DARTMOUTH

Council on the Libraries ANNUAL REPORT
FOR AY 2022-2023

Membership:

School, Department, Office represented:	Membership:	Name:
A&S	COP (Faculty of A&S)	Hakan Tell
A&S	COP (Faculty of A&S)	Marcelo Gleiser
A&S	COP (Faculty of A&S)	Robert Cantor
A&S	COP (Faculty of A&S)	D.G. Webster
A&S	COP (Faculty of A&S)	Claudia Olivetti
A&S	COP (Faculty of A&S)	Devin Singh
Geisel	Geisel faculty member	David Goodman
Guarini	Graduate Student	Caroline Donavan
Information Technology	VP/CIO	Mitch Davis
Library	Dean of Libraries	Sue Mehrer (convener)
Guarini	Guarini Dean (or representative)	Amanda Skinner
Guarini	Postdoc	Nataliia Vereshchuk
Provost	Provost (or representative)	Paul E. Sunde
Student Affairs	Dean of the College (or representative)	Joe Castelot
Thayer	Thayer faculty member	Geoffrey G. Parker*
Tuck	Tuck faculty member	Davin Chor
Library	Undergraduate Student	Crawford Hovis '25
Library	Undergraduate Student	David Millman '23

*Denotes Council Chair

Charge as described in the Organization of the General Faculty of Dartmouth College (OGFDC):

(1)   To represent the faculty and students in maintaining the excellence of the Library with respect to its collections, resources, services, programs, and spaces for the benefit of the Dartmouth community.

(2)   To assist in strategic planning for the Library by keeping the Dean of Libraries informed about current and future library needs for teaching, learning, and research, and providing liaison between the Dean of Libraries and the faculties of Dartmouth.

(3)   To advise the Dean of Libraries on formulation and implementation of policies and programs in relation to collection development and collection management, development of new library services and on other matters of general library policy.

(4)   To submit a report to the General Faculty at the end of each academic year.

Number of meetings during the past academic year: The Council met 6 times. Agendas and minutes for each meeting are posted on the [Council on the Libraries website](#).

Activities for the past academic year, and how they address the charge of the council:
The Council's work this academic year focused on three priorities: (1) actively contributing to the Library's strategic planning process; (2) maintaining channels of communication with faculty governance and the Provost, especially regarding the Library's budget; and (3) addressing concerns about equity in access to teaching materials by exploring issues related to textbook affordability and open educational

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resources. In addition to these priorities, the Council also discussed emerging topics, most notably changing funder mandates and generative artificial intelligence applications such as ChatGPT.

As part of the Library's collaborative strategic planning process, during the fall term, almost all Council members participated in co-design workshops that shaped new purpose and vision statements for the Library. During the spring term, Council Chair Geoff Parker and Council member Claudia Olivetti served on a strategy working group with Library staff to articulate a strategic direction for the Library. The Council's participation helped ensure that students, staff, and faculty from across Dartmouth were represented in planning for the future of the Library. More information about the strategic planning process and the resulting purpose, vision, and strategic direction are available on the [Library's strategic planning webpage](#).

Maintaining communication with faculty governance and the Provost remained a priority for the Council this academic year. The Provost joined a Council meeting for an overview of the Library's FY24 budget round requests and reallocations and a discussion of the decision-making process. Additionally, the Council Chair and the Dean of the Libraries presented at the February Committee on Priorities meeting to provide updates on Library initiatives, Council priorities, and the Library's budget.

To address concerns about equity in access to teaching materials, the Council discussed topics of textbook affordability, open educational resources, and the role of the Library in these areas. These complex issues involve many stakeholders across campus and need to be addressed at an institutional level. As a first step, the Council formed a subgroup charged with developing recommendations for how the Council might help to connect the Library's work in these areas with additional partners at Dartmouth. The sub-group engaged with the First Generation Office, the Money Matters Working Group, house community leaders, the Dean of the College office, the Financial Aid office, DCAL, and others. These discussions served to share the work underway, ensure that efforts are not duplicated, glean additional perspectives, and develop a network for continued engagement.

In August 2022, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy issued the "Nelson Memo" on "Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research". New requirements for publications, data, metadata, and identifiers will affect all federally funded research, with a rolling implementation between 2024 and 2028. While the Library will play a critical role, the new policy directives will impact the full research lifecycle and will require a coordinated approach at institutional level.

Following the release of ChatGPT in November 2022, generative artificial intelligence and its role in Higher Education has been a rapidly evolving topic of discussion. Generative AI has the potential to disrupt and revolutionize higher education and the ways research, teaching, and learning are conducted. The Library is collaborating with Research Computing and DCAL to support faculty navigating AI in their research and teaching.

Key insights or recommendations:

The issue of equitable access to education materials has many layers and complexity to it. In particular, there is concern that access issues are leading faculty to assign lower quality reading materials. There are some concrete steps that can be taken in the near term with respect to using open access materials when they do not compromise quality. Finding resources to provide materials more broadly will require an ongoing effort on campus.

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Every unit at Dartmouth is or will be grappling with how AI and Large Language Models (including Generative Pre-Trained Transformers) will impact education and research. The Library has a significant role to play in helping coordinate exploration across campus. As part of this effort, Library staff put together an excellent tutorial on how GPT works to help demystify the technology. The committee found this to be of significant value and hopes the effort will continue into 2023-2024.

The strategic planning effort provided a vision and framework to help the Library assess areas to invest resources into going forward in order to realize the vision. Conversely, the strategic plan also helps provide a framework for what might be deprioritized in order to create resources to execute the vision.

Recommended topics of the council to consider in the coming year:
The Council set the following two priorities for next year: (1) continuing its work on equity in access to teaching materials by engaging with other faculty committees/councils to develop recommendations for an institutional approach, (2) continuing to coordinate across Dartmouth to understand the potential upsides as well as downside risks of generative AI, and (3) remaining involved in the implementation of the Library's strategic direction as specific goals and actions are developed.

Report Completion Date: June 9, 2023.

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