



COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 12 October 2021
12noon – 1:00pm

Library

Minutes

Present: Cantor, Castelot, Chor, Davis, Donovan, Gleiser, Goodman, Green, McCabe, Marinho, Mehrer, Parker, Quint, Rose, Singh, Snyder, Sunde, Tell (chair), Webb

Apologies: Clarke, Skinner

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Taxman

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the 21/22 Academic Year meetings of the Council on Libraries, extending a special welcome to the undergraduate students, graduate student, and postdoctoral fellow serving on the Council

2. Introductions

The chair invited introductions from each present member of the Council ([current membership](#)), noted the value of continuity among council members, and welcomed new members.

3. Minutes of meeting held on May 19, 2021

The Council approved the [previous minutes](#) (unanimous among voting members).

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

Dean Mehrer drew attention to a minutes addendum summarising the Provost's response to the Committee on Priorities regarding the Committee's query in relation to Kresge and Paddock Libraries. The addendum was included as this outstanding query was resolved after the final meeting of Council on Libraries in May 2021.

5. Council on the Libraries Charge and Membership

Dean Mehrer shared a link to the Council on Libraries [charge and membership](#) and reviewed the charge with the Council. Dean Mehrer noted that the charge

went through a full process of revision in recent years to be less operational and more strategic, asking the Council to engage in larger issues rather than operational decisions.

6. Council on the Libraries Priorities - Planning for the 21/22 Academic Year Council

The Chair proposed three main priorities for the coming year, then invited discussion and suggestions for additional priorities:

- Library budget reduction in 5-year perspective and comparison to budget situations at peer institutions.
- Council Workflow
- Communication - strengthening and clarifying ties to other committees, councils, and the Office of the Provost

Council members largely agreed with the proposed priorities and discussed the ramifications of this focus. Council members noted that a full consideration of these priorities would require some advanced preparation and work outside of regular committee meetings, and that a combination of Library staff and sub-groups of the Council could support this advanced work by preparing reports and guiding questions in advance. Many council members expressed support for the prospect of developing a broader sense of the Library's budget environment, including a look back at five years' worth of budget (including inviting Chris Cook from the Provost's office to a future Council meeting) and comparisons to peer institutions. The proposed focus on updated council workflows and strengthening ties to other committees and councils solicited discussion regarding the role of Council members in the broader communications process, serving to learn from Library staff, solicit perspectives from departmental and area colleagues, and to reflect on shared challenges and affinities among representatives of the professional schools. As part of the discussion, Council members suggested an additional priority:

- Development of an approach to measuring the health of the Dartmouth Library

Council members considered that the development of such measures could complement the priority regarding understanding the Library's budget environment, drawing on past studies, data already collected by the Library, new surveys and other quantitative tools, existing expressions of support/concern, and qualitative approaches designed to understand how Dartmouth community members' work is supported by the Library. Council members noted that developing and understanding these metrics would allow them to more effectively

communicate and interact with campus constituencies, and that the communications practices of the Council would need to factor in the relationship between metrics and communication.

The Chair consulted with the members about the priorities for the agenda of the next meeting on November 16, and it was agreed that the Council should start exploring the topic of the health of the Dartmouth Library. The Chair will work with the Dean of Libraries to structure next steps and prepare relevant materials for the November 16, 2021 Council meeting.