

COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2018

Present: Simons (Chair), Betsinger, Davis, Fuechtner, Hoyt, Luxon, McCabe, Mehrer, Norwitz, Parker, Snyder, Thompson, Webb.

Apologies: Fuechtner, Kahl, Hadley, McCullough.

Guests: Sagraves, Taxman.

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm.

1. Welcome and introductions.

2. The Minutes of the January 23, 2018 meeting were approved.

3. Matters arising from previous meetings: none.

4. Deaccessioning Program.

Barb Sagraves (Interim Associate Librarian for Access and Collection Strategies) provided an update on the Deaccessioning Program (see Minutes of the November 17, 2017 meeting). Her letter informing the faculty of the goals and procedure was sent out in early January. In the first year of the program, Liaison Librarians Wendel Cox (English Literature, and History), Ridie Ghezzi (Social Science and Humanities Reference) and Lucinda Hall (Geography, Communication, and Television Studies) will review materials in their respective areas to identify and remove printed items that are commonly held by Ivy Plus/Borrow Direct Libraries and/or those that no longer support the current curriculum. The Liaison Librarian will consult with faculty and keep them abreast of their progress. Council members inquired what happens to the materials removed (they may be transferred to the Center for Research Libraries, to JSTOR and the Internet Archive for digitization, or to Better World Books, which provides books to those in need through partner organizations). So far, about 200 items have been identified for removal. Liaison librarians also reported that the faculty has been responsive and engaged in the process. Any questions, suggestions, communications may be directed to the Liaison Librarian; one also may consult the set of FAQs available at: <https://researchguides.dartmouth.edu/deaccessioning/faq>.

5. Research Services Hubs Project.

Jennifer Taxman (Associate Librarian for Research and Learning) and Dean Mehrer introduced the Research Services Hubs Project. Among the Library's strategic objectives and priorities for 2018-2020 is the development of a more user-centered approach to research services, currently often dispersed or fragmented. The project team will employ a variety of user-centred methodologies to gain insights into the needs of faculty, graduate

students, and students in the professional schools. In addition, a review of practices at eight peer institutions will be carried out. The project will be facilitated by Nancy Fried Foster, a University of Rochester anthropologist and director of Design Anthropology, LLC, who will visit campus in May.

The project aims to create pilot ‘research service hubs’ that will centralize research services. The Council will be updated on the project in the fall of 2018, when implementation is scheduled. In discussion, Mitch Davis recommended additional consultation with instructional designers on campus.

6. CoL: Function and Membership.

Walter Simons shared with the Council a request by Lindsay Whaley, chair of the Faculty Committee on Organization and Policy, for feedback on the Council of the Libraries. The COP is reviewing all faculty committees and councils in an effort to reduce the burden on faculty members while preserving their role in the governance of the College. In response to the COP’s specific questions (Should the CoL be reorganized or eliminated? Should its charge be changed or its membership altered?), faculty members of the CoL underscored the Council’s effectiveness as an interface between Library and faculty, and as “one of the more valuable committees” on campus. Meeting on average six or seven times a year, the CoL does not pose an excessive burden on faculty members, while the current format provides a sensible representation of the faculty. Dean Mehrer expressed her appreciation of the constructive insights she and the Library’s staff receive through the Council. The meeting did note that the wording of the CoL’s charge needs updating: the term “Librarian of the College” needs to be replaced by “Dean of the Libraries;” and the charge should clarify that the CoL’s advisory role is at the strategic level.

7. AOB – none.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.