



COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 10 October 2023
12noon – 1:00pm

Minutes

Present: Castelot, Cirnigliaro, Davis, Feiler, Fosu, Goodman, He, Jawad, Kull, Mehrer, Olivetti, Parker, Peters, Wales

Apologies: Chee, Gleiser, Webster

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Johnson

1. Welcome

The Chair and Dean welcomed the Council and members introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 23 May 2023

The Minutes of the May 23, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None.

4. Library Strategic Plan: Recap and Update

The Dean provided a recap of the Library's strategic planning efforts over the last year and an update on work done over the summer. The goal of the planning process was to "to collaboratively design a transformative, achievable strategic vision positioning Dartmouth Libraries as intrinsic to Dartmouth's scholarly mission, aspirations and achievements." After engaging with the Dartmouth community and key stakeholders to develop purpose and vision statements last fall and articulate a strategic direction in the spring, the Library worked internally over the summer to further develop its direction as a "Research Engine: Powering Knowledge". The Library leadership team, with input from Library program and department heads, refined the four strategic pillars with language more relevant and meaningful to the Dartmouth community:

Accelerate advanced research: Our specialized experts and experienced research professionals are ready to collaborate more deeply at every stage of producing and sharing research, scholarship, and creative outputs.

Equip scholars with powerful research tools and methods: Staying current with technological developments that advance information and research practices, we

harness the power of our expertise and experience to provide innovative solutions for research and knowledge creation.

Empower students by unlocking individual potential: We meet the varied research and learning needs of our students by thoughtfully curating collections and tailoring experiences that acknowledge our students' diverse backgrounds in support of achieving their future ambitions.

Amplify Dartmouth's impact across the scholarly ecosystem: We promote Dartmouth across the evolving scholarly ecosystem by connecting knowledge creation and dissemination, reproducible research, and long-term access & preservation, underpinning Dartmouth as a research-intensive institution.

Next steps include developing specific goals and actions to form a strategic plan, communicating the strategic plan to key stakeholders and the Dartmouth community, and developing mechanisms to review and track the goals and actions. There is a group of Library staff working on data and assessment, and that will be on the agenda at a future meeting. There is also a project underway to develop a distinctive visual identity for the Libraries, which will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Council members asked who provides oversight for this work. There are various levels of oversight, including the Council as well as the Provost and Deans.

5. Library Collections & Services Facility (LCSF)

Qiana Johnson, Associate Dean of Libraries, Collections & Content Strategies, provided an update on the recently constructed Library Collections & Services Facility. Moving materials from the Library's current collections facility began in mid-September and is expected to take five months to complete. There are over 10,000 shelves that are 30 feet high, in a space that has archival-quality environmental controls for long-term preservation. All materials in the facility will be barcoded and tracked by tray and shelving location. Additionally, there is a cold storage vault that will be used for the preservation of silver nitrate films.

Given the increasing speed and volume of scholarly output, good collection development and management are crucial. The LCSF gives the Library the opportunity to rebalance the materials held in the central part of campus, identify materials we want to preserve and make available but don't need to have on campus, as well as make informed decisions about materials whose long-term preservation does not need to be stewarded by Dartmouth.

Council members asked what collections are being moved. Decisions are subject to collection management policy and processes which consider a variety of factors, including which materials are in circulation, what's currently being taught, what programs are no longer offered, what materials are preserved elsewhere, and how particular materials are used.

6. Textbook Affordability: Report on Library Survey

Daniel Chamberlain, Associate Dean of Libraries, Research & Digital Strategies, reported on the results of the textbook affordability survey the Library administered in Spring 2023. Last year, the Council formed a working group on textbook affordability that gathered information from various administrative offices to support conversations about how to address the issue. The survey, which was piloted at Thayer and then sent to all Dartmouth students, was intended to provide data specific to Dartmouth. There were 223 valid responses, approximately 20%

graduate and 80% undergraduate students, including 36 first generation students. 162 respondents provided their major, and for a few areas, there were enough responses to provide program/department-specific data. Overall, approximately 1/3 of respondents indicated costs are a barrier, and 1/2 said costs would be a barrier if they purchased all the required materials. 43% of respondents said they purchase required materials half the time or less, and we know many students are downloading free, unofficial versions of materials. 10% of respondents reported not registering for a course due to textbook costs, and a few students reported changing majors or minors because of costs. Additionally, textbook costs are felt more among first-generation students.

Next steps include information gathering from specific departments/programs. Council members asked whether professors are aware of the costs for their classes, and whether they can be provided information regarding how their costs compare to other courses. It was suggested that access to more information about a course, such as the syllabus, would be helpful during course selection.

7. Any Other Business
None.

8. Next Meeting: 21 November 2023