



## COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 21 November 2023  
12noon – 1:00pm

### Minutes

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

Apologies: Chee, Jawad

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Johnson, Taxman

1. Welcome

The Chair and Dean welcomed the Council

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 10 October 2023

The Minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None.

4. FY25 Budget Round: Library requests

The Dean provided an overview of the Libraries budget from FY17 through FY24. Although the operating budget has gone up in recent years, that is primarily attributed to inflation increases. Considering the Libraries budget as a percentage of the overall Dartmouth operating budget, there has been a downward trend from 2.7% in FY18 to 2.2% in FY24. Investment in the Library Collections and Services Facility is not reflected in the operating budget.

Council members asked whether the Libraries are charged for space, and the Dean indicated that only the storage facility at Etna Road is charged to the Libraries' operating budget. Council members asked how the closure of Kresge impacted the Libraries' budget. Closing Kresge (and Paddock) helped the Libraries meet budget cuts.

Council members asked how the Libraries benchmark the budget against peer institutions. Due to variability in how budgets are reported and what's included/excluded, it's not easy to make comparisons. Council members asked how the A&S restructuring will impact the Libraries. There may be some indirect impact in how the budget flows from central, but we don't know yet what that will look like.

For the FY25 budget round, the Libraries requested capital funding of \$75,000 for Baker Library C level security. There are special collections stored on C level, and there was a security issue with keys, so Safety and Security recommended moving to card access. For new initiatives, the Libraries requested funding for collections inflation increases and 2 new positions: a Digital Infrastructure Technical Developer and a Research Data Curation Specialist. Digital infrastructure and research data support are areas of growth for the Libraries directly related to the strategic framework. Council members discussed trends in hiring, noting that fewer FTEs may be required overall, but the technical skill level needed for many jobs is increasing, making professional development/training more important.

5. Berry 180: Introducing new library teaching facility

Jennifer Taxman, Associate Dean of Libraries, Research & Learning, provided an overview of the Libraries' new teaching space in Berry 180. The classroom and adjacent collaboration spaces and meeting rooms have been designed to facilitate access to collections, technology capabilities, and library expertise. The Libraries have invited faculty to apply to teach courses in the Berry 180 classroom, envisioning that Library staff, including subject matter experts, will partner with faculty to curate collections and resources as well as provide tailored research support to students. Seven applications have been received, and 2-3 will be selected to use the space.

Council members asked whether materials from Rauner could be brought into the space, especially for groups larger than what Rauner can accommodate. Availability of special collections may depend on how easily and securely they can be transported. Council members asked whether the space would be available for one-off classes, which will depend on the schedule of term-long courses. The space can also be used for conferences and workshops during the off term.

6. Textbook Affordability: Update

Daniel Chamberlain, Associate Dean of Libraries, Research & Digital Strategies, provided an update on efforts related to textbook affordability. Since the last Council meeting, the Dean and Associate Deans brought the issue to the Provost and Deans. Following that discussion, the Provost wants to confer with Financial Aid to further the conversation. Council members expressed an interest in continuing to be involved in this work, especially as potential remedies are considered.

7. Library Visual Identity

Daniel Chamberlain provided an update on the Libraries' work on its visual identity. The need for a consistent design theme emerged from work to reduce entropy on the Libraries website, and establishing a distinct visual identity will complement and amplify the Libraries' strategic planning efforts. We approached this work with emphasis on consistency, user-experience, and accessibility, and the Libraries now have a set of design elements for use across the website and other communication channels. We collaborated with the Dartmouth communications office to carve out a distinct identity within the Dartmouth brand, and wanted to make sure it was complementary to Geisel, Tuck, and Thayer. Rollout of the website changes are planned to begin in January, and it may take up to a year to get to every Library webpage.

Council members asked whether this will impact the Libraries' catalog. It won't change the function of the catalog, but the look and feel may change slightly. Council members asked

whether the Libraries' website will be down for any of this work. Much of the work can be done behind the scenes, and downtime for updates is less than a minute.

8. Library Strategic Plan: proposed focus areas for the Council

The Dean has given several presentations and received feedback from various audiences (the Provost and Deans, the Academic Planning Council, and the Academic Excellence Committee of the Board of Trustees) on the Libraries' strategic framework. The Chair and the Dean proposed two areas of focus for the Council this year: Open access and transformative agreements (which can include textbook affordability), and artificial intelligence. The Council will discuss this further at the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Next Meeting: 16 January 2024