



COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 21 May 2024

Minutes

Present: Castelot, Chee, Cirigliaro, Feiler, Gleiser, Goodman, He, Mehrer, Olivetti, Parker, Peters, Wales

Apologies: Davis, Fuso, Jawad, Kull, Madden, Peters, Webster

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Johnson, Taxman

Guest: Sahu '27 (incoming undergraduate representative)

1. Welcome

The Chair and Dean welcomed the Council members and guests.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 27 February 2024 (enclosed)

Minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

A proposal by the Dean to post the minutes to the Council on the Libraries webpages as 'draft' minutes before formal approval at the next meeting was discussed and approved. Publicly posted draft minutes will provide more timely access to Council discussions for the Dartmouth community.

Process: Draft minutes sent to Council members for review and corrections for 5 working days; draft minutes are posted on Council webpages and clearly identified as 'draft'; Council will formally approve minutes at the next Council meeting; approved minutes will be posted and draft minutes removed.

4. Baker-Berry Library late-night opening

Dean Mehrer presented information regarding Baker-Berry Library late night opening. The overview included: current staffing levels and challenges; daily occupancy and circulation statistics; availability of 24/7 spaces in the Baker-Berry Library and Novack café; and the opening hours at Ivy peers and nearby institutions. With respect to potential changes to the late-night hours, Dean Mehrer stressed that there would be no reduction in overall working hours for current staff and that the library would continue

to provide 24/7 access to the entire Baker-Berry Library complex during exam periods. Members of the Council asked clarifying questions and provided thoughtful input to the discussion.

Dean Mehrer put forward the proposal to close the Baker-Berry Library at 12 midnight Sunday – Thursday, and 10 pm on Friday and Saturday. The Council agreed that based on the data it was reasonable to close the Baker-Berry Library earlier, beginning with the Fall 2024 academic term. With the support of the Council, Dean Mehrer will discuss the proposal and recommendation with the Provost.

5. Implementing the Libraries’ Strategic Framework: Progress Report

The three Associate Deans of Libraries presented objectives, status, and details for each of the Libraries’ goals:

Equip students with foundational and advanced research skills

- Continue to develop a program of foundational skills for the pre-major years
- Launch a prototype digital scholarship center in the Berry Library that integrates scholarly multidisciplinary methods training

Create an Advanced Research Hub

- Currently undertaking a Digital Preservation Strategy review; Establish prototype space for research support activities; Develop and launch a website outlining comprehensive research support services at Dartmouth

Significantly expand and promote public access to Dartmouth scholarship

- Preparing Dartmouth research support teams and researchers for impacts of 2025 changing funder mandates; Developing framework for negotiating transformative agreements; Develop a framework to guide investment in open scholarship systems, collective infrastructure, local infrastructure

Enhance discovery and access to world class research collections

- Systematically updating significant core digital systems; Refocus/revamp collections strategies and practices

Complement and amplify initiatives that support student mental health and provide welcoming spaces

- Formalize Student Wellness Center and Student Government partnerships; further expand and develop programming and welcoming spaces

Highlight and celebrate Dartmouth’s scholarly achievements

- Establish structural approaches for highlighting research and scholarship; Explore sponsorship opportunities

6. Gen AI: Libraries’ Activities AY23/24 (enclosed)

Associate Dean of Libraries, Daniel Chamberlain, presented an overview of programs, services and activities in relation to generative artificial intelligence, noting the Libraries’ important partnerships with Research Computing and Data Services team (part of Dartmouth’s Information Technology and Consulting organization), and Dartmouth’s Center for the Advancement of Learning. Dartmouth Libraries has a strong, expanded team supporting Gen AI activities. The team held over 25 sessions across subject areas on AI and critical information literacy, from fundamental concepts to engagement with

specific tools and methods. The team is currently active on many research partnerships and consultation, including sessions focused on workflows for structuring a corpus of material to run GenAI tools and others exploring the landscape of journal publishing policies related to AI-assisted authorship and peer review requirements. Dartmouth Libraries will continue to develop programming and partnerships in the coming year. In response to a question on junk research and paper mills, Chamberlain explained that the Libraries-led sessions consider both the promises and pitfalls of these new tools and approaches, with a focus on teaching critical evaluation and showing how AI technologies fit alongside other possible tools and approaches.

7. Textbook Affordability

The Council recognized and celebrated the impactful work accomplished over the past two years, especially the contributions of Council members David Goodman and Joe Castelot to the textbook affordability working group. As a result of the work and advocacy of the Council, 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.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Thank you to the Council

The Chair of the Council and Dean Mehrer thanked all members of the Council for an engaged and productive year and recognized the contributions of the members stepping off the committee: Marcelo Gleiser, Bing He, Anthony Fosu, Geoffrey Parker (Chair). Council members thanked Dean Mehrer and Libraries staff for their work over the past year and keeping the Council involved in the ongoing development of the Libraries' strategic priorities.