



Council on the Libraries

April 1, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Castelot, Goodman, Granger, Mehrer (Dean), Miller, Olivetti (Chair), Sahu, Sherrard, Will

Apologies: Albert, Chee, Cirnigliaro, Davis, Feiler, Kull, Peters, Saxby, Webster

Library Leadership Team: Johnson, Taxman

1) Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Council.

2) Minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2025

The minutes from the meeting on February 25, 2025, were approved as written.

3) Matters arising from previous meeting

None.

4) Collections management policy

The Associate Dean of Libraries for Collections & Content Strategies, Qiana Johnson, discussed the draft of the Collection Management Policy, which was shared with the Council ahead of the meeting. She explained that this policy outlines how the Libraries care for their physical and digital materials and complements the Collection Development Policy, which was recently posted on Dartmouth's Policy Portal.

The values that guide both policies are outlined as follows:

- **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 noted that collection management involves balancing the research and teaching needs of the current community and anticipating the future needs of scholars. It also involves being mindful of spatial and environmental conditions and being aware of and engaging with network partners. Deselection was highlighted as a key component, with decisions guided by Dartmouth's research and curricular priorities and storage availability.

There was time for questions and feedback. Members noted that the draft policy was clear and comprehensive. A clarifying question was raised regarding the language used in the Criteria for Deselection section. The Council approved the policy, which the Provost's Office will now review before being posted on the Policies Portal.

Stemming from this discussion on collection management, members engaged in an in-depth dialogue about scholarly journals and digital materials and revisited the collection development policies. The Dean noted the importance of collaborating with liaison librarians to ensure collection needs are known. Members discussed various methods for accessing digital materials and the best practices to help the Libraries stay informed of current usage and requests.

5) FY26 Budget Round update

The Dean provided an update on the Libraries' FY26 budget requests, referencing the Provost's recent email to the Dartmouth community that noted fewer budget approvals overall. The Libraries' budget approvals included a small increase in the collections budget to contribute towards covering the annual inflationary increases, and the previously approved position of AI Research Data Science Specialist. Funding for the position of Research Data Curation Specialist was not approved, and neither was the Berry Library Design Refresh. The Baker Library Refresh is being considered with other pending capital requests.

6) Collections budget overview

Qiana Johnson provided an overview and breakdown of the Libraries' collections budget. Funding sources for the collections budget include Central, Geisel, Thayer, and Tuck, with Central contributing approximately 67.5% of the total for FY25. Central's budget consists of approximately 25% subvention funding and 75% endowment funding, which includes both restricted and unrestricted sources. Qiana noted that 80% of the collections budget is allocated to recurring costs, including journals, databases, e-books, and streaming media

platforms. Qiana emphasized the collaboration between Central and the professional schools, noting that each contributes to the Libraries' largest publishing deals. She outlined how resources are shared among the schools and noted that, with very few exceptions, anyone on the Dartmouth campus can access these resources, regardless of who funds them.

7) Any other business

The Dean thanked the Council for their contributions and announced that the final meeting of the academic year is scheduled for May 20, 2025.