

DARTMOUTH

Council on Libraries ANNUAL REPORT FOR AY 23-24

Membership:

| School, Department, Office represented: | Membership: | Name: |
|---|---|---------------------|
| A&S | COP (Faculty of A&S) | Alexander Chee |
| A&S | COP (Faculty of A&S) | Noelia Cirnigliaro |
| A&S | COP (Faculty of A&S) | Marcelo Gleiser |
| A&S | COP (Faculty of A&S) | Bing He |
| A&S | COP (Faculty of A&S) | Claudia Olivetti |
| A&S | COP (Faculty of A&S) | D.G. Webster |
| Geisel | Geisel faculty member | David Goodman |
| Guarini | Graduate Student | Zack Peters |
| Information Technology | VP/CIO | Mitch Davis |
| Library | Dean of Libraries | Susanne Mehrer |
| Guarini | Guarini Dean (or representative) | Jon Kull |
| Guarini | Postdoc | Michael Wales |
| Provost | Provost (or representative) | Paul E. Sunde |
| Student Affairs | Dean of the College (or representative) | Joe Castelot |
| Thayer | Thayer faculty member | Geoffrey G. Parker* |
| Tuck | Tuck faculty member | Dan Feiler |
| Undergraduate | Undergraduate Student | Anthony Fosu '24 |
| Undergraduate | Undergraduate Student | Sabik Jawad '26 |

*Denotes Council Chair

Charge as described in the Organization of the General Faculty of Dartmouth College (OGFDC):

1. To represent the faculty and students in maintaining the excellence of the Library with respect to its collections, resources, services, programs, and spaces for the benefit of the Dartmouth community.
2. To assist in strategic planning for the Library by keeping the Dean of Libraries informed about current and future library needs for teaching, learning, and research, and providing liaison between the Dean of Libraries and the faculties of Dartmouth.
3. To advise the Dean of Libraries on formulation and implementation of policies and programs in relation to collection development and collection management, development of new library services and on other matters of general library policy.
4. To submit a report to the General Faculty at the end of each academic year.

Number of meetings during the past academic year:

The Council on the Libraries met five times over the year. Six meetings had been scheduled for the academic year; one meeting was cancelled. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Council on Libraries Website: <https://www.dartmouth.edu/library/col/2324/index.html>.

Please submit to Office.of.the.Provost@dartmouth.edu by **June 7, 2024**

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Activities for the past academic year, and how they address the charge of the council:

Over the past academic year, the Council on the Libraries has been carrying out its charge as outlined above by remaining actively engaged with the Libraries' strategic and operational planning and priorities. Following an immersive strategic planning process with the full involvement of the Council in the previous academic year, the members continued to provide input into shaping the Libraries' strategic pillars and goals. This also included the Libraries' new visual identity and implementing the more inclusive 'Dartmouth Libraries' name change. Furthermore, the Council provides ongoing feedback, direction and oversight as the Libraries implement the new strategic framework.

The Council's impact on the broader Dartmouth community was evident in the success of its analysis of and advocacy for addressing the pressing issue of textbook affordability, which was part of the Council's core work in AY22/23. Because of the Council's work and recommendations, textbook affordability is being considered at the institutional level and a new Provost-initiated working group has been formed to identify creative and effective solutions to address the issue system wide.

In addition to its role in supporting the implementation of the Libraries' strategy, the Council focused on two priority areas: the move to open scholarship and the adoption of Generative AI. The Council gained a deeper understanding of the publishing landscape, the Libraries' collections budget and a shift to strategic investment in transformative agreements as institutions prepare for the change in funder mandates and new modes of scholarship. In January, Library leadership provided the opportunity for the Council to hear directly from DCAL, Research Computing and the Libraries about cross-institutional efforts on GenAI. This dedicated meeting facilitated an engaged discussion and the Council members commended all three areas for the broad and varied work to date in this rapidly evolving landscape.

The Council remains committed to supporting and advocating for the sustainability of the Libraries' core academic mission. Over the past number of years, the Council has witnessed the erosion of the Libraries' budget and has sought direct discussion with the Provost. The Council expressed disappointment and concern to the Provost that the budget round requests, which were in direct support of the Libraries' strategic priorities, were not approved. The only approval received was for a small increase in the collections budget to address inflationary increases.

Key insights or recommendations:

The strength of the Council on the Libraries lies in the campus wide representation of faculty, students and key campus offices. Members of this Council recognize the critical importance of the Libraries to Dartmouth scholarship at all levels and are actively engaged in shaping the direction and priorities of the Libraries.

The Libraries' diminishing budget continues to be a cause of concern and the Council would like to see a financial plan that will ensure the Libraries' ability to support research and teaching at the highest level as expected for an R1 institution.

Recommended topics of the council to consider in the coming year:

It is anticipated that engagement with open scholarship at Dartmouth will continue to be a focus for the Council, as well as developments in GenAI. The new Chair of the Council will have the opportunity to discuss and agree other priority areas at the Council's first meeting in October.

Report Completion Date: June 5, 2024

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