



General Faculty Committee: Institutional Statements

July 11, 2024

This committee results from a meeting of the Steering Committee of the General Faculty on May 10, 2024.

Dartmouth seeks to be a community in which a diversity of viewpoints can be freely shared and exchanged to promote deeper understanding of complex issues and ideas. Moreover, Dartmouth supports and protects the academic freedom of faculty to engage in scholarly activity.

As noted in its mission statement, Dartmouth’s “faculty [are] dedicated to teaching and the creation of knowledge.” This dual mission is achieved through a community committed to open inquiry and the opportunity for discussion and debate of new, complex, and sometimes controversial ideas. Because any institutional statement about a matter of social or political controversy may cause some members of the community to feel they are less able to express their own opinions about such matters, the institution should be thoughtful about whether and when to make such statements. The recommendations of this committee will help articulate the principles by which the institution, and its component units, should consider making statements.

Under current policy, only certain individuals are authorized to speak for the institution; see the [policy on Institutional Statements](#).

Charge

Consider how and when Dartmouth (or its component schools, centers, and departments) should speak. In short,

- Under what conditions should Dartmouth leaders make a statement on behalf of the institution?
- How do these same principles apply to departments, centers, and institutes?
- Articulate the underlying principles for, and implementation of, a policy on institutional statements.

In doing its work, the committee shall review similar commitments made by peer institutions, and consult with key campus stakeholder groups, including students, faculty, and senior leadership.

Deliverables

A report to President Sian Beilock and Provost David Kotz, with a copy to the Steering Committee of the General Faculty, with recommendations regarding:

- Principles for how and when Dartmouth should make institutional statements, providing the underlying rationale and relationship to academic freedom and freedom of expression;
- A community engagement process, including mechanisms to educate the community;
- Any suggested adaptations to the existing policy on institutional statements.

Timeline

Begin work in July; deliver recommendations by November 1, 2024.

Membership

Executive sponsors: President Sian Beilock and Provost David Kotz

Members:

- Chair: John Carey, former Associate Dean of Social Science, Arts & Sciences
- Faculty:
 - Hui Fang, Associate Professor of Engineering, Thayer School
 - Peter Golder, Professor of Marketing, Tuck School
 - Alison Holmes, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Geisel School of Medicine
 - Jennifer Jerit, Professor of Government, Department of Government
 - Don Pease, The Ted and Helen Geisel Third Century Professor in the Humanities, Arts & Sciences
 - Carl Renshaw, Professor of Earth Sciences, Arts & Sciences
- Staff: Justin Anderson, Senior Vice President for Communications

Advisor: Esther Walker, Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel

Staff support: Amy Flockton, Program Coordinator, Academic Cluster Initiative, Office of the Provost