COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 8 November 2022
12noon – 1:00pm

Library

Minutes

Present: Cantor, Castelot, Donovan, Mehrer, Olivetti, Sunde, Tell

Apologies: Chor, Davis, Gleiser, Goodman, Hovis, Millman, Parker, Singh, Skinner, Vereshchuk, Webster

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Reynolds

Guests: Martin, Krueger, Campbell

1. Welcome
   The Dean welcomed everyone and passed on the Chair's apologies due to illness.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 27 September 2022
   The Minutes of the September 27, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting
   None.

4. Open Educational Resources – Discussion
   Textbook Affordability and Open Educational Resources are a priority area for the Council this academic year. Guests Shawn Martin, Head of Scholarly Communication, Copyright and Publishing; Stephen Krueger, Scholarly Publishing Librarian; and Jentry Campbell, Research and Learning Librarian – STEM, provided an overview of current Library initiatives related to Open Educational Resources (OER).

   The Library's Open Education Initiative, which provides grants to support the adoption and creation of OER for Dartmouth courses, is continuing with four projects funded for the current year and a new call for proposals for next year. The initiative builds cohorts of faculty working with OER, offers project support, and provides stipends to enable the time and effort it takes to create, adopt, or adapt OER.

   At Thayer, a survey of current students was conducted to gather data about the cost of textbooks. The survey was designed to be disaggregated to identify which groups struggle with textbook affordability and to assess whether and where students get course materials. The Thayer survey could serve as a template for a broader survey.

   The Library also supports open education by engaging with other institutions and networks, including the Open Education Network, Open Access Week, and the Ivy Plus Libraries Consortium.

The Council discussed how Dartmouth might advance OER and address textbook affordability. A number of institutions are trying different approaches, including rolling textbooks into the overall cost of education, rather than an additional separate cost for students. While there was support from some Council members for this idea, it will be important to gather data and explore potential solutions in depth before making recommendations.

5. Proposal to Establish Council OER Subgroup
    Daniel Chamberlain, Associate Dean of Libraries for Research & Digital Strategies, shared a proposal to form a Council subgroup charged with developing recommendations for how the Council might help to connect the Library's open educational resource work to additional partners at Dartmouth. The subgroup will work on additional information gathering (e.g. surveys, department reports, etc.); engaging additional partners across Dartmouth (e.g. IDE, Student Government, Registrar, Financial Aid, etc.); making concrete recommendations (departmental OER adoption, zero-cost course markers, textbook collections, etc.); and recommendations for institutional commitments. The Council agreed to form the subgroup, and a call for volunteers will be sent via email.

    The next Council on the Libraries meeting will be January 17, 2023.