammar Scholars shall wear a small star on the right breasts of their coats.~~

X Of BOARDING & LODGING

Whereas the business of education is to qualify youth for the duties & manners of domestic as well as of public life, and as these are better acquired by their living in private families, than in any other way, & as the restraints imposed upon young men by the difference of Age & sex, often prove the means of preserving them from vice, no young man who conducts himself properly in a private family, shall be compelled to board, or lodge in the College, when suitable apartments are provided for that purpose.

³ This word is written at the foot of a "page" but *within* a paragraph. To just how much of the "text" of the entire paragraph it was intended to apply can only be conjectured.

XI Of GYMNASTIC EXERCISES

Whereas the health & figure of the body, contribute much to display ye: endowments & Accomplishments of the mind, the youth in Dickinson College shall be permitted to learn ~~the exercises of swimming, skating,~~ and⁴ such other exercises ~~as~~⁵ are innocent, conducive to health, & external elegance ~~& such as shall be~~ as that approved off by the Principal & professors.

[Expunged.]

XII Of the meetings & Voting of the faculty.

The principal of the College shall have the power of calling a meeting of the faculty when, & as often as he pleases. Three professors likewise (when agreed) shall possess the same power. In the Absence of the Principal the professor of Rhetoric, Belles Lettres &c. shall preside at such meetings, & in his Absence the ~~Professor next eldest~~ professor of Languages. In all deliberations of the faculty, the Principal of the College shall have a casting voice where the votes are equal.

[xiii of Bye Laws.]

All laws & regulations made by the faculty shall be obligatory during the recess of the board of trustees, provided they do not contradict the Charter of the College, or any part of this plan of education [or the Plan of Government]⁶. They shall be ~~adopted by & ratified or rejected by the~~ laid before the board of trustees ~~at the~~ [*deleted and illegible*] commencement [at the next Metting] after they are made, to be ratified & or ~~disalle~~ disannulled by them.

⁴ This word should probably have been deleted in the manuscript with those that precede it.

⁵ This word was probably deleted by mistake. The syntax of the sentence as finally revised requires it.

⁶ This expression may simply be an alternative for that which precedes it. No *other* "Plan of Government" distinct from the "Plan of Education" is identifiable.