



## **Council on the Libraries**

May 20, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Albert, Castelot, Chee, Cirnigliaro, Feiler, Goodman, Mehrer (Dean), Miller, Olivetti (Chair), Sahu, Saxby, Sherrard, Will

**Apologies:** Davis, Granger, Kull, Peters, Webster

**Library Leadership Team:** Chamberlain, Johnson, Taxman

**Guest:** Laura Barrett (Head of Teaching and Learning, Dartmouth Libraries)

Agenda item 5 was discussed after the approval of the minutes to respect the time of our guest presenter.

#### 1) Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Council to the final meeting of the academic year.

#### 2) Minutes of the meeting held on April 1, 2025

The minutes from the meeting on April 1, 2025, were approved as written.

#### 3) Matters arising from previous meeting

Jennifer Taxman announced that the furniture updates in the Dr. Seuss Room, Baker 2 West, and the Novack study rooms have recently been completed, although a few pieces are still pending arrival. The spaces have been refreshed and modified to allow for more 24/7 quiet study spaces.

Daniel Chamberlain, Associate Dean of Libraries for Research and Digital Strategies, provided an update on recent hiring. A new STEM librarian will join the Libraries on July 1, and the AI Research Data Science Specialist has just been hired. The search for the Senior Research Data Science Specialist is in its final stage.

#### 4) Libraries scenario planning

The Dean updated the Council on the Libraries' scenario planning for potential budget cuts, noting that all campus departments were asked to engage in similar planning. She explained that the planning was broad in scope and that the Libraries will need to consider savings across all areas, including staffing, operations, and collections. An initial high-level outline had been submitted at the end of April.

## 5) Foundational research skills overview

The Dean introduced Laura Barrett, Head of Teaching and Learning, and Jennifer Taxman, Associate Dean of Libraries for Academic Engagement and Operations Strategies, who provided an overview of the Libraries' instructional initiatives focused on foundational research skills. Taxman shared that key goals in this area include teaching critical literacies (AI, data, digital, and information literacy) and creating new offerings to address AI and other emerging needs. Barrett discussed the six learning outcomes that Dartmouth librarians developed to guide their work with pre-major undergraduates. She highlighted how their work with students is flexible and varied, adapted to support individual learning preferences and the diverse curriculum at Dartmouth.

Barrett shared examples of librarians collaborating with faculty in first-year writing and seminar courses, where they led sessions introducing students to research tools, campus resources, and diverse forms of scholarly text. She underscored the value of these collaborations and the importance of teaching foundational skills early in students' academic careers. However, she also noted a recent decline in librarian participation in courses, prompting more creative outreach efforts to faculty to continue offering this instruction.

Additional methods to support foundational research skill development include self-directed learning modules such as Agents of Time, partnerships with the Academic Skills Center and the Writing Center, and the creation of instructional videos. Taxman outlined three potential strategies to increase student engagement: embedding librarians directly into Canvas courses, offering standalone skill-building workshops, and establishing a four-credit research skills course.

The Council expressed its strong support for teaching foundational research skills and discussed ideas for expanding instructional opportunities. The discussion included a focus on AI literacy and the need to address the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

Members, including both students and faculty, shared their positive experiences working with librarians, whether in the classroom or through library resources, and echoed the importance of foundational research skills as a strategic goal.

## 6) GreenGlass collection management tool

Qiana Johnson, Associate Dean of Libraries for Collections and Content Strategies, presented GreenGlass, a newly acquired web-based application that provides data and insights to support collection development, management, and preservation. Johnson shared that Dartmouth Libraries' monographs, approximately 1.4 million titles, are included in the GreenGlass database, enabling staff to track collection composition and usage patterns more effectively. Johnson demonstrated how the Libraries can use GreenGlass to run queries that help identify high-use items as well as underused materials that may be relocated to the Library Collections and Services Facility or deselected. She noted that

monograph use is tracked during reshelving and may be undercounted if patrons reshelve items themselves. Johnson emphasized that collection decisions consider multiple factors, including curricular and research needs, retention agreements, item rarity, duplication, and digital availability. Council members expressed enthusiasm for GreenGlass and its ability to provide valuable data on the Dartmouth Libraries' collections that will aid future collection decisions.

7) Any other business

None.

8) Gratitude

The Dean thanked the Council for their contributions throughout the academic year, highlighting their engagement and impact on the Libraries' services, policies, and strategic initiatives. She offered special appreciation to Claudia Olivetti for her service as Chair of the Council.