



Council on the Libraries

January 14, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Albert, Castelot, Chee, Goodman, Granger, Kull, Mehrer (Dean), Miller, Olivetti (Chair), Peters, Sahu, Saxby, Webster, Will

Apologies: Cirnigliaro, Davis, Feiler, Jawad

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Johnson

1) Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Council.

2) Minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2024

The minutes from the meeting on October 16, 2024, were approved as written.

3) Matters arising from previous meeting

Approved Policies – The Dean announced that the three policies approved during the last meeting have been posted on Dartmouth's Policies Portal.

Council's Priority Areas – Following further discussions based on the October feedback, the Chair and the Dean proposed three priorities for the academic year:

- Library Budget: funding and investment in support of strategic initiatives
- Library Collections: policies and practices
- Advancing Research and Scholarship: Open Access Publishing and integration of AI support

Baker-Berry Occupancy Data – The Dean presented an overview of the evening occupancy data for Baker-Berry for the fall terms of 2024 and 2023, considering the impact of recent changes to opening hours. She particularly highlighted the change in occupancy following the improvements implemented mid-October incorporating feedback and recommendations from students. The data collected after October 16, 2024, indicated an increase in occupancy from Sunday to Thursday between 10 PM and 12 AM, while there was a slight decrease in occupancy from 12 AM to 2 AM compared to 2023. For Fridays and Saturdays after October 16, 2024, there was a significant increase in occupancy from 10 PM to 2 AM compared to the previous year. The Dean expressed encouragement from these findings and stated that they will continue to monitor the occupancy statistics.

Quiet Study Spaces – The Dean further shared that three spaces will be receiving new furniture to improve and expand the 24-hour quiet study spaces. New furniture has been ordered for the “Dr. Seuss” and Novack study rooms. Baker 2 West (the alcove outside the Tower Room) will be utilized to accommodate more quiet study with a cluster of new furniture for both group and individual study.

4) Libraries Budget Overview and FY26 Budget Round Requests

The Dean provided an overview of the fiscal structure of the Libraries. The Libraries’ largest funding stream comes from Central, contributing 78.9% of the total funding in FY25. Central funding consists of two main components: endowments and gifts, which account for 31.1%, and subvention, which comprise 68.9%. The Libraries also receive funds from three professional schools: the Geisel School of Medicine, the Thayer School of Engineering, and the Tuck School of Business. In FY25, the libraries received 21.1% of their funding from Geisel, Thayer, and Tuck. Approximately, 50% of the library's overall budget is allocated for compensation, 45% for collections, and 5% for operating expenses.

The Dean shared the current FY26 budget requests for the Central budget, which were submitted to the Provost's Office. Two capital requests were made: Baker Library Refresh (Reiss Hall; 1902 Room) and IdeasLab Design Refresh & Updated Costs for Berry 2. Additional funds were requested to cover ongoing inflation increases for collections and to fund a new position, Research Data Curation Specialist. The Dean announced that a position request for an AI Research Data Specialist was approved in November 2024 as part of the Provost's Special Initiative. A decision on the FY26 budget is expected by the end of February 2025.

5) Progress update on Libraries Strategic Plan

The Dean highlighted current and ongoing projects that demonstrate progress toward the ambitions articulated in the Libraries' Strategic Framework. The Dean emphasized how the framework continues to be instrumental in guiding priorities and fostering a shared sense of purpose among library staff. Highlights included:

World Class Collections Powering Research and Learning

- The Library Collections and Services Facility (LCSF), which opened in 2024, is critical to the Libraries’ ability to future-proof the stewardship of its collections, enhance accessibility to research materials, and expand collaboration across institutions.
- The Link Classroom provides the setting for deep collaboration between faculty, librarians, and students, embedding expertise and library resources into the curriculum in innovative ways.

Accelerating Advanced Research

- The Libraries serve as an intellectual research hub, bringing people together for panel discussions, workshops, and presentations on topics such as AI, Open Access, and GIS Satellite Imagery.
- Library staff partner with faculty across Dartmouth on real-life applications such as the AI Patient Actor App.
- Open Access Week and faculty-led panels foster critical dialogue on the evolving landscape of scholarly publishing.

Empowering & Supporting Students

- The Library Open House welcomes students, introduces them to the Libraries' staff and resources, and provides guidance on navigating the Libraries' resources.
- Innovative information literacy initiatives are core to empowering students to find and critically evaluate information.
- The new meditation, reflection, and prayer space, initiated by chaplains Abdul Latif and Nancy Vogeles, offers students a private, quiet place within the library.

Enhanced Discovery & Access

- The redesigned library website was launched on January 6, 2025, greatly improving navigation and accessibility.
- Transcription and digitization projects promote unique resources and facilitate new research.

Spotlighting Dartmouth's Scholarship & Historical Accountability

- Book talks, exhibits, and events celebrate and connect students and faculty with Dartmouth's past and present achievements.
- Reparative metadata and initiatives like the successful Historical Accountability Student Research Program underpin the Libraries' commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging.
- The Dartmouth and Slavery Project offers access to new insights and research, aiding in the understanding of Dartmouth's complex history and its founders.

Council members expressed their appreciation for the progress achieved and thanked the entire library staff for their continued work. Members also shared enthusiasm for upcoming projects and opportunities that align with the strategic framework.

The Dean thanked the Council for their work and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2025.