



COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 14 March 2023
12noon – 1:00pm

Minutes

Present: Cantor, Castelot, Chor, Davis, Donovan, Gleiser, Goodman, Mehrer, Olivetti, Parker (Chair), Singh, Skinner, Tell, Webster

Apologies: Hovis, Millman, Sunde, Vereshchuk

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Taxman

1. Welcome
The Chair and Dean welcomed everyone.
2. Minutes of Meeting held on 17 January 2023
The Minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting were approved as written.
3. Matters arising from the previous meeting
None.
4. FY24 Library Budget Requests – Decisions
Budget decisions were received at the end of January. The Library had requested new funds for inflation increases in the Collections budget; compensation adjustments made to address compensation compression (for which the Library has also identified internal sources of funding); and two new positions: a full-time Assistant Archivist in Records Management, and a portion (30% Library, 70% Hood Museum) of a technical developer position to continue cultural heritage work started under the Mellon grant. Of these requests, the Library only received funding for Collections increases. This leaves the Library in a difficult position, especially regarding compensation adjustments. Council members inquired about the impact of these budget decisions on Library services and hiring. The Library does not anticipate a reduction in services at this point, but will likely carry a structural deficit for some time. Typically, the Library has had an annual underspend due to vacancies, and will use lapsed compensation to balance its budget this year. The Dean is in discussions with the Provost about longer-term budget planning, which is also impacted by the recently announced increase in student wages.
5. Committee on Priorities Meeting 6 Feb, 2023 – Library Update
The Dean and Chair provided a summary of the information they shared at the Arts & Sciences Committee on Priorities, including updates on strategic planning, textbook affordability and open access resources, the Library Collections and Services Facilities, the new Associate Dean of Libraries, Collections and Content Strategies, and the budget. Overall, the Committee on

Priorities expressed support for the Library and the Council's involvement in these initiatives. Although the Provost was not there to discuss the reasons behind the budget outcomes, the Executive Vice President did acknowledge the Library as an important academic unit. Council members appreciated this recognition, but noted it is not reflected in recent budget decisions, and asked whether there would be any follow up/pushback. The Dean emphasized that ongoing communication to advocate for the Library will be important, and suggested engaging with the Council on Institutional Priorities, which is now part of the decision-making process.

6. Library Strategic Planning – Phase I

The Dean provided an overview of the Library's strategic planning work. The first phase, a five-week sprint during the fall term, focused on defining the Library's purpose and vision through a creative and collaborative process that drew inspiration from across the Dartmouth campus and community. The Dean thanked the Council for their involvement in the faculty, staff, and student workshops, and shared the resulting purpose and vision statements:

Purpose (why we exist): Powered by questions, we spark discovery – within ourselves, our community, and our world.

Vision (what we aspire to be): We aspire to be the intellectual home of open and collaborative enquiry, moving us towards a more just society.

Having defined “who we are and where we are going,” the next phase of the process will focus on “how we get there.” Through another five-week sprint during the spring term, a small working group that includes two Council members and several Library staff will concentrate on strategy – the set of choices we make about how to progress toward our long-term vision and purpose over the next several years. The Library will continue to work with facilitation partners IDEO for this strategy sprint.

Members of the Council expressed enthusiasm for the strategic planning work and noted the recent budget decisions are especially disappointing in this context.

7. Ivy Plus Library Directors' Letter in Response to the Nelson Memo

The Dean shared a letter from the Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation (IPLC) in response to the recently issued memo from the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) regarding “Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research”, known as the Nelson Memo. The IPLC letter expresses support for the updated policy guidance but also concern that it may increase costs in ways that are unequitable and unsustainable. The Dean and the Associate Dean of Libraries, Research & Digital Strategies will be presenting to the Provost and academic deans with a recommendation to address these issues at an institutional level.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Next Council on the Libraries Meeting: 18 April 2023.