



COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Wednesday, 19 May 2021

12noon – 1:00pm

Library

Minutes

Present: Castelot, Chor, Glueck, McCabe (chair), McDonald, Mehrer, Parker, Singh, Skinner, Snyder, Tell, Webb

Apologies: Clarke (Sabbatical), Davis, Goodman, Green, Rose

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Peterson, Taxman

Agenda

1. Welcome

The Chair acknowledged those members who are rotating off the Council, and thanked the two undergraduate student representatives, Jordan McDonald and Michael Green, who will be graduating in June.

2. Minutes of meeting held on April 21, 2021

Approved as written.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

None

4. Library Budget Reductions FY18-FY22

The Dean gave a brief overview of the Library budget and provided a detailed account of the significant decrease in overall Library funding over the last five academic years.

Under Dartmouth's \$17 million Budget Reallocation program FY18-FY21, the Library's permanent subvention budget was cut by \$1.7 million over four years. The program reallocated funds from administrative areas (the Library is part of the Provost's area) to academic programs, the impact on the Library was not a widely-discussed issue at the time. Under the measure to address financial shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library's budget was cut by a further \$300,000 for FY21 & FY22 in addition to its \$700,000 savings target in FY21. The permanent cuts represent approximately 13% of the Library's subvention budget over five years.

Council members enquired about impact on staffing levels and changes over the years. The Dean explained that the Library has seen a 17% decrease in staffing levels over 6 years. The majority of the decrease is due to the permanent budget cuts. In addition, with the shift to digital materials, services and programming, academic libraries are all experiencing an ongoing trend of fewer roles in transactional activities and more demand for specialist roles, which requires a shift in resources resulting in fewer fte's, but higher compensation costs. However, the Dean stressed that further budget and staffing cuts would result in a reduction of core Library services and programs.

Council members further enquired how Dartmouth Library's resources compared to peer institutions. The Dean explained that it is very difficult to compare data as there are too many variables to feel confident that we are comparing like with like. At a high level, though, Dartmouth has the lowest overall budget amongst our Ivy peers. However, as a percentage of institutional spend, Dartmouth Library is in the median range.

5. Update on Kresge and Paddock libraries

The Dean reported that the conversations with departments, faculty and students and focus groups are continuing. The Library was working closely with departments to identify collections required on campus and locations in Baker-Berry Library to house these collections. Library staff were also working with key stakeholders to explore the possibility of retaining study space in the former Kresge location in Fairchild, which would, however, no longer be managed by the Library. Jennifer Taxman explained that the Library would be putting forward a proposal for a steering group to address this option on a partnership basis with key stakeholders.

Addendum to the Minutes re Kresge and Paddock libraries

On June 6, 2021, the Provost responded to the Chair of the Committee on Priorities in relation to the Committee's request to halt discussions and planning for Paddock and Kresge libraries. The Provost explained that after a number of conversations with the Dean of Libraries, the Associate Deans for Arts & Humanities and Sciences as well as the Dean of Faculty, he concluded that the Library would continue to be able to fully support the teaching, learning and research needs of the affected departments following the relocation of the collections and services to Baker-Berry. Given that the financial constraints had not changed, the Provost supported the Library's plans with a view to implementing the changes over the coming months.

6. Deepening Council Members' Engagement in Library Strategic Planning

The Dean referenced the Briefing Document that was shared with Council members prior to the meeting.

Daniel Chamberlain shared an overview of the Council Members [Survey](#) results:

- There was high interest in DEI efforts, less interest in fundraising, and even interest in both collections development and scholarly communications issues.
- Most Council members indicated a willingness to work on subcommittees/working groups between CoL meetings for 1-2 hrs a month.
- Council indicated a reluctance to chair these subcommittees and suggested it could be staffed by Library leaders and staff.
- Subcommittee priorities could be developed and shared with the entire council; they could report back on a rotational schedule.
- Council suggested that it would be helpful to prioritize a few Council goals that could be examined on a deeper level early in the academic year.
- It was further suggested that the Dean and the chair could meet over the summer as well as potentially meeting with the Provost before the fall Council meeting.

Sue thanked everyone on the Council for the robust and deep discussions this year. Library staff were commended on how effectively they navigated and adjusted operations during the pandemic to support the Dartmouth academic community throughout. The Council members expressed their thanks and appreciation of the Chair of the Council as she concluded her term as chair.

7. Any other business (AOB)

none