

# DARTMOUTH

## Council on the Libraries Annual Report for Academic Year 2024-2025

### Membership:

Unit Represented:	Membership:	Name:
A&S	A&S faculty - COP - Arts & Humanities	Alexander Chee
A&S	A&S faculty - COP - Arts & Humanities	Noelia Cirnigliaro
A&S	A&S Faculty - COP - Sciences	D.G. Webster
A&S	A&S Faculty - COP - Sciences	Richard Granger
A&S	A&S Faculty - COP - Social Sciences	Claudia Olivetti <sup>‡</sup>
A&S	A&S Faculty - COP - Social Sciences	Jennifer Miller
Library	Dean of Libraries	Susanne Mehrer <sup>!</sup>
Student Affairs	Dean of the College (or representative)	Joe Castelot
Geisel	Geisel faculty member	David Goodman
Guarini	Graduate Student	Zack Peters
Guarini	Guarini Dean (or representative)	Jon Kull
Guarini	Postdoc	Solange Saxby
Provost	Provost (or representative)	Barbara Will
Thayer	Thayer faculty member	Mary Albert
Tuck	Tuck faculty member	Dan Feiler
Library	Undergraduate Student	Samay Sahu '27
Library	Undergraduate Student	Mary Sherrard '28
Information Technology	<sup>^</sup> VP/CIO	Mitch Davis

<sup>^</sup> Denotes non-voting members

<sup>!</sup> Denotes Convener

<sup>‡</sup> Denotes 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 during the past academic year. The agenda and minutes for each meeting are available on the Dartmouth Libraries website: [Council on the Libraries 2024-2025](#).

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

The Council on the Libraries continues to be actively engaged in carrying out all aspects of its charge. Over the 2024-2025 academic year, this included regular consultations on the implementation of the Libraries' strategic framework, improvement of spaces, changes in service hours, expansion of programming, and participation in policy formulation.

Responding to ongoing recruitment challenges for late-night coverage, new opening hours were proposed for the Baker-Berry Library. Library staff provided an analysis of usage patterns and occupancy during late-night hours that showed opportunities to reduce staffed hours after midnight. The Council, particularly the student members, provided critical insights and feedback that informed the adjusted hours. In addition, the discussions highlighted that the 24/7 spaces in Baker-Berry Library are in need of improvement, which resulted in a refresh of certain areas and a modest addition of study spaces in Baker Library. More significant refurbishment needs were added to the larger campus planning considerations.

A significant amount of work was focused on updating and creating library policies. The Council played a pivotal role in evaluating five policies by reviewing drafts, discussing content, and providing valuable feedback to the Dean of Libraries. All five new or refreshed policies are now available on the Dartmouth Policy Portal:

- Dartmouth Libraries Challenged Materials Policy
- Dartmouth Libraries Collection Development Policy
- Dartmouth Libraries Collection Management Policy
- Dartmouth Libraries Short-Term Display Policy
- Dartmouth Libraries Signage Policy

Collections and Content Strategies were another focus this year. Expanding on the policy work, the Council discussed queries and concerns in relation to textbooks, the high cost of subscriptions, and potential impacts on the collections budget. The Libraries also highlighted the need for active collection management, a regular practice now supported by a new collection management tool. The data provided by the tool combined with the principles of collection management outlined in the policy, will inform upcoming projects.

Members of the Council reiterated the need for information and research skills as fundamental for learning, research and collaboration. The Council expressed support for the Libraries' current programming and provided advice on potential developments. It was recognized that critical literacies must encompass information, digital, data, and AI literacies. The Council was excited to learn about two new hires who will significantly add to the Libraries' ability to advance and support data and AI-intensive areas of research and learning.

## **Key insights or recommendations:**

Council members represent constituents from across the campus who are deeply committed to ensuring the excellence of the Dartmouth Libraries. The in-person Council meetings provide the platform for critical insights, honest feedback, and collaborative problem-solving that support the strategic goals and aspirations of the Libraries. The Council's active engagement and participation are key to its effectiveness in guiding and shaping the Libraries' ongoing development.

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**Recommended topics for the council to consider in the coming year:**

Generative AI will undoubtedly continue to provide challenges and opportunities across higher education, and the Council is well-positioned to guide and support the Libraries' place in the AI ecosystem. There is also the opportunity to build on this year's collections focus by examining scholarly publishing and the broader publishing landscape for more in-depth discussions about resource strategies. As always, topics and areas of focus will be discussed and agreed upon at the Council's first meeting in the fall term.

**Report completion date:** June 20, 2025