



Library

COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 8 March 2022
12noon – 1:00pm

Minutes

Present: Cantor, Chor, Davis, Donovan, Gleiser, McCabe, Mehrer, Parker, Quint, Skinner, Snyder, Sunde, Tell (Chair)

Apologies: Castelot, Clarke, Goodman, Marinho Ramos, Singh

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Reynolds, Taxman

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Council and reminded everyone the next meeting would be April 12.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 25 January 2022

The Minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

3. Matters arising from previous Meeting

None.

4. Library Budget: reassessing current budget situation and next steps

The Council continued its prior discussions regarding the cumulative impact of budget cuts over recent years. The Chair noted the Council is on the agenda for the April 25 meeting of the Committee on Priorities (CPr) to report on the activity of the Council. The Dean explained that while the budget cuts had been significant, the Library has made a number of adjustments over the past five years to meet the financial targets, including organizational restructuring, outsourcing processing activities, relocating collections and consolidating services and service points. The Library had managed to make these adjustments while continuing to provide ongoing high-level support for teaching, learning and research, and as far as possible, protecting budgets for collections and information resources, staff expertise, and staff employment. Any further budget cuts would likely have more visible impacts on Library services, though as the Provost indicated at the previous meeting, current budget projections are stable and further cuts are not anticipated.

Council members commended the Library for maintaining stability despite budget cuts, but expressed growth, not stability, as a vital goal for the health of the Library. It is necessary to think past budget stabilization and focus on investment in the future to further the Library's strategic goals. Council members also stressed that it's important that the Council serve as an advocate for the Library's financial needs. The Dean was not optimistic that any budget cuts would be restored as a previous request from the CPr had not been supported by the Administration. Going forward, the Council agreed that it would be critical to advocate for the

Library to be considered a core academic unit, rather than an administrative unit, which could shift how the institution thinks about the Library's budget.

The Dean asked Council members whether their own research and learning has been impacted by the Library's budget cuts. One Council member noted the recent departure of the Data Visualization Librarian. Though not the result of budget cuts, it does illustrate the importance of the Library's ability to recruit and retain highly skilled professionals and underscores the need for investment and growth in research support. The Dean agreed that investment in growth areas, as outlined at the previous meeting, would be essential and the Associate Librarian for Digital Strategies reported that the Library was already discussing adding positions in research data services.

The Dean and the Chair agreed to develop a document to present to the CPr and provide the Council a copy in advance of the next Council meeting.

5. Course Textbooks and Open Educational Resources: overview and discussion

In recent meetings, the Council on the Libraries has called attention to issues and queries in relation to textbooks, particularly those for required course reading. A recent article published in *The Dartmouth* student newspaper also highlighted textbook affordability as an important issue for students.

The Dean provided the Council with a briefing on textbooks and open educational resources, and posed the question, "What is the best role the Library can play in addressing the problem of textbook affordability?" with the aim of aligning practices and policies to the institution, faculty, and student expectations. The Associate Librarian for Collections Strategies and the Associate Librarian for Digital Strategies summarized the limitations libraries encounter with the profit-driven textbook industry. Open educational resources (OER) provide an alternative, and the Library's Scholarly Communications, Copyright, and Publishing Program supports the use and creation of OER in a variety of ways. The Council can be helpful in raising awareness and promoting the use of OER.

The Council's student representatives echoed the affordability problem and added that Wheelock Books had run a successful textbook exchange until it permanently closed. The Vice President for Information, Technology and Consulting (ITC) offered to look into whether ITC might be able to support a student project of some kind to facilitate textbook exchange between students.

The Chair indicated the Council would continue this discussion at the next meeting.

6. Planning for Remainder of Academic Year

The Dean briefly mentioned that the Library anticipated pandemic protocols to change in the near future pending updated institutional policies. She also noted that Feldberg Library was scheduled to reopen in March.

7. Update on Recruitment of New Library Colleagues

An update on recruitment of new Library staff was provided in the meeting materials for information.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Next meeting: 12 April, 12noon-1pm