



Council on the Libraries

February 25, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Apologies: Castelot, Cirnigliaro, Davis, Feiler, Jawad, Kull, Saxby

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Johnson, Taxman

Guest: Dean Lacy (Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs)

1) Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Council.

2) Minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2025

The minutes from the meeting on January 14, 2025, were approved as written.

3) Matters arising from previous meeting

Jennifer Taxman updated the Council on the new **Quiet Reflection Nook** located in Baker 5 Stacks. She read a quote from a student who praised the space and highlighted its numerous benefits. Based on the positive feedback, the library is considering creating two additional Quiet Reflection Nooks in Baker stacks.

Jennifer also provided updates on the **refurnishing of three 24/7 spaces:** the Dr. Seuss Room, Baker 2 West, and the Novack study rooms. The improvements are expected to be in place for the next academic year.

4) Textbook costs

The Council welcomed Dean Lacy, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, who is leading the textbook initiative in the Provost's Office. Dean Lacy shared that they are still in the fact-finding stage regarding Dartmouth's textbook policies and welcomed the Council's feedback. He discussed three main concerns that have been identified thus far:

- Rising textbook costs

- Some faculty consider adjusting their methods of delivering materials due to these costs
- Financial aid stipends for textbooks often being used for non-textbook expenses

The Council provided feedback, highlighting insights from its working group on textbook affordability, which was active from 2022 to 2024. During this time, the working group conducted two student surveys on textbook affordability. Daniel Chamberlain highlighted two key takeaways from the surveys:

- Textbook costs influenced students' course selections
- Some students changed majors due to textbook costs

Several Council members suggested that Dartmouth establish clear guiding principles regarding textbook provision. Faculty members shared their experiences in providing learning materials, and the pros and cons of teaching with eBooks were discussed.

Dean Lacy thanked the Council for their feedback and stated that he would return to a future meeting with updates on this initiative.

5) Collection development policy

Qiana Johnson discussed the draft of the Collection Development Policy, which was shared with the Council ahead of the meeting. She explained that collection development is user-focused and involves active decision-making around the purchasing and licensing of resources. The following values guided the creation of this policy:

Collections Values

- **Open** – The Libraries seek to support and facilitate the widest access to information at the local, national, and global levels.
- **Accessible** – The Libraries seek to reduce and mitigate barriers to information access.
- **Diverse** – The Libraries seek to build and curate collections reflecting the variety of human experience and human thought.
- **Foundational** – The Libraries seek to build collections that support the asking and answering of questions at multiple researcher levels for the creation of new knowledge.
- **Sustainable** – The Libraries seek to build collections that are financially and environmentally sustainable.

Qiana opened the discussion for feedback and questions from the Council. One member asked if this policy would change how subject librarians help professors acquire materials for their classes. Qiana clarified that subject librarians would continue to support

professors as before and that the Libraries' current policy of not purchasing textbooks would remain unchanged. The Council also discussed the use of digital versus print materials in different disciplines. The Dean highlighted that the policy reflected a holistic approach to collection development where access to materials provided by library partners was an important aspect in the decision-making processes. The Council approved the policy, which will be reviewed by the Provost's office before being posted on the Policies Portal.

6) New Departments: Research Facilitation & Digital Scholarly Engagement

Daniel Chamberlain announced updates regarding the restructuring of library departments, stating that the changes aim to better connect teams and expand expertise and programming in support of the Libraries' strategic priorities. The two newly formed departments are:

- **Research Facilitation** – By combining the strengths of Research Data Services and Scholarly Communications, this department will focus on supporting advanced researchers and promoting public access to Dartmouth scholarship. Team members can facilitate research ideation, data management planning, aspects of proposal development, and data procurement/organization/wrangling/visualization. They can also help scholars with publication guidance, data sharing, and support with appropriate repositories.
- **Digital Scholarly Engagement** – Merging the Jones Media Center, Evans Map Room, and Digital by Dartmouth Libraries program, this department will concentrate on empowering students and equipping them with foundational and advanced research skills. This effort is primarily targeted at undergraduate students interested in digital tools and methods early in their Dartmouth experience, and instructors who need curricular development partners with expertise in digital scholarly pedagogy.

7) Collections budget overview

Due to time constraints, the Dean noted that the discussion of the collections budget overview will be moved to the next meeting, which is scheduled for April 1, 2025.

8) Any other business

None.