Council on the Libraries
Annual Report 2017–18

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Chair
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Introduction

The Council on the Libraries represents faculty and students in maintaining the excellence of the Library with respect to its collections, resources, services, programs, and spaces. It assists in strategic planning by keeping the Dean of Libraries informed about current and future library needs for teaching, learning and research, and by providing liaison between the Dean of Libraries and the faculties of Dartmouth. It advises 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.

The Council on the Libraries meets approximately once per month during the academic year. The Council consists of the Dean of Libraries; the Provost or his or her representative; the Dean of College or his or her representative; six members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (two from each division, from different departments, appointed by the Committee on Organization and Policy); one member from each of the three Professional Schools; and three students (two undergraduates and one graduate). The Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer serves as a non-voting member.

Membership and Meeting Attendance

The Council met six times in the past academic year. It was composed of:

Position	Representative	Attendance
Dean of Libraries	**Sue Mehrer**	6/6
Provost Representative	**Alicia Betsinger**, Associate Provost for Insttutional Research	2/6
Dean of College Representative	**Rebecca Biron**, Dean of College (October '17); **Natalie Hoyt**, Dean of Undergraduate Students (Since November '17)	2/6
Arts and Sciences, Faculty Member	**Veronica Fuechtner**, Professor of German Studies	5/6
Arts and Sciences, Faculty Member	**Erik Griffin**, Professor of Biology (S18)	1/2
Arts and Sciences, Faculty Member	**Tom Luxon**, Professor of English	5/6
Arts and Sciences, Faculty Member	**Janice McCabe**, Associate Professor of Sociology	4/6
Faculty Chairperson	**Walter Simons**, Professor of History	6/6
Arts and Sciences, Faculty Member	**Esme Thompson**, Professor of Studio Art (F17, W18)	2/4
Arts and Sciences, Faculty Member	**David Webb**, Professor of Mathematics	4/6
Tuck School , Faculty Member	**Steven Kahl**, Associate Professor of Business Administration	0/6

Geisel School, Faculty Member	**Jock McCullough**, Associate Professor of Surgery	2/6
Thayer School, Faculty Member	**Geoffrey Parker**, Professor of Engineering	2/6
Undergraduate Student	**Brooke Hadley** '18	2/6
Undergraduate Student	**Nicholas Norwitz** '18	5/6
Graduate Student	**Chris Carroll**, Vice President Graduate Student Council (F17)	2/2
Graduate Student	**Hunter Snyder** (W-S18)	4/4
Information Technology (non-voting representative)	**Mitch Davis**, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer	5/6
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Jennifer Taxman**, Associate Librarian for Research and Learning	4/6
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Barbara DeFelice**, Program Director, Scholarly Communication, Copyright, and Publishing	2/6
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Jen Green**, Digital Scholarship Librarian	2/6
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Leslie Henderson**, Professor of Physiology and Neurobiology	2/6
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Jane Quigley**, Interim Director of BioMedical Libraries	2/6
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Barb Sagraves**, Interim Associate Librarian for Information Services	3/6
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Daniel Chamberlain**, Associate Librarian for Digital Strategies (from March 2018)	1/2
Regular Guest (non-voting)	**Kenneth Peterson,** Associate Librarian for Access & Collection Strategies (from May 2018)	1/1

Summary of Activities

In accordance with the Strategic Objectives of the Library (see https://www.library.dartmouth.edu/about/strategic-objectives-priorities), the Library articulated nine Strategic Priorities for 2017-2020:

(1) Collaborate with faculty and key stakeholders to enhance and support new modes of scholarship, applied practice and research innovation at Dartmouth.
(2) Lead on the development and use of tools and services for the creation, dissemination, discovery, and preservation of Dartmouth research and collections.
(3) Partner with students, faculty and other strategic partners on curriculum design and teaching to enrich Dartmouth's teacher/scholar model through the innovative use of library resources and expertise.
(4) Connect students and faculty with resources at the point of need, anytime, anywhere through enhanced discovery tools.

(5) Develop digital library environments for collaborative interaction that meet the needs of 21st century scholars.

(6) Provide inspiring and inclusive learning environments and staff expertise, both centrally and in strategically located library hubs across campus.

(7) Contribute to global scholarship through our unique collections, the Dartmouth Digital Library and Dartmouth Digital Learning Initiatives.

(8) Empower library staff to engage in new roles to enrich Dartmouth's teaching, learning and research initiatives.

(9) Attract new philanthropic and grant funding in support of strategic priorities.

During 2017–18, the Council met with representatives of the Library to evaluate several initiatives intended to fulfill those priorities. The major issues and activities are discussed below.

1. Open Dartmouth

The Council plays a key role in supervising the development and functioning of Dartmouth Digital Commons (https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/), which houses the open digital repository set up in 2017 in implementation of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Open Access Policy of 2015. Implemented and maintained by the Library, the repository provides open access, preservation, and management for content created by members of the Dartmouth community. As of writing, *Open Dartmouth*, the Faculty Open Access collection, contains more than 2,400 articles in about 400 subject areas. The Council reminds all faculty members they may submit peer-reviewed versions of closed-access articles (most publishers allow publication of those materials in open access) or final versions of open-access articles to *Open Dartmouth*. For further instructions, visit https://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/schcomm/DDC.html. The Faculty Open Access Policy is explained at: https://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/col/oa_policy_resolution/.

2. Questionable publishing practices, or "predatory" publishing.

As the world of scholarly publishing is being transformed rapidly under the pressures of technological change, global commercial shifts, and the rise of open access publication, traditional methods to assess the quality of journals may not always suffice.   In this new environment, authors may find it difficult to determine whether a journal is a suitable venue for publication, particularly for journals outside the field of one's immediate expertise. Online information about the journal may be limited or misleading, financial arrangements for publication vary a great deal depending on the discipline and field, and legal recourse to correct abuses may be either expensive or ineffective. In consultation with the Council, a Library team has drawn up guidelines to help address challenges posed by questionable or fraudulent publishing practices: "Choosing and Article Publisher: A Checklist" is now integrated in the Library's Research Guide and available from the Library's webpages on Scholarly Publishing & Communication. The Council discussed possible improvements or additions as well as ways to further publicize the recommendations.

3. Library Website

Since the launch of the Library's new website at the end of 2016, the Council met with members of the design team to discuss the results of a usability report and website statistics gathered in the fall of 2017. Several changes have been made already in response to those data. The Council offered feedback as the team explored ways to meet all of the needs of a diverse community of users and to tailor search offerings to more specialized needs, while respecting user privacy.

4. Library De-Accessioning Program

Due to space constraints of the physical plant, the Library began in January 2018 a de-accessioning program that will run over three years. Subject specialist librarians in English, History, Geography, Communication, Television Studies as well as Social Science and Humanities Reference (other subject areas will follow), are working closely with faculty and others to identify and assess low-used printed materials. After identification of such materials, subject librarians will remove printed items that are commonly held by Ivy Plus/Borrow Direct Libraries and/or those that no longer support the current curriculum. The Council monitored proceedings and discussed with the Library ways to keep faculty, students, and other users informed. More information on the plan and procedures may be found at https://researchguides.dartmouth.edu/deaccessioning/process.

5. **Research Services Hubs Project**

Over the spring term, the Library's aim to develop a more user-centered approach focused on research services, which are currently often dispersed or fragmented. The objective of the initial project was to devise ways to bring the best possible research services to Dartmouth's faculty members and graduate/professional students, online and in person, collaborating with other College units to enhance services.

  Leadership of the project consulted with the Council in preparation of the project. A survey of the current landscape of services offered to faculty, graduate students, and students in the professional schools, as well as a review of practices at eight peer institutions, were carried out over the course of three months. Nancy Fried Foster, a University of Rochester anthropologist and director of Design Anthropology, LLC, worked with the project team as a consultant. The Council will be updated in the fall of 2018, when implementation of the project is scheduled.

6. Offsite Storage Proposal for low-use Collections

The Council discussed preparations to address space constraints, particularly at the off-campus Storage Facility at Etna Road, which will reach full capacity in 2020. The Dean of Libraries has submitted a proposal that, after approval by the Trustees in March 2018, has been incorporated in the Capital Planning Projects list. A feasibility study will be carried out during fall 2018 to

understand the options and costs associated with this significant project. The fully costed proposal will be reviewed by the Trustees in spring 2019.

7. Change of the Council's Charge

The Council discussed its functioning and organization during several meetings. While both faculty members and the Dean of Libraries underscored the Council's effectiveness as an interface between Library and faculty, they agreed that the wording of the Council's charge needed updating to bring it in line with current needs and practices. The Council drafted a new text, shared in May 2018 with the Provost for approval by the appropriate bodies on campus. The new text clarifies the Council's advisory role at the strategic level, replaces the term "Librarian of the College" by "Dean of Libraries," and recommends expanding the Council's membership to include a representative of postdoctoral scholars on campus.