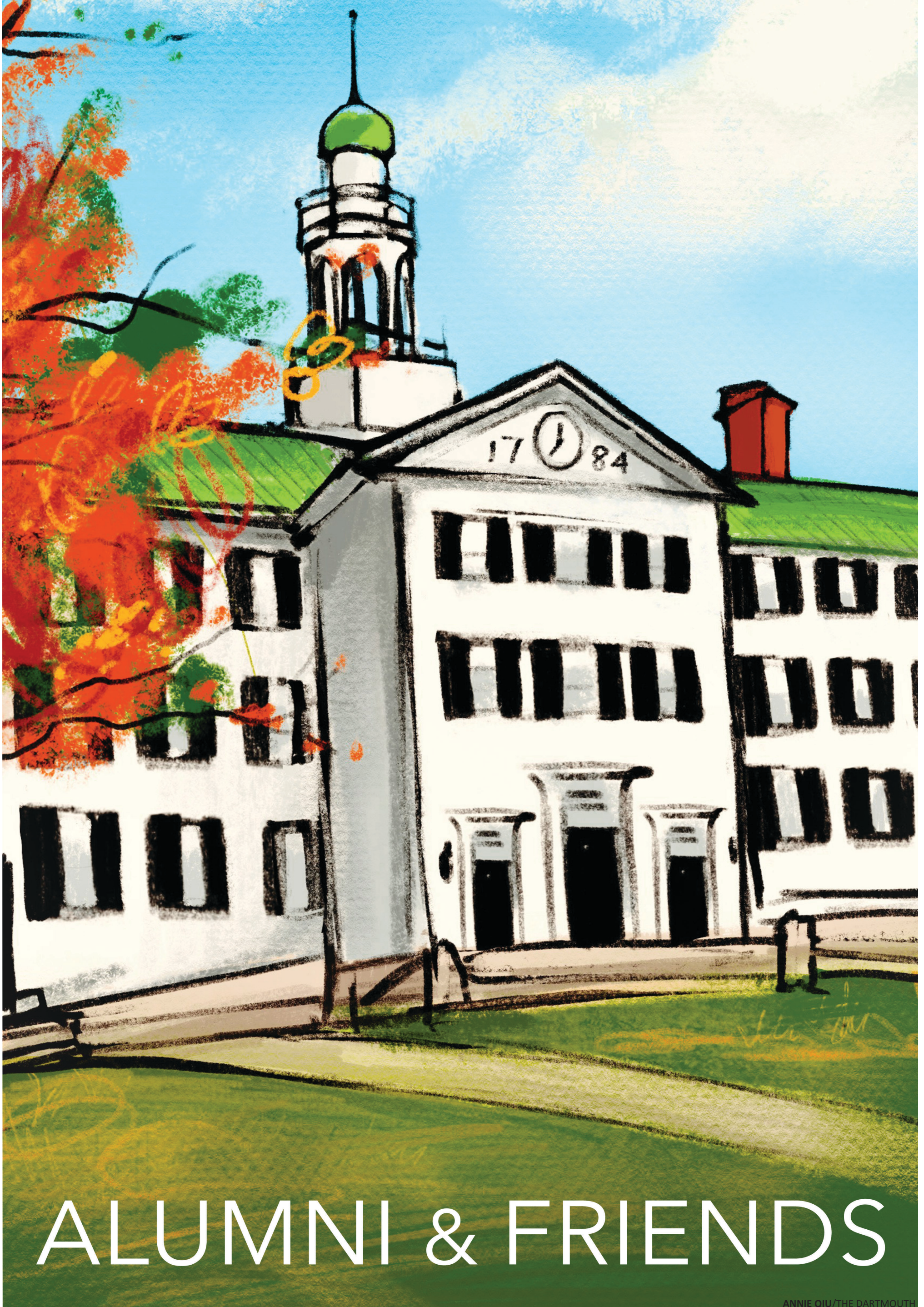


# The Dartmouth

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## ALUMNI & FRIENDS



## A photograph of a church steeple with a cross on top, framed by trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and green. The sky is overcast and grey.

Sincerely,  
The Vox Clamantis Fund Board

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A graphic for Twitter featuring a large green bird silhouette on the left. The background is light gray with green diagonal stripes in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The text 'news as it happens' is in large white letters, 'FOLLOW US ON TWITTER' is in green, and '@THEDARTMOUTH' is in green. A white box at the bottom contains 'The Dartmouth' in a green serif font and 'AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER. FOUNDED 1799.' in a smaller green font.

news as it happens

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AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER. FOUNDED 1799.

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# Students removed from campus for COVID-19 policy violations

By **MARCO ALLEN & LAUREN ADLER**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Oct. 16, 2020.*

Celeste D’Costa ’24 was having dinner with a few friends in her dorm room on Oct. 3 when several students knocked on her door and asked to join. Before long, 10 students were in the dorm room, including Jacob Fishler ’24.

Within 48 hours, D’Costa, Fishler and their friends were on their way home.

Rumored estimates of students whose campus privileges have been revoked for the rest of the academic year due to COVID-19 violations range from dozens to a few hundred. The College has repeatedly declined to report an official number, saying only that rumored numbers have been “wildly exaggerated.”

Before arriving on campus, students were made to sign a “community expectations” agreement outlining the College’s COVID-19 policies. The agreement stated that if students violated College regulations, they could risk being sent home.

Dean of the College Kathryn Lively said that the College does not usually release information about academic separation or suspension for medical withdrawal or behavioral reasons, and the current policy for information about students who have been asked to leave campus is consistent with this precedent.

She added that the policy is “a way to protect privacy and anonymity of individuals who may have lost their residential privilege.”

According to Lively, a “whole team of student affairs professionals” looks at each report of a COVID-19 policy violation, weighing whether the infraction was premeditated and if a given report is a legitimate risk to public health. She noted that the College does not keep a point system or a set list of offenses that warrant removal from campus. Rather, she emphasized that knowing and deciding what constitutes a serious infraction is “partly common sense.”

Lively noted that the College does keep track of all violations and considers previous history when deciding how to respond to a given infraction.

Student Assembly president Cait McGovern ’21 said that the College’s decision to not release the number of students sent home from campus “has further fueled speculation, rumors and panic among students.”

According to D’Costa, “no one has any idea what’s right or what’s wrong, or what they can be sent home for,” and “no one knows what they’re signing up for” when they come to campus.

D’Costa said that on the evening of Oct. 3, she felt bad about asking students to leave her room and recommended they move to a larger space. However, she said that the other students were not that concerned, and the group remained where it was. She



Students signed a “Community Expectations” agreement before arriving on campus.

added that because she had not heard anything from the College about the exact circumstances that led to other students being kicked off campus, she was unable to gauge how severe the violation was.

An anonymous LiveSafe report — likely due to loud music, Fishler said — led Safety and Security officers to the scene.

After Safety and Security officers informed Fishler that the students were breaking social distancing guidelines, he said he realized he might be going home and “had a mini panic attack,” severe enough that Safety and Security officers offered him a counselor and an ambulance.

Despite his anxiety, Fishler noted that Safety and Security seemed “very calm and friendly” throughout the incident.

“Most of us felt pretty confident that we were going to be on campus the rest of the term,” D’Costa said, adding that Safety and Security officers told her that it helped her case that the event was not planned and that not much alcohol was consumed.

The next day, D’Costa and Fishler both received calls from associate dean of student affairs Katherine Burke informing them that they had to leave campus by noon the following day. Fishler and D’Costa asked if they could go through an appeals process, but they were informed that no such process exists.

Fishler, who lives a five-hour drive from campus, said that his mother had to take the day off from work to pick him up.

“It just shows a general unreasonableness and unwillingness, either intentionally or not intentionally, to just care about the cases on an individual level of what people may or may not be going through,” he said.

D’Costa, an international student from Canada, said she was told to book a room in a hotel in town after her parents called to express concerns. The College did not offer financial assistance for a hotel or plane ticket. However, Fishler said that the College was refunding his room and board “at a proportional rate” corresponding to the number of days he had stayed on campus.

D’Costa said that being sent home resulted in the termination of her I-20 visa, rendering her temporarily ineligible to work in the U.S. The Trump administration recently enacted a regulation stating that international first-year students attending college in the U.S. must take in-person classes to be eligible for a visa.

Fishler said that although he understands the importance of the COVID-19 regulations, the way they are enforced on campus felt “draconian.” He also expressed concern that the strict regulations would encourage those determined to break the rules to do so in places outside of the Dartmouth bubble.

“If people wanted to have a huge party, they could just go a town over to some random spot in the woods and do that,” he said. “But in doing so, they’d be in an area that isn’t the Dartmouth campus, away from where people are being tested and where the administration knows that it’s safe.”

D’Costa said that “people felt less

safe being outside, hanging out with friends, than they did while hanging out in their dorms.” She added that in general, freshmen are feeling “lonely and isolated.”

“You want to meet new people,” D’Costa said.

When asked about student anxieties concerning community members disappearing from campus, Lively responded, “If you’re not breaking the community expectations agreements, then you should not be worried at all about the likelihood of you disappearing.”

Lively said that the College has chosen not to report numbers in part because “people come and go from campus for a variety of reasons, and if [the College] were to say ‘x number of students were removed this week,’ people would scour the community to figure out who they are.”

She also noted that the College is hesitant to specify which infractions will lead to students being sent home because what constitutes a “threat to public health” is likely to change depending on the severity of the pandemic on campus.

However, McGovern and SA vice president Jonathan Briffault ’21 stated that they have been talking to the College, and they “hope that policies are going to be more clearly communicated in the future.”

Briffault said it is inevitable that students will violate some of the

NAINA BHALLA/THE DARTMOUTH SENIOR STAFF

College’s policies. D’Costa echoed this sentiment, adding that increased transparency about what type of events resulted in students being sent home would help students be more informed about the risk of violating College regulations.

According to Briffault, College administrators themselves “are having trouble figuring out where they should be” in terms of defining rules and regulations.

McGovern stressed that clarifying College policies is especially important as the College looks toward winter term and students have less access to outdoor spaces.

Fishler said that, though he had applied early decision and looked forward to coming to campus for “the whole last year,” he has since considered the possibility of transferring to another school due to the College’s response to his situation.

“I don’t regret coming to Dartmouth, but I am extremely disappointed that the reality of the situation has not lived up to my expectations for Dartmouth,” Fishler said.

Although Lively acknowledged that “this is not the first year experience that students signed up for,” she emphasized that the College hopes to “protect everyone’s ability to return to the community in ways that are not leaving them open to stigmas.”

“The bottom line is, this really shouldn’t be that newsworthy,” Lively said.

Though Fishler said that his experience on campus was not what he had expected, he still wishes that he could stay on campus rather than finishing the school year at home.

“I just feel like I’m staring at an endless wait of time in which I’m just going to be alone and unhappy,” Fishler said.

# College withholds number of students sent home, cites privacy

By **COALTER PALMER**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Oct. 29, 2020.*

As rumors continue to circulate surrounding students who have been sent home for violating the College’s COVID-19 policies, multiple members of the College’s administration have cited privacy concerns as the rationale behind Dartmouth’s refusal to release the number of students impacted. Many on campus have criticized the College for a lack of transparency.

Some community members have specifically questioned the College’s explanation for withholding these numbers, citing the fact that other data — including both the number of students who have contracted COVID-19 and the number of students subject to general disciplinary action — are routinely reported.

In Provost Joseph Helble’s Oct. 14 “Community Conversations” live stream, vice president for communications Justin Anderson said that “Dartmouth has never announced when students are asked to leave campus, and that number is not quantified at the end of the term or the end of the year.”

In a previous interview with The Dartmouth, Dean of the College Kathryn Lively noted that the College does not usually release information about academic separation or suspension for medical withdrawal or

behavioral reasons, adding that the current policy for violations related to COVID-19 is consistent with this precedent.

Meanwhile, Dartmouth’s Community Standards Office publishes a yearly report on student conduct that includes information on disciplinary measures and student suspensions, including the number of students — 21 in the 2018-2019 academic year — suspended for violations of the Academic Honor Principle. Past reports, though none since 2015, have also included a tally of total suspensions.

Lively, however, said in an interview that the numbers in this annual report are not released in “real time.”

“We don’t say ‘three people were sent home on academic violations this week.’ And that’s what people seem to want here,” Lively said.

In the future, Lively said, the College may consider releasing the tally of students asked to leave campus, though that decision has not been made yet.

“We might choose, maybe at the end of the year, to release the numbers the way that we would in an annual report,” Lively said. “But at the moment, that is not the College’s decision. The provost has been very clear about that.”

According to Lively, at the beginning of the term, some students who were sent home were “easily identified” and were “bullied online and targeted by members of the community.” She said that an annual

report like CSO’s, as opposed to real time reporting, makes it “harder for people trying to track you down.”

Lively also said that more students have left on their own terms than have been asked to leave by the College, deciding they would rather not live on campus after finding the College’s COVID-19 guidelines “too isolating or too stringent.”

“That makes things confusing, too, if we then released that number, and then people start pointing fingers trying to figure things out,” Lively said.

Lively added that violations of Dartmouth’s “Community Expectations” contrast with violations included in CSO’s report because they are not “behavioral” infractions. According to Lively, removal from campus for Community Expectations violations is not a disciplinary measure but rather is considered a “revocation of privilege.”

According to an email statement from CSO’s director Katharine Strong, the office’s 2019-2020 academic year report will be published this winter and will include information on student conduct infractions through June of this year, the standard timeframe for these reports. Strong added that Dartmouth’s Community Expectations falls outside of the office’s domain. COVID-19-related infractions are handled by the Dean of the College, as outlined in an addendum to the Community Expectations.

The Office of General Counsel declined to comment,

directing questions to the Office of Communications. According to College spokesperson Diana Lawrence, the College “does not typically announce any details of student conduct outcomes.”

“Anyone concerned about the health and safety of our community can refer to the information posted publicly on the COVID-19 dashboard, which is updated daily with virus testing results and other important details,” Lawrence wrote in an email statement.

Paul Hager ’22, who personally emailed Lively requesting that Dartmouth “keep students informed” of the number of students sent home due to COVID-19-related violations, said that he sees a contradiction in how the College shares information on case counts via its COVID-19 dashboard versus how it handles information on students sent home.

“[The College] is saying if we release any number [on student removals], we can’t prevent it from being identifying and prevent this massive search for who those people are,” Hager said. “To me, that seems really contradictory.”

He also noted that he thinks access to this data, particularly if it shows a high rate of student removal, could inform both conversations around the College’s enforcement strategy, as well as students’ personal decisions on D-Plans or whether to be on campus in the first place.

Hager called not releasing this data a “disservice” both to those who see Dartmouth’s rules as “too strict” and

to those who believe Dartmouth isn’t doing enough.

“I think the world, the Upper Valley, the town are all watching to see how colleges — and as part of that Dartmouth — do as they attempt to reopen amidst the pandemic,” Hager said. “And so I think not to divulge the number of removals that happen is also hiding information.”

Lively said that while she sees the data offered by the COVID-19 dashboard as “relevant to a much broader swath of the Dartmouth community,” information on the number of students asked to leave campus is “just different.”

“I’m really at a loss as to why students and parents are so curious about how many people there have been whose privileges have been revoked,” Lively said.

In the Oct. 14 “Community Conversations,” Anderson said there was a “balance” that the College needed to strike between transparency and privacy, and added that in the case of the number of students asked to leave campus, “privacy wins the day.”

Computer science professor David Kotz ’86, who serves as a faculty affiliate at Dartmouth’s Institute for Security, Technology and Society, commented in an interview on this tradeoff between transparency and privacy.

“There’s value in transparency, there’s also value in privacy, and you want to weigh the individual right to privacy against the broader societal interest in transparency,” Kotz said.



# Police bust off-campus Halloween parties

By **ANDREW SASSER**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Nov. 6, 2020.*

Dartmouth’s campus lacked its regular fraternity parties and student gatherings this Halloween weekend, but some students still found unsanctioned ways to celebrate. Over 70 students participated in large off-campus gatherings — at least one in Hanover and another in Lebanon. Nineteen of the students who attended the Lebanon party received underage drinking citations, and many students from both parties have since been sent home for the year.

According to a press release from the Hanover Police Department, officers intervened at an “underage drinking party” of over 50 people on Oct. 31. Lebanon police announced a similar incident, describing a gathering of approximately 20 people, 19 of whom were found to be drinking underage. As the College’s COVID-19 regulations prohibit gatherings larger than nine people,

many students at the gatherings have had their on campus privileges revoked for the remainder of the academic year.

According to a student who helped plan the Hanover event but requested anonymity, around 30 students were invited to the party, but over 70 students ended up attending. The student said that it was “not clear” how other students had arrived, as the address of the home was only given to “a select few designated drivers.”

“As I understand it, students started coming in via taxi and Uber, along with other student drivers,” the student said.

The student said that the party continued uninterrupted until late in the evening, when the police first showed up. After they arrived, the student said that a “large number” of students ran into the woods behind the house and were “chased” by police. According to several students who attended the party, the police officers on the scene attempted to get students to return from the woods by saying that “no one was in trouble” and that they “wanted to make sure

that people were safe.”

According to the Hanover Police Department press release, officers arrived at the house in Hanover at 9:50 p.m. Officers were then “staged along Lyme Road” in an effort to stop students from fleeing. The press release noted that as of Nov. 2, over 30 people attending the party have already been identified.

The student who helped plan the Hanover party noted that a “number of students” who were identified at the gathering have since been sent home without opportunity for appeal. Other students confirmed that account.

“We were told that the police would ID all of us and that we could then go home [to Dartmouth],” the student said. “There was no indication that this information could be transmitted to [the College].”

The student also said that while many students had returned from the woods or were caught by police, other students walked back to campus without being identified. This was corroborated by the Hanover Police Department press release.

Meanwhile, the Lebanon Police Department wrote in a press release that 19 students who attended the Lebanon party have been issued a summons for unlawful intoxication, and two of those students were also charged with facilitating the event.

Additionally, according to the student who helped organize the Hanover party, several students gave false names, and at least one student who did not attend the party has been asked to leave campus by the College as a result. One student, Matthew Anderson ’24, was asked to leave after he says he was falsely identified as a party attendee, but remains on campus while he attempts to appeal the College’s decision.

Anderson said that on Monday — two days after the party — he received an email from associate dean of student affairs Katherine Burke asking him to leave campus due to his presence at the party, even though he says he was in an on-campus residence hall at the time of the event. He added that he is attempting to appeal this decision, and that his removal from campus has been put on hold while he tries

to prove that he was not at the party.

“As a first-generation, low-income student of color, I don’t have stable housing to return to,” Anderson said. “To pack up all my belongings and pay for transportation and housing within 24 hours is a privilege that I don’t have.”

College spokesperson Diana Lawrence confirmed in an email statement that the College is looking into “reports regarding student gatherings in violation of COVID-19 guidelines” but declined to provide further comment.

“We are committed to protecting the privacy of our students. For that reason, we do not typically announce any details regarding student behavior outcomes,” Lawrence wrote.

Department of Safety and Security director Keysi Montás and Community Standards and Accountability director Katharine Strong both declined to comment on either incident, citing ongoing investigations. Representatives from the Hanover and Lebanon police departments did not respond to requests for comment by press time.

# Parents call for revisions to campus COVID-19 policies

By **EMILY LU**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Nov. 13, 2020.*

Citing a lack of social spaces and harsh consequences for violating the College’s COVID-19 policies, nearly 300 Dartmouth parents have signed on to a petition to loosen on-campus restrictions for the winter term.

The Change.org petition, which was circulated in parent Facebook groups and sent to College President Phil Hanlon and Dean of the College Kathryn Lively on Nov. 9, advocates for allowing students to visit dorms other than their own and opening more public social spaces, such as the Top of the Hop. It additionally calls for a “graduated scale” of discipline for violations of the College’s COVID-19 regulations, rather than the current “zero-tolerance” policy of removing students from campus for the rest of the year.

The petition’s demands come in the wake of the College revoking on-campus privileges for an unknown number of students this fall due to violations of COVID-19 policies. Current policies restrict outdoor gatherings to nine people or less and permit students to gather in dorm rooms only so long as they maintain six feet of distance and live in the same residence hall. The College has not released information regarding the specific punishments that certain violations warrant, nor is there an appeals process in place.

According to Valerie Price ’88, the mother of a ’23 and an author of the petition, the campus guidelines have actually increased the risk of COVID-19

transmission. She said that not being able to visit students in other dorms is “ludicrous,” and the restrictions have instead prompted students to turn to alternative — and less safe — spaces off campus.

“You’re actually popping that [Dartmouth] bubble more,” Price said. “You’re pushing students downtown or off campus in the general public ... I think that’s increasing exposure.”

Price added that in motivating students to venture off campus, the College’s policies have also highlighted financial disparities among students, as not everyone can afford dining in town or renting a Zipcar.

Matthew Biberman ’88, a parent who signed the petition, agreed that for the winter term, the College should look to enhance interaction between students, which he said is integral to the Dartmouth experience.

“What we’re calling socialization — the presumption that this is fluff or extraneous to the college experience ... needs to be strikingly dispelled,” Biberman said. “Students selected Dartmouth to learn together and from each other.”

The petition further criticized the College’s policy of dismissing students

from campus for policy violations and proposed a gradual scale for punitive measures, including automatic quarantine after an initial offense.

According to Price, the College’s current disciplinary procedures do not reflect public health concerns.

“If someone attended something that had more than nine people, the first step should be quarantine, not

to be immediately sent home,” Price said. “From a public health standpoint, if somebody’s been exposed, you don’t want them going through [Boston Logan International Airport] and then going home and infecting their family, right? You want to quarantine them.”

John Mitcham ’89, another parent who signed the petition, added that

transparency regarding the College’s punishments for policy violations has been lacking. He suggested that publishing the types of infractions that led to students’ dismissal from campus would have helped both parents and students understand how the rules were being enforced.

Mitcham noted that the strict pandemic policies differ from his experience of the College’s “leniency” in enforcing other rules such as alcohol

policies, in which students are given second chances before facing severe consequences.

“Perhaps there was an implied sense that you might not be docked for your first infractions, but it was sort of a harsh life reality [for] the people that discovered there was no leniency in this case,” Mitcham said.

Provost Joseph Helble addressed the parent petition in his weekly livestream on Nov. 11. Helble said that the COVID-19 task force will evaluate fall term operations to consider changes for the winter term — specifically, increasing access to Baker-Berry Library. He did not directly address the parents’ other demands.

In developing creative solutions, Biberman said he hopes the College will be receptive to feedback from students, parents and staff members and resist simply treating the fall term’s low COVID-19 case numbers as “only PR ... of how wonderfully your college has responded.”

Biberman, who currently teaches in-person classes at the University of Louisville, added that peer institutions — some of which, for example, have brought more students back into classrooms — should serve as guides for successful

policies.

“No one is an expert here in terms of facilitating the best college experience,” Biberman said. “In the midst of this crisis, I think what you have to do is embrace a lot more transparency and honesty to build on what you did in the fall.”

Mitcham said that despite what he called a disappointing lack of communication from the College, he applauded Dartmouth’s policies for successfully keeping transmission low and reinforcing the College’s “commitment to trying to maintain good [COVID-19] standards.”

For some parents and alumni, however, the administration’s handling of on-campus policies has shifted their view of the College.

Price said that she is an active alumna and frequent donor, though she feels “heartbroken” by what she says is a lack of support for students this term. She said that even if she continues to

donate, she will not promote the College through admissions interviews this year.

“It’s really been hard to see the parts of the community that I love so much being ignored,” Price said. “... I don’t want to withdraw financial support, but I don’t feel like I could, in good conscience, recommend this school.”

**“What we’re calling socialization — the presumption that this is fluff or extraneous to the college experience ... needs to be strikingly dispelled. Students selected Dartmouth to learn together and from each other.”**

**-MATTHEW BIBERMAN ’88**

**“It’s really been hard to see the parts of the community that I love so much being ignored. ... I don’t want to withdraw financial support, but I don’t feel like I could, in good conscience, recommend this school.”**

**-VALERIE PRICE ’88**



NAINA BHALLA/THE DARTMOUTH SENIOR STAFF

Some parents argue that Dartmouth’s campus restrictions have hurt students’ mental health.



# College recommends precautions in response to Chinese law

By **KYLE MULLINS**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Sept. 24, 2020.*

Protests in Hong Kong may seem far away for most Dartmouth students, but the Chinese government’s response — a new national security law with worldwide implications — has brought concerns about censorship and surveillance to Dartmouth itself. In the law’s wake, the College has issued a set of guidelines encouraging professors to take precautions when teaching about topics considered unpalatable by Beijing.

The Hong Kong National Security Law was passed in China this summer in reaction to pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. The law criminalizes separatist or subversive activity, including speech about topics “objectionable to the Chinese government,” according to a Sept. 11 memo sent by faculty of arts and sciences dean Elizabeth Smith to “fall 2020 instructors whose course curriculum deals with China.”

Topics covered by the law include those deemed contrary to the Chinese government’s interests, experts said. These include the protests in Hong Kong, the persecution of Uighurs in Xinjiang, the status of Tibet and Taiwan, China’s practices of online surveillance and censorship and the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests.

The broad scope of the law constitutes a “threat to online security” for some students, the memo says. The memo and experts alike warn that the law is not limited to speech or actions that take place in Hong Kong, making it potentially applicable to any “objectionable” speech by anyone, anywhere in the world. Bonnie Glaser, director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that while enforcement of the law outside of China’s borders is difficult, the law could be used against foreigners who travel to or through the country.

Amnesty International researcher Kai Ong agreed that the Chinese or Hong Kong governments could try to arrest anyone they think has violated the law, “regardless of where you are and regardless of your nationality.”

The Dartmouth memo focuses on the threat posed to international students from mainland China or Hong Kong, especially if they are taking online classes while in China. That group of students, the memo says, “could be at risk” if they address controversial topics in assigned coursework.

“It is reasonable to be concerned that classes might be monitored,

and that if students voice opinions that are seen as engaging in criminal behavior, that they could be harassed and intimidated — they could be threatened,” Glaser said. “If someone says something that was truly inflammatory — supporting, for example, the June 4 protests [in Hong Kong] and encouraging the Chinese people to repeat that episode — surely, they could be ‘disappeared.’”

In the memo, the College recommends that professors “alert and inform” students about the potential legal liabilities that the law creates. For students who may be at risk, it suggests a number of technical measures, including removing identifying information and metadata from submitted assignments, disabling video on Zoom and turning off recording and transcription. Finally, it suggests that students be excused from participation grades in assignments where anonymity is “not possible.”

“These measures,” the memo concludes, “may help but they cannot not guarantee full digital security for students.”

## Students, professors, take precautions

The national security law was written intentionally vaguely, Ong said, in order to generate uncertainty around what speech is illegal.

“The law is so vague that no one really knows how they would transgress the law,” she said. “The problem is that it creates this chilling effect.”

Brian Kot ’21, a student from Hong Kong who has been active in pro-democracy activism, explained that since there is “no clear way of knowing” whether you’ve violated the law, it “induces citizens to self-censor.”

“[The law] induces them to avoid saying things that they think might trigger or might cross the red line — and the fact is, every person has a different idea of what the red line is,” Kot said.

Kot, who is living on campus this term, said that while activities and speech on campus may not appear “dangerous” at the moment, the law leaves open the possibility of future prosecution.

Were he to return to Hong Kong, though, he said classwork with “any slight condemnation or any slight criticism of the government in China” could potentially put him in danger — though he could not say for sure.

Jenny Ge ’23, a student from Beijing, said that she already was “very careful” about what she said or wrote before the law, an impulse she credits partly to a “repressive” education system in China that does not encourage disagreement with authority.



Professor Devin Balkcom holds his computer science class over Zoom.

The law also presents challenges for professors teaching about topics considered taboo by the Chinese government or who rely on access to China for research.

Government professor Jennifer Lind, who this fall is teaching GOVT 50.16, “Rise and Fall of Great Powers,” added a note to her syllabus suggesting that any Chinese nationals concerned about course content should contact her to arrange anonymization of their coursework.

“It was extremely depressing to do so,” Lind wrote in an email statement, “but important to start a conversation with our Chinese national students who may be worried about their situation. We want them to both get a great Dartmouth education and feel secure as they do so.”

An August article in The Wall Street Journal details similar measures being taken at schools including Amherst College, Harvard University and Princeton University.

History professor Pamela Crossley, who specializes in modern Chinese history, said any changes to classes would be up to individual professors.

“Some will decide, ‘well, sorry, no matter what the risk, I’m not altering what I do in the classroom,’” she said. “I think [the law] has the distinct potential to extend the self-censorship issue to the classroom.”

Crossley also expressed concern that students may self-select out of classes that deal with sensitive material, and added that it was likely some Chinese students were doing this prior to the law’s passage.

Professors who work in China have also had to tread lightly amid uncertainty. Asian Societies, Cultures and Languages program chair Allen Hockley noted that professors in his department may need to exercise

caution when speaking about the law.

“China scholars need to be careful what they say if they want a career,” Hockley wrote. “[They] need access to China for their research.”

Several professors in the government and religion departments, as well as the ASCL program, did not respond to or declined requests for comment.

Although the recent law raises new issues, censorship related to China is not a new problem. Anthropology professor Sienna Craig, who studies cultures in Nepal and Tibet, wrote in an email that she has “had to deal with various issues over the years working in Tibet,” and that she is “very careful” to monitor her words and actions when in China for that reason. She also referred further comment to other professors.

The Office of General Counsel referred requests for comment to College spokesperson Diana Lawrence, who declined to comment on whether the College has an official stance on the law. The Office of Visa and Immigration Services did not reply to multiple requests for comment.

## Security uncertain in the age of Zoom

Students and professors have both expressed concern that Zoom is not a safe platform under the new law, citing concerns about Chinese influence.

Association for Asian Studies guidelines cited in the Dartmouth memo state that U.S. data has been routed through Chinese servers and that “Zoom and other online meeting providers will have limited ability to prevent state intrusion by the governments in the countries where they do business.”

Information, Technology and Consulting chief information officer Mitchel Davis said that in his conversations with Zoom leadership,

they have assured him that the company has handled the privacy issues that arose in the spring as millions of people moved onto the platform due to COVID-19.

“We can create a secure solution for Zoom,” Davis said, adding that security is “not a problem anymore,” and Zoom is “as focused as any other company on making sure that it is secure.”

However, one of the technical changes suggested in the memo — allowing students to join Zoom calls from “throwaway” email accounts — may also be illegal in China upon further consideration, Davis said. He said ITC is working on “finding a better way as quickly as possible,” but did not specify further.

Crossley said that due to uneasiness about security, she uses Webex for her classes and pays for it herself. Kot said that Zoom is “notorious” in Hong Kong for being influenced by the mainland.

“There are widespread concerns that Zoom may betray users’ privacy and information,” Kot said. “I would be more cautious on Zoom.”

Going forward, it remains to be seen how stringently the law will be enforced on international students, but the fact that universities have seen a need to act is telling, Kot said.

“The fact that college faculties are worried that they might put students in trouble, it’s akin to the Chinese government holding overseas students hostage,” he said. “They’re using those overseas students for putting pressure on U.S. campuses to silence them or to tone them down.”

Ge said that the academic freedom in the U.S. is something she appreciates about being able to study here.

“Those kinds of freedoms, or liberties, should not be taken as granted,” Ge said.

# Zoom usage raises questions about student data, security

By **COALTER PALMER**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Oct. 2, 2020.*

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the video-conferencing platform Zoom has dominated higher education, with many colleges and universities adopting the technology as a temporary substitute for in-person instruction. Though Zoom allows students to remain connected to their academic experience, as well as with family and friends, the wide-scale adoption of the platform has raised questions around student data and privacy.

## College holds access to student Zoom data, engagement

Dartmouth adopted Zoom for general video calling in 2017, choosing the platform for its convenience, according to chief information officer and vice president of information, technology and consulting Mitchel Davis.

“[Zoom] was easy to use, it was more intuitive [than other platforms] and it didn’t require a lot of setup or training. So it took off, and when the pandemic came, it was a no-brainer to go with Zoom,” Davis said.

When the pandemic hit, the platform’s ability to be scaled up quickly allowed ITC to increase the Zoom download rate within the Dartmouth community from 40% in early March to 100% by April, said James Goodrich, who works at ITC as a video specialist and is the owner and administrator of Dartmouth’s Zoom account. According to Goodrich, in the month of September, Dartmouth’s Zoom network hosted more than 75,000 meetings, with approximately 350 meetings running simultaneously at any given time on an average business day.

According to Goodrich, statistics

on live usage appear on Zoom’s administrator dashboard, a tool that Zoom’s website describes as allowing administrators to access information “ranging from overall usage to live in-meeting data.” Among the data accessible to the College, according to Goodrich, is information on who participates in a call, the type of device used by call participants and where any recordings of the call are saved. If recordings are saved to the cloud, Dartmouth administrators can access them if necessary. Goodrich noted that while administrators do have access to these data, they do not view them.

“The administrator can see those recordings if they need to or want to. But there are only a couple of people that can do that. And believe me, we’re not checking recordings, unless somebody asks us to go find something for them,” Goodrich said, offering “Zoom bombing” as an example of an incident that the office might look into.

Sean McNamara, senior director of information security at ITC, added that there is a “strict policy and procedure” in place that ITC must follow before it is allowed to access and work with “user-generated data” like cloud recordings.

Although the video recordings remain stored until deleted by a host or an administrator, ITC is currently working on a “retention policy” that will outline how long recordings can be kept, Goodrich said.

According to Thayer School of Engineering associate dean of undergraduate education Douglas Van Citters, the engineering department has given Thayer School Computing Services “centralized administrator access” to Zoom data on Thayer classes, meaning that Thayer Computing has access to data such as chat logs and transcriptions of video recordings. Van Citters also said that professors used to be able to view data on user attention — a metric of how often Zoom users

had the application open as their active window — but said Zoom discontinued this feature in early April.

“If we wanted to go into big brother mode, we could figure out not only who was tuned in, and who had their video on, but we could go in and find out if Zoom was the active window during a lecture. But we [chose] not to do that. Because that, in my opinion, is actually a violation of the honor code,” Van Citters said, referring to the period before Zoom discontinued the user attention feature.

Van Citters, who was involved in an effort at Thayer this spring to assess educational quality and to increase student engagement, said that instead of “big brother mode,” he has chosen an “opt-in approach” that involves surveying students on their experience with remote education and working with experts to analyze the results and use them to adjust how educational material is delivered.

He said that he has found success with several strategies, including splitting students into smaller groups, keeping continuous lectures under an hour and offering lectures in 15- to 30-minute asynchronous blocks.

Van Citters added that, like Zoom, Canvas offers an analytics dashboard viewable by administrators and professors. Canvas’s statistics, he said, include information about the amount of time a student spends on a certain page, for example.

“The bottom line is that we live in trust. We absolutely have to trust each other, and that bidirectionality means that we’re doing our best not to check up on students from a big brother perspective,” Van Citters said. “And we want to check up in a way that ensures that students are giving us the feedback that really matters.”

McNamara added that because ITC has an enterprise license with Zoom, the platform itself is restricted in how it can use the data it collects. While McNamara said that Dartmouth’s

license does include provisions for Zoom to use data to improve company services and “aggregat[e] statistics for business purposes,” he said that these stipulations would be included in “any contract.”

On the free version of Zoom, according to McNamara, Zoom may be “mining” users’ data — selling it or using it for advertising. However, McNamara said that this is not a concern on Dartmouth’s enterprise platform.

Maureen Hennigan, who acts as ITC’s senior director of service strategy and design and works on many of these enterprise contracts, said that data protection is a primary consideration when these agreements are negotiated.

“For us, it’s very important that we are always looking at both the privacy of the student and what’s also very important is, from the faculty perspective, their intellectual property. So we take data concerns very seriously,” Hennigan said, adding that her office works very closely with McNamara and the Office of General Counsel on all contracts with outside vendors.

## Foreign hackers wage intrusion attempts

According to McNamara, Dartmouth faces a constant stream of attacks from foreign entities attempting to hack Dartmouth and its networks, and ITC and its security systems must work to combat these threats. Widespread adoption of Zoom poses the risk of attracting additional malicious attacks, according to V.S. Subrahmanian, computer science professor and director of Dartmouth’s institute for security, technology and society.

“It’s possible that the pandemic, which saw the widespread adoption of Zoom, has spurred attackers to say, ‘Hey, here’s this new platform that everybody’s using all of a sudden. Let’s see what vulnerabilities it has,’” he said.

McNamara said that Dartmouth already sees at least 100,000 intrusion attempts each day through the internet, often from “military-trained nation state actors.” He noted that while ITC has a “fairly good toolset” and “well-trained engineers” to combat these attacks, even these resources do not entirely eliminate the possibility of an intrusion. He added that if a server were to be hacked, the first goal would be to limit the impact of the incident, then to eliminate the threat, then to assess the damage and move forward.

Subrahmanian said that reports of foreign hackers breaking into American institutions are widespread, although he noted that he was not aware of any attacks on Zoom networks.

“Most of the reports of hacking have been for the theft of intellectual property or the acquisition of data, which may or may not constitute intellectual property. And those are likely used for intelligence purposes, the state and for economic value,” Subrahmanian said.

According to Subrahmanian, if foreign actors were to gain access to Zoom data through hacking efforts, that data could potentially allow adversarial states to build a detailed “social map of who knows who in our country.” He added that by creating a social map, machine learning could try to predict things such as whether an individual handles security clearances, works on secret projects or works on projects related to specific, high-priority scientific disciplines.

Subrahmanian also said that he sees the risk of malicious actors gaining access to Zoom call recordings or other Zoom data or being able to steal products or techniques in their early stages of development.

“That’s the kind of risk that I think we need to worry about: the ability to grab very, very initial, unprotected scientific and engineering advances and to develop it on their own,” Subrahmanian said.



# Faculty members urge College to hold fully remote fall

By **MARCO ALLEN**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Aug. 21, 2020.*

Faculty members circulated a letter Friday morning urging Dartmouth to join peer institutions in reversing their decisions to return undergraduates to campus. The letter, addressed to College President Phil Hanlon and Provost Joseph Helble, calls on the College to “adopt a fully remote, non-residential plan” in the fall.

As of Friday evening, the letter has been signed by over 150 faculty members, including all of the undergraduate house professors and chairs of the anthropology, English, education, women’s, gender and sexuality studies, religion, sociology and theater departments.

The letter comes as a number of institutions across the country, including Columbia University, Princeton University, Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania, have walked back plans to return students to campus in the fall.

Experiences at peer institutions, the letter argues, have shown that just a “small amount of unsafe activity” can lead to an outbreak. In response to the faculty letter, Student Assembly circulated a letter urging Hanlon and Helble to “consider every means necessary” to allow students back on campus. The SA letter has garnered nearly 600 signatures from students and recent alumni as of Friday evening. SA vice president Jonathan Briffault ’21 said that he was “very concerned” by the faculty letter and felt that it was an “obligation” for SA to “speak up for those students who wouldn’t be able to complete their studies and stay safe at home.”

The SA letter cites concerns over a lack of access to resources, such as health care, housing and food, as well as the consequences of isolation and working from home on mental health.

The faculty letter, meanwhile, praises Dartmouth’s recent decision to delay the announcement of student arrival dates, stating that “evidence” from other institutions and faculty experiences at Dartmouth have prompted them to believe that the College cannot

maintain a “safe campus,” even with Dartmouth’s “extensive” plans. Although the letter says it aims to “not demonize college students in particular,” it describes the idea that students can safely live in dorms as a “dangerous notion” that “will undoubtedly work in opposition to our public health protocols.” SA’s letter contends that Dartmouth is in a “uniquely qualified position” to return students to Hanover, referencing the limited number of students allowed back on campus in the College’s plans and the College’s “close association” with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. “The announced plan will welcome back just 2,300 students while reserving six housing clusters for quarantine and isolation,” the SA letter states. “As a result, any students who arrive on campus with COVID-19, or contract it following their arrival, will be safely isolated and cared for while protecting the community.” However, the faculty letter expressed concern with student wellness under Dartmouth’s current plan. It states that restrictions “will

introduce significant challenges for student learning, including but not limited to the strain of isolation, the threat or reality of illness, and collateral stressors on mental, intellectual, and emotional health.” The faculty letter also casts doubt on the value of a restricted, residential experience. Faculty point out that, “a highly restricted residential experience, if executed safely, will not resemble our typical, vibrant learning community.” The SA letter acknowledged these restrictions, stating, “Even if classes are not held in lecture halls, students need a safe place to spend the fall. Even a restricted on-campus experience will benefit students, their education, and our community.” Those who signed the faculty letter voiced particular concern for Dartmouth staff, many of whom are forced to live on campus and even in residential halls with family members. Moreover, the letter argues that in an effort to appease the College’s “desire to support in-person interactions,” faculty members will be in “uncomfortable, unsafe, and even irresponsible positions.”

Faculty concerns also encompass the public health of the Upper Valley. The letter mentions that outbreaks at Dartmouth could create “a cascade of interlocking negative impacts” that would affect the elderly and potentially disrupt local plans for in-person K-12 education, where students are “far more likely to suffer long-term negative impacts from remote education.” Briffault said that SA wrote its letter in part to “speak up on behalf of students after seeing so many community groups in Hanover denigrate the importance and trustworthiness of students on campus,” citing Hanover town manager Julia Griffin’s recent op-ed in The Dartmouth that criticized the “irresponsible behavior” of students currently living off campus in Hanover. “We want to emphasize that students want to come back not to burden the community, not to endanger the community, but to be part of the community that they care so much about,” Briffault said.

*Elizabeth Janowski contributed reporting.*

# Only 8 courses to be taught fully in person this winter

By **HANNAH JINKS**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Oct. 27, 2020.*

This winter, students will once again have few opportunities for on-campus instruction, with about 1% of course section offerings available fully in person. Only eight undergraduate courses will have at least one section with fully in-person instruction in the winter, down from 10 offered fully in person this fall.

Over 700 course sections are being offered this winter, excluding individualized study courses. The Registrar has stipulated that faculty may choose between four course delivery methods: remote with synchronous components, remote and entirely asynchronous, remote with optional on-campus components and on campus subject to limitations. Individualized study courses with single students may be offered online or in person.

Excluding graduate courses, 21 sections are being taught remotely with on-campus components, 671 are being offered remotely with synchronous components and 25 are remote and entirely asynchronous. An additional 193 courses are classified as individualized study.

Courses must adhere to the Registrar’s in-person instruction requirements, which have remained unchanged from fall term. All courses are required to be remote for at least the first two weeks of the term in order to accommodate the College’s 14-day quarantine requirements. Courses with on-campus sections must have “the same core educational elements” in an in-person format as they do remotely, and “all required materials must be fully accessible to all students,” according to the Registrar’s guidelines.

This fall, the class schedule was modified — passing periods were extended from 15 to 20 minutes — to allow custodial staff extra time to sanitize classrooms and to ensure students’ safe entry and exit of buildings. Associate vice president of facilities, operations and management Frank Roberts said the College has not considered switching back to the previous schedule. Roberts added that any changes to the number of buildings used for instruction and building occupancy restrictions will be decided in a couple weeks.

Vice chair of the economics department James Feyrer explained that while individual professors can decide whether to teach on campus, subject to occupancy limitations, not all professors who want to teach on campus will be able to, as not all courses can easily be taught equitably in different formats.

While not an option for some smaller departments, departments with large introductory classes can choose to have an in-person section and a remote section, Feyrer said. For instance, economics professor Marjorie Rose was able to teach ECON 22, “Macroeconomics,” on campus this fall, he said, largely due to the fact that ECON 22 had four separate sections. Half were assigned to Rose for on-campus instruction, and the rest were assigned to economics professor Diego Comin

for remote instruction. “[With different sections,] we didn’t need to worry about those experiences being identical or matched, and we were able to accommodate people who were on campus and off campuws,” Feyrer said. Professors with small classes may also have an easier time teaching in person. Feyrer will be instructing ECON 82, “Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics,” on campus this winter, despite being the only professor for the course — a decision he said was feasible because registration typically falls between five and 10 students, allowing him to adequately support the small number of students who may be taking the class remotely. Several professors will be instructing a course on campus for the first time this winter. Economics professor Bruce Sacerdote, who will be teaching ECON 66, “Topics in Money and Finance,” said that despite the added challenge, he will offer separate on-campus and remote sections of the same course. He explained that splitting up the sections by delivery method is simpler logistically than attempting to mix in-person and remote students in the same section.

“I’m sure it’s going to be extra effort having [the class] in two modes, but I’m totally happy to put in that extra effort. I feel the undergraduates are worth it, and I want to give them the best experience I can.”

-BRUCE SACERDOTE, ECONOMICS PROFESSOR

for remote instruction. “[With different sections,] we didn’t need to worry about those experiences being identical or matched, and we were able to accommodate people who were on campus and off campuws,” Feyrer said. Professors with small classes may also have an easier time teaching in person. Feyrer will be instructing ECON 82, “Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics,” on campus this winter, despite being the only professor for the course — a decision he said was feasible because registration typically falls between five and 10 students, allowing him to adequately support the small number of students who may be taking the class remotely. Several professors will be instructing a course on campus for the first time this winter. Economics professor Bruce Sacerdote, who will be teaching ECON 66, “Topics in Money and Finance,” said that despite the added challenge, he will offer separate on-campus and remote sections of the same course. He explained that splitting up the sections by delivery method is simpler logistically than attempting to mix in-person and remote students in the same section.

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the winter. This fall, the department of Spanish and Portuguese offered five introductory Spanish courses remotely with on-campus components. This winter, however, none will have an in-person element as freshmen will not be on campus, according to Spanish professor and language program director Roberto Rey Agudo.

Apart from the fact that there will be fewer freshmen on campus, the composition of students living on campus this winter is uncertain

given that no class received priority for winter term. Students may only elect to take a section of a course with in-person components if they have been approved for on-campus enrollment — either from receiving priority earlier this year or from being confirmed off the winter term waitlist, which prioritized students who had previously only been approved for summer 2021. On Oct. 21, Dartmouth informed students on the waitlist of whether they had been confirmed, only two days before the College’s academic timetable was released. Computer science professor Lorie Loeb, who is teaching a section of COSC 25.01, “Intro to UX/UI Design I,” remotely with on-campus components this winter, said it is “tricky to figure out class enrollment” in part due to confusion surrounding the waitlist. Loeb explained that her class must have an enrollment figure divisible by four because students will be split up into lab groups of four students each.

Loeb described challenges in figuring out which students would be eligible for the on-campus components of the course as students continue to solidify their winter enrollment plans and their course loads simultaneously. “People who have gotten rid of an in-person component probably did because it’s a nightmare to work out class enrollment,” Loeb said.

Professors also had to consider the safety of winter instruction, as many public health experts predict a second wave of COVID-19 in the winter. Loeb said the prospect of teaching in the winter is “scary” since the freezing weather normally brings with it student illness and the inability to go outside for long periods of time. She said that in the event of a campus outbreak, the transition to remote instruction would be relatively easy. Thayer School of Engineering associate dean of undergraduate education Doug Van Citters wrote in an email statement that engineering courses have been designed to seamlessly transition to entirely remote instruction if necessary.

“We’ve been careful to make these in-person components complementary and not necessarily central to the learning objectives, in the off chance that we have to cease in-person work again,” Van Citters wrote. “Our changes will be durable in the winter, and I think it will be a little more efficient to implement new activities now that we have robust protocols in place.”

Despite the uncertainty surrounding winter term, Sacerdote expressed optimism about what the College has been able to offer students amid the pandemic. “Dartmouth is doing the best it can to offer the best experience, and it’s honestly impressive [the College] managed to open,” he said.

“People who have gotten rid of an in-person component probably did because it’s a nightmare to work out class enrollment.”

-LORIE LOEB, COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR



NAINA BHALLA/THE DARTMOUTH SENIOR STAFF

A student participates in a class held over Zoom.



# Amid remote learning, College proceeds with fall tuition increase

By **MARCO ALLEN**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Sept. 18, 2020.*

While some peer institutions have discounted tuition amid online learning, Dartmouth students enrolling for the fall quarter will pay full tuition — which is up over \$2,000 from the previous academic year.

On March 1, the College announced that the Board of Trustees approved a 3.9 percent increase in undergraduate tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year, bringing tuition costs to \$57,796 — not including various fees or room and board for students on campus. The College has maintained that this cost will remain the same during remote learning.

Meanwhile, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University and Princeton University, whose courses remain remote, have all lowered their tuition by 10 percent. Williams College has reduced tuition by 15 percent, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has offered all students a \$5,000 grant.

Other universities are pausing annual or regular tuition increases. After switching to remote classes, the University of Pennsylvania decided not to raise tuition by 3.9 percent, as originally planned by its board of trustees, and reduced its general fees for remote students. The University of Chicago also froze its periodic tuition increase after students threatened a tuition strike.

With regard to fees usually paid on top of tuition, Dartmouth did not charge the “student activities” or “health access” fees during the remote spring term, but has reinstated these fees for the summer and fall terms for all students, regardless of on- or off-campus status.

Student Assembly vice president Jonathan Briffault ’21 said that SA is “extremely disappointed” to see the College raising tuition during a “truly challenging time” for students.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the College has maintained that it “absolutely” expects remote classes will meet the academic standards of in-person classes.

The College has also said that “tuition at its current rate is necessary just to pay for the courses students are taking.”

Mike Wagner, Dartmouth’s chief financial officer, said that the College has estimated a \$100 million loss for the fiscal year 2021. The loss of room and board revenue alone amounts to a \$30 million loss for the College, Wagner added. The College also faces additional costs this year, spending \$15 million on



ANGELINA SCARLOTTA/THE DARTMOUTH

The College has estimated a \$100 million loss for the fiscal year 2021.

COVID-19-related equipment and contact tracing. Wagner added that Dartmouth typically generates a revenue “in the range of a billion dollars.”

To compensate for the \$100 million loss, Wagner said that Dartmouth has asked various departments to “rebudget” such that the College will save about \$50 million for the next academic year. He added that the College has significant reserves to cover losses in the upcoming year.

Wagner added that expected losses have “not been a driver of any decisions that have been made” and that “[the College is] in a position where [it] can sustain, either through savings or reserves, a range of losses.”

The College has also stressed that it will not withdraw funds from its near \$6 billion endowment for matters like reducing undergraduate tuition, citing the need to ensure future financial stability.

Vice president of campus services Josh Keniston and director of financial aid Dino Koff did not respond to requests for comment. Provost Joseph Helble directed a request for comment to College spokesperson Diana Lawrence, who said College administrators have declined to comment on tuition-

related matters, citing ongoing litigation.

Some have argued that Dartmouth should reduce tuition for remote learners, claiming that students are receiving an inferior educational experience. A class action lawsuit brought by a Dartmouth parent argued that students had paid “tuition for the full Dartmouth experience and yet they are receiving less.” The lawsuit also claims that the College is “profiting from COVID-19 by asking students and their families to bear the financial brunt of the pandemic.”

Briffault agreed that the quality of remote education does not match that of the typical Dartmouth experience. He added that the College will be restricting access to certain buildings, like the Hopkins Center for the Arts, that tuition normally pays for.

In a motion to dismiss the case, the College argued that students had “ample time” to withdraw if they did not want to participate in remote learning, and that courts cannot legally weigh in on the “the relative value of different teaching methods” such as online learning.

The case has since been dismissed.

Briffault said that SA has approached administration about the tuition increase, but said their regular contacts, such as Lively and associate dean for student life Eric Ramsey, have not been receptive.

“It’s not something that they’ve been willing to engage with us on, and it’s not an area where we’ve had productive conversations with them,” Briffault said.

He added that Lively and other administrative contacts “indicated that they are not comfortable talking

about things like tuition” and “made it very clear to us that this is not changing.”

Jackson Butler, a Georgetown senior who helped lead the push for Georgetown to reduce its tuition, faced a similar experience at first, saying that the administration did not respond to several emails inquiring about tuition.

In response, Butler created an online petition and an Instagram account and alerted various national news outlets to his calls to lower tuition. Shortly after he sent an email to members of the Georgetown board of trustees about appearing in the media, Georgetown announced a tuition reduction.

After Dartmouth’s administration appeared unwilling to negotiate on tuition, SA did not push further on the topic.

Briffault noted that a desire to maintain “trust and collaboration” between SA and the administration has to inform the way SA goes about its work.

Butler, meanwhile, noted that it is “really hard to justify” a financial argument against reducing tuition, given the number of other colleges with smaller endowments that have reduced tuition.

# Financial aid reduced, College cites lower attendance costs

By **MARCO ALLEN**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on April 2, 2020.*

In various communications to the Dartmouth community in the weeks since the COVID-19 outbreak began — including during the March 18 virtual town hall — the College promised to increase financial aid this term. Many aid recipients, however, have seen decreased aid packages, which the College has said reflects this term’s lack of room and board costs.

Many students have seen reductions of about \$3,000 in their aid, which director of financial aid Dino Koff said are due to lower costs for the remote term. Some students, however, worry the aid reduction fails to account for off-campus food and housing costs.

According to Koff, the net price of attendance for all Dartmouth students, regardless of whether they receive financial aid, has gone down for the spring term. He explained that because the term is being conducted remotely, room and board costs, as well as the health access fee and the student activity fee, have been waived. For most students who would have lived on campus, this has resulted in a cost-of-attendance reduction between \$5,037 and \$5,652, depending on which meal plan they had elected for the spring term.

To account for this decrease, Koff explained, financial aid has also been reduced. Financial aid for eligible students has been cut by \$2,839 due to the lower living costs incurred by many students this spring, though Koff noted that some students got

refunds if they were considered “high need.” In combination with lower costs of attendance, this means that many students on aid will pay between \$2,198 and \$2,813 less to attend Dartmouth.

Koff wrote that financial aid awards include a housing allowance of \$1,083 and a food allowance of \$1,550 to cover cost of living during the remote term. He said that awards also include a \$180 allowance for internet usage.

Some students, however, have said that their living costs have not decreased enough to offset the financial aid reductions this term.

Many Fahrenthold ’22, for example, said that her family has additional food expenses now that she is home. She added that many students are not living at home, or their families cannot afford to cover their housing and food costs — something she said the College may not be fully taking into account.

Koff acknowledged that students are facing housing and food costs at home but said that these costs should not be as high as the costs at Dartmouth. This difference, he said, is why \$1,083 and \$1,550 have been allocated for housing and food, respectively, while during a normal term these values would be higher.

Koff emphasized that the College did not cut aid “dollar for dollar,” meaning that they did not cut aid offers by the full amount that attendance costs have been lowered.

“Families are paying less, and then for some families [of] low income students, they’re not paying anything and are actually getting a significant refund back,” he said.

He added that the financial aid office is in contact with students living independently from their families about rent costs.

Juanita Morales ’21 voiced concerns about the impact of the loss of work-study jobs on many students’ financial situations. Because she previously held a work-study job that she knew could not be done remotely, Morales has now sought part-time employment as a cashier.

“There are people who rely heavily on that [work-study] money, and they don’t know what’s going to happen.”

-JUANITA MORALES ’21

Koff said he hoped that students who want to work are still able to find a job through remote offerings and added that the College is working on developing payment strategies for work-study students based on their incomes from past terms.

Meanwhile, the College has called on alumni to continue supporting their alma mater.

In a March 30 email sent to alumni, Dartmouth College Fund committee chair Catherine Craighead Briggs ’88 wrote, “Dartmouth gave more aid to students whose spring term starts today. Frankly, most colleges do not have the flexibility to do this. But Dartmouth does. The reason: continued alumni support.”

In response to the increased

financial burden the remote term presents for students, Dartmouth has established an emergency student relief fund, encouraging donors to give to the College in an effort to “triple funds available for emergencies and unforeseen burdens not met through Dartmouth financial aid.”

Fahrenthold said that she felt that statements from the College explicitly claiming “increases” in financial aid were “fishy” and “defensive,” given that, while attendance costs have gone down, Dartmouth is also allocating less aid to students.

“It sounds less like they are on the side of students that they are trying to advocate for and more that they are trying to justify or get away with something,” she said.

The communication with alumni followed a campus-wide email sent on March 27 by College President Phil Hanlon concerning Dartmouth’s financial situation. In the email, Hanlon noted the increased demand for financial aid and highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on Dartmouth’s own finances.

He wrote that the College has seen, and will continue to see, declines in revenue streams including room and board payments, philanthropy and institutional investments. He said that while the College has reserve funds that will help mitigate the immediate effects of a recession, it will be necessary to “take additional

steps to meet the immediate financial challenges [Dartmouth is] facing.”

Fahrenthold said that after reading the email, she felt as though the College had chosen to focus on “where they can save the most money” and questioned whether administrators’ “hearts were in the right place.”

Both Fahrenthold and Morales, however, expressed understanding of the new financial situation in which Dartmouth finds itself. Morales categorized the impacts of the virus as “completely uncharted territory.”

Fahrenthold added that the effects of COVID-19 might be felt long beyond this term. She said that since unemployment is expected to rise nationwide, and because financial aid at Dartmouth is based on tax returns filed two years ago, the College will need to take situational changes created by the virus into consideration in the future.

“When Dartmouth talks about changing aid, it’s not just changing aid for this year — it needs to affect the upcoming years as well,”

-MAY FAHRENTHOLD ’22

Koff said that the financial aid office does not know how the situation will affect aid in the future, but he noted that he expected “a major amount” of appeals in 2021.

“The goal is that we get more information on where we are going,” Koff said, adding that if there is a recession, the College will give out more aid.



# Gap year numbers increase five-fold for Class of 2024



MADDIE DOERR/THE DARTMOUTH STAFF

Members of the Class of 2024 were offered the option to defer admission for a year.

By **ANDREW SASSER**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Sept. 17, 2020.*

Although most students accepted into the Class of 2024 started their first term of classes on Monday, nearly 200 have opted to take gap years instead.

One hundred seventy-two students from the Class of 2024 — mostly from western states or abroad — decided to defer their enrollment for a year, up from an annual average of 30 to 40 students, according to an email statement from College spokesperson Diana Lawrence. Lawrence added that the percentage of freshmen taking a gap year — 14.9 percent — is “not atypical among our peer institutions” this year.

At Yale University, 341 students opted to take a gap year, a seven-fold increase from normal years. Similarly, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 87 students requested a gap year, up from an

average of 10 to 15 students. Lawrence said the future impact of the increase is still unclear. “It is also too soon to assess how this may impact the admissions process going forward since there are many unanswered questions about next year’s enrollment plan,” Lawrence wrote.

Some students who decided to take gap years considered virtual classes and restricted campus activities due to COVID-19 as factors in their decisions. Ella Marin ’25, formerly a member of the Class of 2024, said that she had been looking forward to First-Year Trips and the Homecoming bonfire and that she was “disappointed” they would not occur this year.

“I really wanted to come to Dartmouth for the traditions,” Marin said. She added that she had been looking forward to skiing in the winter, which would not be able to happen given that freshmen will not be on campus winter term.

Marin also said that she found it was “pretty easy and accessible”

to take a gap year at Dartmouth. She added that she was initially unsure about taking a gap year, but the fact that other colleges had “some significant problems” with reopening ultimately convinced her to take a year off.

For Denise Lee ’25, the “social restrictions” of life on campus during the pandemic influenced her decision to take a gap year. She said that she values in-person connection and thought that it would be “really hard to meet new people” with COVID-19 restrictions.

“I just thought it was better to sit this year out because there’s so much uncertainty,” Lee said. “I didn’t want to have to be in the first year to deal with that.”

Danni Lu ’25 said that she had been motivated to take a gap year for reasons unrelated to the pandemic — she wanted time to “grow as an individual” before starting college. She added that she had not originally planned on taking a gap year, but after the College reopened deferral requests in July she realized that

she “needed more time” before beginning college.

“On the positive side of things, I guess I have the pandemic to thank for helping me realize I needed a gap year,” Lu said.

Incoming students were able to defer enrollment to next fall if they submitted a request by July 20. However, College policy changed over the course of the summer: Dean of admissions and financial aid Lee Coffin wrote in an June 29 email that students who did not want to enroll in the fall should cancel their enrollment and reapply next year, before clarifying two days later that students would be allowed to postpone enrollment. Coffin declined to comment further for this story.

Lee said that she had initially asked to take a gap year shortly after the release of the June 29 College reopening plan and that she had been denied. She added that once the College reopened the deferral process in early July, she applied for a gap year “as soon as possible.”

Given the uncertainty surrounding the course of the pandemic, some students have attempted to build “flexibility” into their gap year plans. Marin said that while she plans to meet up with some other gap-year students near the start of October for a road trip, she does not have any “set plans” yet for her spring.

“I plan on becoming a ski instructor in the winter, but I’m waiting to see what the spring looks like,” Marin said. “I may intern with my local congresswoman or pursue other political internships.”

Likewise, Lee said that she is going to continue her current internship until October before traveling to the West Coast. However, she said she does not have any “definitive plans yet” for the spring.

“I’m hoping that some of the travel restrictions might let up so I can look at going to Hawaii or elsewhere for sustainability internships,” Lee said. “Unfortunately, there’s just so much uncertainty about how things will go over the next few months.”

# Students confront high living costs in Upper Valley

By **COALTER PALMER & DANIEL MODESTO**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Nov. 10, 2020.*

A regional housing shortage in the Upper Valley and the resulting high cost of living has posed an array of challenges for students in search of off-campus housing. In recent months, the College has placed a limit on the number of students allowed in dorms due to COVID-19 concerns, which has further increased demand for housing off campus.

With rental vacancy rates in Hanover and Lebanon at around 1%, options for students looking to live near campus are limited, and available rental units generally come with a hefty price tag. According to data published by the Council for Community and Economic Research, the cost of living in Hanover in 2019 ran 43% higher than the national average. This presents particular challenges for student renters, who often live on a College stipend or income from part-time employment.

Property manager Jolin Kish ’88 said rental prices in Hanover are expensive because the market is “competitive” and there are “just a limited number of homes.”

“Downtown Hanover is a pretty limited geographical area, which is what keeps the cost so expensive in the first place for real estate, because it’s such a limited supply,” she said.

According to a 2018 survey of 395 graduate students conducted by Dartmouth’s Graduate Student Council, nearly half of Dartmouth graduate students paid more than \$800 a month for housing, despite more than 80% of respondents indicating that their “optimum” level of monthly

rent fell below \$800. Twenty percent of students paid more than \$1,000 in rent, despite less than 3% of graduates indicating that this cost fell within their preferred range.

Eva Childers GR’22, a Ph.D. student in experimental and molecular medicine who serves as Graduate Student Council president, said that most graduate students opt for off-campus housing because Dartmouth’s on-campus graduate housing options run around \$1,000 per bedroom. This totals half of the monthly \$2,000 stipend from Dartmouth that Ph.D. students earn.

With the stated goal of alleviating this housing crunch and offering affordable graduate student housing, Dartmouth recently hired a contractor to build and operate a 638-bed housing development near Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Rent at this facility will range from \$1,000 to \$1,400 per bedroom.

Alberto Ruiz Th’21, a Ph.D. student and academic chair of the Graduate Student Council, said that while he considered Dartmouth’s plan to build a new housing complex “better than nothing,” he sees the College’s housing options — including those offered at the new facility — as unaffordable for most graduate students.

Ruiz, who supports his family financially, said that because he could not afford housing in the area when he first arrived on campus, he lived out of his car for his first three months at Dartmouth.

“My plan was to try to live out of my car for the first two years that I was here, because when I looked at my finances and my family finances at the time, that’s how I didn’t run through my savings and still finished the program,” Ruiz said.

Ruiz — who still sends home \$600 a month — said that his family’s financial circumstances “changed,” and he now

is able to afford rent at an apartment in White River Junction, Vermont, where he currently lives.

However, he said that Dartmouth’s lack of housing options regularly leaves graduate students forced to live in housing they cannot afford.

“No financial advisor would ever tell you to spend more than 50% [of your income] on housing ... and yet the school often corners graduate students to have to do that,” Ruiz said.

Ruiz and Childers both expressed concern that despite graduate students having first priority for the new complex, the cost of units would ultimately keep graduate students away, leaving most of the facility’s rental units to be occupied by DHMC employees, who are next in line to rent units.

“You [could] give me first pick to the next Tesla — I still can’t afford it,” Ruiz said.

During pre-pandemic focus group sessions held by Dartmouth and the contractor managing the property, Michaels Student Living, attending graduate students said that the rental units were out of their price range, according to Childers and Ruiz.

Childers said that Michaels took this feedback about cost into consideration and redesigned the units, increasing the number of bedrooms to four, taking away additional bathrooms and redesigning the community center. Even after removing amenities, however, Childers said the rent “really

didn’t change.”

Ruiz added that he considers the “only path forward” to be lobbying Dartmouth for an increase in the graduate student stipend and called on Dartmouth to see graduate housing as an “investment” rather than a “for-profit operation.” Childers also called

for Dartmouth to increase the graduate student stipend. The Dartmouth Real Estate Office wrote in an email to The Dartmouth that it is committed to addressing concerns about affordable housing by “working with vital communities to develop strategies” and

increasing “community support for affordable housing.” Specifically, the email mentioned the new facility, noting that Dartmouth was working to “maximiz[e] multi-bedroom units, efficient construction methodologies and proper operations.”

Though undergraduates have a wider range of on-campus living options at their disposal, those who choose to live off campus described steep costs, inconsistent housing conditions and difficulties with their landlords.

Ella Ryan ’18 rented a three-bedroom apartment from Kish her senior year. According to Ryan, the rent for the previous tenants was \$600 but rose to \$900 when she moved in. While she noted that Kish was responsive about certain issues, such as her request for an exterminator when there was a mouse problem, Ryan felt

like she “paid too much for the place [she] was living in.”

The Dartmouth Real Estate Office wrote that while it lists available local properties online for students, the office “does not inspect the condition of listed properties, does not evaluate the character or business practices of listed landlords and makes no representation about either.”

Ryan attributed the cost raise on Kish’s rental to high demand in Hanover and to there not being “a ton of options.” In addition, she added that many students do not self-advocate because “maybe they don’t care, since they’ll only be there a year” or they “don’t realize how bad the quality is.”

“I think the issue is that the quality of the housing is quite poor because students don’t really know their rights, if they even have any,” she said.

According to Kish, who leases around 600 units to students, both the cost of College housing and the value of properties she rents influence her price points.

Kim Chewning, director of the Lebanon-based Real Property Management Beacon, said that while her company conducts market surveys of housing in the Upper Valley to determine the price of rentals, this survey does not generally include College rental rates. Chewning added, however, that as a former employee at Dartmouth’s Real Estate Office, she does take the cost of rental rates at Dartmouth into account in determining prices.

Janice Chen ’19, who also rented from Kish, voiced concern about landlord monopolies around Dartmouth.

“When there are two or three main people who essentially have a monopoly on student housing, they feel like it gives them the power to set the rental price at whatever they want,” she said.



# Black faculty, students call on the College to address racism

By **PIERCE WILSON**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on July 24, 2020.*

Addressing the July 1 joint statement from the Board of Trustees and College senior leadership on taking steps to address systemic racism at Dartmouth, a collective of Black faculty and staff began circulating an open letter on July 14 that calls for the College to take more concrete actions towards racial justice.

The letter, penned by a group of Black faculty and staff, among them chair of the African and African American studies program Ayo Coly and associate professor of mathematics Craig Sutton, asks the College to address issues in institutional leadership and governance; hiring, promotion and retention and African and African American studies.

According to Coly, the open letter’s genesis was the email message to the community that College President Phil Hanlon first sent out on May 31 after the murder of George Floyd. In his email, Hanlon denounced systemic racism in the United States, but Coly said she and other authors of the open letter felt that he did not address structural

racism at the College.

The authors of the open letter wrote that they met with the College’s senior leadership on June 17 “to express [their] dissatisfaction with President Hanlon’s May 31 message to the Dartmouth community.” They also said that they presented detailed proposals that address “the racially hostile working, living and studying conditions at the College.”

However, they wrote in the open letter that they failed to see a “concrete plan of action” in the College’s July 1 joint statement that corresponds to the proposals they raised in the meeting. The group then published the open letter and made public their detailed initiatives.

According to Coly, Hanlon’s July 1 statement motivated Black faculty and staff to write the open letter to hold the administration accountable and “ask the Dartmouth community to bear witness to this moment.”

“Many of us, faculty, staff and students were left quite unsatisfied with this message because we felt [Hanlon] was displacing the question of structural racism away from Dartmouth,” Coly said. “And [Hanlon] really missed an opportunity to take a look at Dartmouth, and call into question the structural racism at the core of Dartmouth.”

According to assistant director of individual and class giving Vincent

Wilson, a Black staff member who helped pen the open letter, the open letter sought to provide specificity not present in the July 1 statement.

“We wanted to really outline the changes that we wanted to see, instead of a general overview of what the College has stated,” Wilson said.

Coly noted that the open letter does not only address anti-Black racism.

“Although we are centering Black issues and anti-Blackness, we are also doing so in solidarity with other communities like Native Americans, Asian Americans, the LGBTQ community and so forth,” Coly said.

The open letter also allows community members to sign on in solidarity with the goals outlined in the letter. As of July 19, the letter had more than 900 signatures.

“By asking members of the community to sign on [the open letter], it’s sending a message to the administration that people see what’s going on,” Sutton said.

Also on July 14, the College appointed history professor Matthew Delmont — a member of the collective who wrote the letter — as special advisor to Hanlon. According to Delmont, he will work with senior leaders to help improve the recruitment, retention and success of Black faculty and other faculty of color.

Delmont stressed that the open

letter was written with a “tremendous amount of care” for the College, and that it reflects the authors’ desire to do what’s best for faculty, staff and students.

“My role as special advisor is really to encourage the president, Provost Joseph Helble and Dean Elizabeth Smith to take these recommendations seriously and then to help them think creatively about how we can accomplish them,” Delmont said. “Particularly since we’re in the midst of a very tight budget situation.”

Delmont added that he hopes to use his role to make the concerns of faculty, staff and students of color a higher priority for the College, as he feels those concerns have for too long been “at the margins.”

Wilson, who, according to Sutton, represented the concerns of Black staff among the collective that wrote the letter, noted that Delmont’s appointment provides the group someone they can directly go to in senior leadership to ensure accountability.

Many Dartmouth students signed the open letter to support its detailed initiatives.

Marina Cepeda ’21 said she signed onto the petition because she appreciated the concrete, actionable steps that it provided.

“The amount of invisible labor that Black faculty and staff put into the College to provide concrete steps

which are ignored and neglected is just so hurtful to me as a student,” Cepeda said. “They gave recommendations, and then they gave implementations, so really Dartmouth doesn’t have any excuse to not follow up with it.”

Zachary Spicer ’22 said that, in reading the letter, he learned things that he did not previously know about the College, such as the fact that the percentage of tenure-track Black faculty at the College decreased between 2004 and 2019. He added that he was “blown away” by the amount of detail put into the letter.

Awo Adu ’22 said that she first saw the letter when on the AAAS email list, and that she decided to sign it because of her relationships with and support for Black faculty and staff.

“I’ve been in classes with them,” Adu said. “I’ve had mentorship with them and it felt that it was only right that I support what they’re putting out,” Adu said.

Wilson said that the authors of the letter hope to check in with the College’s senior leadership by the end of the month on the recommendations presented in the open letter.

College spokesperson Diana Lawrence wrote in an email statement that members of senior leadership look forward to continued dialogue and making progress toward long-term meaningful change.

# ISC, sororities examine rules for non-binary inclusivity

By **MARCO ALLEN**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on May 15, 2020.*

Over the past few weeks, Dartmouth sororities and the Inter-Sorority Council have begun examining how their bylaws include or exclude non-binary students. As of now, non-binary and gender non-conforming potential new members interested in joining sororities would have to visit all eight houses during formal rush — a requirement for all PNMs — despite some house bylaws potentially restricting them from joining.

Epsilon Kappa Theta president Megan Ungerman ’21 expressed concern over the implementation of this policy, asking, “How can you force someone to go to some house that they’re not going to be accepted into?”

ISC vice president Megan Zhou ’21 wrote in an email statement to The Dartmouth that all PNMs must attend parties at all eight sororities during the rush process, but the ISC is having “continuous conversation to try and create a fair process for everyone.”

Currently, just one sorority at Dartmouth — EKT — has bylaws that explicitly accept non-binary and gender non-conforming individuals. Other sororities’ bylaws only state that they are permitted to extend membership to self-identifying women, although some of these houses may have informally allowed any non-male students to join.

After a series of emails and meetings between the ISC and sorority presidents, the ISC has asked Dartmouth sororities to discuss their own house policies regarding non-binary PNMs.

## ISC sends mixed messages

The discussion started during the first week of spring term, when Ungerman expressed concern in a survey administered by the ISC to sorority presidents about the ISC’s usage of language that was not inclusive of non-binary or gender non-conforming people. For example, Ungerman said that the ISC refers to its members as “sisters” during ISC meetings.

Ungerman also voiced concern to the ISC over the lack of gender-inclusive wording on a ISC slideshow presentation created for PNMs. Although the ISC’s campus-wide emails say that formal recruitment is open to anyone who is “a self-identifying woman or gender non-conforming or non-binary person,” Ungerman noted that there was no gender-inclusive language in the presentation.

Ungerman’s concern sparked

several conversations about the inclusion of non-binary and gender non-conforming students in formal recruitment between Office of Greek Life program coordinator Jessica Barloga, ISC president Mahalia Dalmage ’21 and Ungerman.

On April 28, Dalmage emailed sorority presidents saying that “the ISC has decided to uphold the current bylaws which state that we are open to self-identifying women,” adding “these are not new bylaws, these are the ones that have always been in place.” The email did not indicate that non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals were permitted to participate in formal recruitment.

Ungerman said that after the initial email, there was “worry” among some sorority presidents and members “that non-binary people would be excluded from the ISC,” which Ungerman described as “sad” because there are already non-binary people in EKT.

Dalmage’s email seemed to contradict the ISC bylaws, last amended on April 8. ISC bylaws state that “any Dartmouth undergraduate who identifies as a woman and/or gender non-conforming person may participate in Formal Recruitment, as long as the person does not self-identify as a man.”

A day later, on April 29, the ISC executive board clarified its stance in a second email to sorority presidents and inclusivity chairs. The message stressed that “people who identify as gender non-binary or gender non-conforming can participate in the formal recruitment process.”

Despite the conflicting stances presented in the emails, the ISC maintains there were never any changes to the ISC bylaws. Zhou acknowledged in an email statement to The Dartmouth that Dalmage’s original April 28 email “may have been confusing to some due to poor phrasing.”

The second email also added that while non-binary and gender non-conforming students are welcome to participate in rush, the National Panhellenic Conference states that it aims to “promote and advance the common interest of women’s-only sororities.” The NPC is the nationwide umbrella organization that hosts Dartmouth’s chapters of Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Kappa Delta and Kappa Kappa Gamma sororities.

The ISC wrote that consequently, despite the ISC’s inclusion of non-binary and gender non-conforming members in its bylaws, national houses at Dartmouth are “restricted to extending membership to only self-identifying women.”

Local houses are not restricted by the same bylaws as national houses. According to the ISC, membership processes for local houses are at each

chapter’s discretion.

**Bylaw confusion continues**

However, discrepancies in — and confusion around — ISC and individual sorority bylaws remain.

Zhou wrote that houses that do not accept non-binary PNMs are not in violation of the ISC recruitment policy regarding non-binary people, as the ISC controls who can participate in recruitment, not who can be accepted into each house.

That said, Zhou stated that the ISC does not want PNMs to “falsely believe membership is attainable at all houses.”

She added that the ISC “cannot directly conflict or discredit existing national policies.”

According to current local sorority bylaws, Chi Delta, Kappa Delta Epsilon and Sigma Delta are permitted to extend membership to self-identifying women but do not explicitly state that they are open to non-binary and gender non-conforming members. EKT extends membership to women, non-binary and gender non-conforming people.

While national chapter wording varies, most include only self-identifying women.

The national chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma states in its bylaws that “[e]ach chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma has the final choice of its own members,” but also uses the word “women” when describing the organization. The national chapters of Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi Delta and Kappa Delta all use the word “women” when referring to the organization members as well.

## Sororities consider bylaw changes

As a result of Ungerman’s initial concerns and other conversations among sorority presidents and the ISC, the ISC has directed houses to have discussions about their policies around gender and membership.

Gigi Gunderson ’21, president of Sigma Delt, said that “Sigma Delt has always been open to self-identifying women, gender non-binary and gender non-conforming folks, to the best of our exec board’s understanding.”

Although this language is not in the official Sigma Delt constitution, Gunderson said that the house is “actively” reviewing its bylaws as a result of the ISC directive, planning discussions and aiming to vote on whether to change the language in its constitution to explicitly allow all non-male identifying individuals to join the house.

Following an online form sent to its members and a house-wide Zoom discussion on the issue, KDE members are voting on whether or not to change wording in their constitution. The vote closes on Saturday.

Despite conversations starting within some local houses, national sororities may remain bound by national policy.

Ungerman said that since it is clearly in the ISC bylaws that gender non-conforming people are welcome to rush, all sororities should strive to do what they can to welcome non-binary students in the future.

Ungerman acknowledged that “there are real concerns” with the national chapters having to abide by national policies, but said that the ISC should not “hide behind this idea that it’s the national chapters that won’t let [Greek life] be inclusive.”

President of local sorority Chi Delt Isabella Frohlich ’21 declined to comment on the issue, citing ongoing conversations within the house. The president of local sorority KDE Jada Brown ’21, as well as the presidents of national sororities — APhi president Bruna Decerega ’21, AXiD president Hayley Divers ’21, Kappa president Caroline Smith ’21 and KD president Svetlana Riguera ’21 — did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

As of now, non-binary and gender non-conforming students interested in joining sororities will have to visit all eight houses should formal recruitment occur normally this fall, despite some house bylaws potentially restricting them from joining.

While acknowledging the complexity of the issue, Ungerman stressed that it is likely that anyone who opts to go through the rush process “feels like they belong in a sorority.” Ungerman added that having non-binary people go through a different rush process as a result of certain houses not being open to them might be “othering.”

Ungerman emphasized the importance of having conversations about gender inclusivity within houses and throughout the ISC in order to work towards creating a more inclusive environment.

“When you humanize the problem, it’s not as big as a problem as some people are making it,” Ungerman said.

Zhou wrote that the ISC “encourages houses to have these important conversations as soon as possible.”

## Alumni reflect on Greek life inclusivity

Although the topic has come to the forefront this term, gender inclusivity in Dartmouth’s sororities has been an issue for decades.

Valerie Price ’88 founded Alpha Beta — a sorority which no longer exists at the College — while at Dartmouth. She said that “the vocabulary used to define people’s gender was not even in existence” when most national sororities formed, adding that it is “strange” and unreasonable that people would rely on bylaws that could have been written at a time when

gender inclusion was not a well-known issue.

When Dartmouth informed Price after 15 months that Alpha Beta had to affiliate with a national chapter in order to stay recognized and get funding, Price said that Alpha Beta affiliated with the national sorority Delta Gamma because it was the “least racist,” though “still not that great.”

Although she noted that there were often things in bylaws that she didn’t agree with, the College did not allow any local sororities at the time, despite several local fraternities existing, essentially forcing sororities to comply with national rules.

President of Dartmouth’s LGBTQIA+ alumni association D-GALAMEl Pastuck ’11 acknowledged the importance of female-dominated environments, but she said that she would “challenge [the ISC and sororities] to open their minds” to ask where non-binary people might find community.

She said that if by finding their own community, sorority members dismiss others trying to do the same, it is like “the pot calling the kettle black.” Pastuck said that being involved in a sorority at Dartmouth helped her “challenge and explore [gender roles] rather than affirm them.”

She said that welcoming non-binary people creates an “environment that is truly open and can explore what gender roles mean.”

A former Sigma Delt and OPAL student intern for the LGBTQ community, Pastuck said that while sororities typically “propagate traditional gender roles,” her experience with a diversity of views at Sigma Delt “helped people write their own story about what it means to be female identified.”

Over the decades, some sororities have chosen to “go local” and disaffiliate from their national chapters, often due to disagreements between local members and the national chapter. Sigma Delt — the first sorority to go local in 1988 — went local because “[s]isters and alumnae felt there were irreconcilable differences between the Dartmouth chapter and Sigma Kappa National, specifically religion in rituals and an emphasis on men in National songs and overall attitudes,” according to its website.

Amanda Roseblum ’07, co-vice president of D-GALA, encouraged sororities restricted by national chapter rules to go local.

“If national sororities are limiting what the students want to do on campus, those students should be creating local chapters,” Roseblum said, adding that EKT — of which she was a member as an undergraduate — did so nearly 30 years ago.

Roseblum said that she found it “pretty shocking that these are still conversations” 15 years after her time at Dartmouth.



# Donor Leon Black ’73 under scrutiny for ties to Jeffrey Epstein



ANDREW CHEN/THE DARTMOUTH

Black served on the College’s Board of Trustees from 2002 until 2011.

By **EMILY LU**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Oct. 23, 2020.*

Leon Black ’73, a former College Trustee and namesake of the Black Family Visual Arts Center, maintained a business relationship with the late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein even after Epstein was first convicted of sex-related crimes in 2008, according to a report by The New York Times. Black is facing subpoenas from U.S. Virgin Islands officials as part of their investigation into Epstein’s estate.

The New York Times report revealed that Black, the billionaire co-founder of the private equity firm Apollo Global Management, paid Epstein at least \$50 million from 2012 to 2017—after Epstein pleaded guilty to charges of solicitation of prostitution and solicitation of prostitution from a minor in Florida in June 2008. Black served on the College’s Board of Trustees from 2002 until 2011. College spokesperson Diana Lawrence confirmed that Black has donated to Dartmouth personally, as well as through his family foundation. His donations have supported initiatives including BVAC — the \$48-million visual arts building that houses the

studio art and film and media studies departments — and two endowed professorships.

Epstein was an original trustee of the Leon and Debra Black Family Foundation, which was created in 1997. He departed from the foundation in 2007 — about a decade before facing federal charges for leading a sex trafficking operation involving dozens of teenage girls.

“Mr. Black was completely unaware of — and continues to be appalled by — the reprehensible conduct that surfaced at the end of 2018 and which led to the federal criminal charges brought against Mr. Epstein,” a spokesperson for Black wrote in an email statement to The Dartmouth.

According to the foundation’s public tax filings from 2001 to 2018, Dartmouth received money from Black’s family foundation in 2001, 2002 and 2004 — before Epstein’s conviction — as well as in 2014, after Epstein’s departure from the foundation. The foundation’s donations to the College have totaled about \$7.5 million since 2001.

Black’s most notable gift to the College came in 2012 as a personal donation from himself and his wife — rather than from the family foundation — when they gave \$48 million to establish BVAC.

In an email statement to The Dartmouth, the College’s senior

vice president of advancement Robert Lasher ’88 wrote that the College has never received or accepted a donation directly from Epstein and has found no evidence that “he played a role in any gift to Dartmouth.”

Lawrence did not comment on the amount or distribution of Black’s donations to the College, noting that “Dartmouth does not disclose the details of private donor gifts.” She added that the College is not planning to change BVAC’s name at this time.

“We have a gift acceptance policy that defines the principles by which gifts will be accepted and reserves the right to revoke a commitment regarding a naming. Given what we know at the moment, and with the Apollo review underway, there has been no discussion about removing the Black family name from the Visual Arts Center,” Lawrence wrote.

At Black’s request, a group of Apollo’s board members will independently review Black’s relationship with Epstein. The board’s conflict-committee members hired a law firm on Tuesday to confirm information Black has provided about his ties to Epstein.

The extent of Epstein’s involvement in the Leon and Debra Black Family Foundation remains unclear. According to public Form

990-PF tax filings from the family foundation, Epstein served as a director until 2012. However, a spokesperson for Black claimed that Epstein was asked to step down in July 2007 and that he appeared on these tax forms for another five years due to a recording error.

According to a spokesperson for Black, Epstein “played no operational role” within the family foundation.

“[Epstein] never managed or controlled any funds managed by Mr. Black and never had discretionary authority to use any funds managed by Mr. Black to make charitable donations,” a spokesperson for Black wrote.

Other contributions from Black to Dartmouth include two professorships in Shakespearean Studies and Jewish Studies. Jonathan Crewe, the Leon D. Black Professor in Shakespearean Studies, said that Black is “very hands-off” with the endowed professorship in his name.

Lasher wrote that charitable gifts are reviewed under an institutional gift acceptance policy, which is “regularly reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.” Philanthropic advisor Doug White ’75 said that in general, a clear policy on which donations charities will accept is important “today more than ever.”

White said that institutions like

Dartmouth “have to take a lot of care in their gift acceptance policies to ask questions.” He added that “It’s really hard to know where money is coming from. ... [They] need to have that kind of system in place to find out the source of money.”

Virgin Islands Attorney General Denise George has filed subpoenas for financial transactions and communication between Black and Epstein, as well as financial statements from Black’s entities. The civil subpoena is a part of George’s larger investigation into Epstein’s estate. George alleges that the late financier carried out sex trafficking schemes on a privately-owned island in the territory and concealed unlawful conduct from Virgin Islands officials.

Black wrote in an August 2019 email to Apollo’s limited partners that “Apollo has never done any business with Mr. Epstein at any point in time.” Black said that Epstein has only given advice about tax strategy, estate planning and philanthropy to Black’s family entities. In a separate letter to Apollo’s limited partners, reviewed by The Dartmouth, Black wrote that he “deeply regret[s] having had any involvement with [Epstein],” and he “intend[s] to cooperate fully” with requests from the Virgin Islands Attorney General.

# Hanover restaurants face outdoor dining closure

By **BEN FAGELL**  
The Dartmouth

*This article was originally published on Nov. 10, 2020.*

As the town braces for winter weather, outdoor dining on Main Street in Hanover officially closed on Oct. 31. In an effort to offset an anticipated decline in business this winter, local restaurants have begun to consider alternative ways to increase profits.

According to Hanover director of planning, zoning and codes Robert Houseman, the tents and barriers used for outdoor seating this fall are unable to withstand intense snowstorms, potentially endangering restaurant-goers and other town residents. Since Hanover must follow New Hampshire’s safety regulations on buildings and structures, outdoor dining on town property had to be shut down.

“Snow doesn’t care what time of day or night it is,” Houseman said, adding that with six to 10 inches of snow, the tent structures risk collapse. “We don’t want to put the community or the customers at risk.”

In addition, street tents had to be removed so maintenance crews can plow the streets, Hanover town

manager Julia Griffin wrote in an email statement.

Outdoor dining had become the lifeblood of many restaurants in Hanover after the pandemic forced them to decrease indoor occupancy. Now, without outdoor dining, restaurants are seeking new ways to drum up business.

At Murphy’s on the Green, owner Nigel Leeming noted that a recent uptick in indoor business has not been enough to “make up the difference of having the tents outside,” largely due to the public’s fear of contracting COVID-19 in indoor establishments. To increase cash flow, Murphy’s has started using the delivery service Snackpass. Additionally, Leeming said he has worked to ease customers’ concerns associated with indoor dining.

“We’re showing the public that we’re safe, using all the precautions,”

Leeming said. “... We’ve got it down.”

For owner and CEO of Lou’s Restaurant Jarrett Berke Tu’17, the falloff in customers from the closure of outdoor dining has not been as steep as he thought it would be.

“I’ve been surprised that more people than I thought are comfortable and willing to dine inside,” Berke said. “I originally felt that most people wouldn’t want to do that.” Still, he added, “We’re filling up the few tables that we have.”

Now that Lou’s has closed its 11-table outdoor seating area, Berke noted that the restaurant is operating at only about 25% of regular capacity, an issue that he said could be exacerbated when students — a key customer base — go home for the winter holidays. In an effort to augment business, Lou’s has expanded its evening offerings and

added a waitlist so customers can walk around town until their table is ready instead of waiting in a line at the restaurant.

For the long term, Berke said he is in conversation with Murphy’s and Boloco about restructuring and revamping the three businesses’ delivery operations by employing their own delivery drivers. Currently, third-party delivery apps like Grubhub and DoorDash are siphoning large fees from restaurants on each order, which Berke said is “not only hurting profitability, but eliminating profitability” for the restaurants. When delivery apps demand a 30% cut of sales, Berke said, many restaurants, which operate in the single-digit profit margins, cannot survive off delivery orders.

Berke has proposed a model in which restaurants in town form a delivery cooperative and hire an independent pool of delivery drivers, eliminating the need for third-party apps.

“If we can do it ourselves and have a better experience, ... we don’t rely on an outside source or Silicon Valley to patrol us,” Leeming said. “We would be serving the community way better. And we want to do that.”

In addition, Leeming said that he believes the new delivery cooperative

— which would deliver locally, including to Dartmouth dorms — would cut current expenses in half, a helpful boost in a challenging economic climate.

Although Murphy’s and Lou’s were forced to move seating completely indoors, Pine and Boloco have their own personal patios, which are being left open for outdoor seating.

According to Pine manager Emily Chism, the patio had been closed but was reopened last weekend due to a spell of warm weather and may stay open until Tuesday. She said that as soon as winter officially arrives, the patio will be “packed up for the year.”

Boloco owner John Pepper ’91 Tu’97 said that he will not close the patio and is considering adding heaters during the winter months.

According to Berke, the town of Hanover has been very helpful as local businesses try to stay afloat. In addition to facilitating the expansion of outdoor dining, the town is also considering large-scale changes to the downtown area.

For example, Houseman said the town is considering widening the sidewalk by up to 16 feet to allow for more outdoor seating. Parking spaces also may be replaced by fixed outdoor seating in an effort to support businesses.

**“Snow doesn’t care what time of day or night it is. We don’t want to put the community or the customers at risk.”**

**-ROBERT HOUSEMAN, HANOVER DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, ZONING AND CODES**



# Republicans unexpectedly gain control of N.H. state government

By **THOMAS BROWN**  
The Dartmouth

*This article was originally published on Nov. 6, 2020.*

Contrary to earlier projections, New Hampshire Republicans have taken control of both the executive and legislative branches of the New Hampshire government. Republicans will flip the previously Democrat-held New Hampshire state Senate and House of Representatives. The party has also gained control of the state’s Executive Council, and Republican Gov. Chris Sununu was reelected for a third term.

These apparent Republican victories contrast with the Granite State’s federal election results: New Hampshire voted for Democrat Joe Biden for president and reelected Democrats Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Rep. Chris Pappas and Rep. Ann McLane Kuster ’78.

Prior to the election, Democrats held a 14-10 majority in the Senate, a 230-157 majority in the House and a 3-2 majority on the Executive Council.

As of press time, 14 Republicans and 10 Democrats have won seats in the Senate, and 213 Republicans and 187 Democrats have won seats in the House, according to the New Hampshire House Clerk. Four Republicans and one Democrat have won seats in the Executive

Council, according to state data. The Associated Press has not yet called the fourth Republican seat.

According to New Hampshire Public Radio, Democrats are planning to call for recounts in three state Senate races — those of Shannon Chandley, D-Amherst, Jeanne Dietsch, D-Peterborough, and Melanie Levesque, D-Brookline — all of whom lost by margins between 200 and 800 votes.

Many had previously expected the New Hampshire legislature to stay blue. On Nov. 2, election prediction site C/Nalysis predicted that Democrats would “net a few” single-member and multi-member districts in the state’s House, perhaps entering “supermajority territory.” The site also predicted that Democrats would hold all seats flipped in the Senate in 2018, were favored to win one more and might have even flipped three more seats if they had “a better night” than they expected.

It is far from uncommon for the New Hampshire legislature to switch hands. The National Council of State Legislatures called New Hampshire “the nation’s swingiest state,” noting that one or both state chambers have flipped in six of the past eight elections. So far, the New Hampshire legislature is the only state legislature to have either chamber switch party control this Tuesday.

Democratic representative-elect from Grafton 12 and Dartmouth

government professor Russell Muirhead thinks that the success of Republicans comes in part from voters’ perception of Sununu’s tenure. Muirhead labeled Sununu as an “extremely strong candidate for the Republican party” who “defied” the example set by President Donald Trump with regard to the ongoing global pandemic.

“[New Hampshire voters] not only voted for [Sununu], they voted for Republicans up and down [the ballot] for state offices all around. We had very, very long coattails,” Muirhead said.

In contrast, Muirhead cites Trump as the reason why New Hampshire voted for Democrats for federal offices.

“I think Donald Trump drove a whole bunch of people who are willing to vote Republican out of that column at the federal level,” Muirhead said. “They didn’t want Trump supporters in Congress. They didn’t want Trump supporters in the Senate. And they didn’t want Trump in the presidency.”

New Hampshire Republicans claimed victory on Wednesday, about a day before official results were confirmed. At 1 a.m. on Wednesday, the New Hampshire GOP tweeted their projected victory in the Senate and by 9 a.m. had claimed victory in the House. Sununu, in addition to individual members of the legislature, also declared victory.

“I am pleased that Granite State voters rejected the DC style politics that had crept into the State House these last two years,” Sununu tweeted Wednesday afternoon. “I am excited to get to work with our new Republican majorities to deliver results for the people of this state.”

Dartmouth Democrats president Emery Rheam ’22 said that the change in Executive Council control would likely have important implications for Democrats. Rheam said that while blue, the body, which approves government contracts and nominations made by the governor, has blocked attempts by Sununu to appoint state Attorney General Gordon MacDonald as Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. She noted that MacDonald does not “have judicial experience and is pretty explicitly anti-choice when it comes to women’s reproductive rights.”

“As a woman, that’s frightening and disappointing,” Rheam said.

Although Republicans may have secured majorities for the next two years, their access to redistricting, which will occur in 2021, will have consequences that will extend throughout the 2020s. Other policies to be addressed by the Republican majority will likely include further tax cuts, with Sununu stating on Election Day that he will look at reducing business taxes.

Two days after the election, New

Hampshire Public Radio reported many districts as having 100% of precincts reporting, yet many have not called a winner. Hanover town clerk Betsy McClain said could be due to delays in district-conducted verifications that have yet to be sent to the Secretary of State.

McClain explained that each district must submit a “Moderator’s Worksheet” to the state to provide a three-count verification of the numbers of ballots cast to ensure that there is “no significant difference” between ballot tallies. Hanover’s Moderator’s Worksheet, for example, lists 7,178 “ballots cast,” 7,188 “voters at check-in” and 7,162 “voters at check-out,” McClain said, a result that she believes are “in a reasonable margin of error” considering the “human intervention” required for this election.

Due to the fact that New Hampshire was allowed to process absentee ballots before Election Day, McClain is “very, very doubtful” that the delay in official results is due to any additional time that would be needed to count all votes.

“My sense is the Secretary of State wants to see the same sort of reconciliation from all jurisdictions before calling the office,” she said.

The Moderator’s Worksheet stipulates that moderators submit the document to their town or ward clerks within 48 hours of the closing of the polls.

# Professors weigh in on Biden victory, bipartisanship post-Trump

By **KYLE MULLINS**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Nov. 10, 2020.*

After four years of twists and turns in the White House, President Donald Trump will be replaced in January by a far more traditional administration. According to Dartmouth government, economics and public policy professors, former Vice President Joe Biden’s victory bodes well for the durability of American institutions, but the president-elect may face serious governance challenges with a divided government.

“So far, it’s been a very good week for ‘little-d’ democratic institutions, after a rough couple of years,” public policy professor Charles Wheelan ’88 said. “We managed to pull off an election, with record turnout, during a pandemic, and that is not a trivial accomplishment.”

He said that the election went smoothly, broadly speaking, as there were no widespread incidents of election-related violence, disruption at polling places or issues with mail-in ballots.

However, multiple professors cautioned that while the presidential election may have been called by news networks, Trump has yet to concede and has already begun spinning up legal challenges and spreading misinformation about the election’s result. Over the past few days, dozens of his tweets about the election have been labeled as inaccurate by Twitter, his campaign filed several lawsuits in swing states and he levied several baseless accusations of election fraud.

“We’re not out of the woods here,” Wheelan said. “We really don’t know how Donald Trump is going to behave. If his past behavior is any indication, it could possibly be unprecedented, probably not in a good way.”

Wheelan added, though, that he was skeptical the legal challenges would be successful and that he expects the transition of power will take place smoothly. Government professor Herschel Nachlis expressed similar feelings, though he noted that he has “gotten out of the business of trying to predict what precisely Donald Trump will do.”

Government professor Dean Lacy said he will be watching to see if some of Trump’s lawyers abandon the legal efforts or if they remain on his team, as well as whether or not congressional Republicans continue to support the president’s efforts to question the results of the election.

Lacy added that the results of the election were consistent with the political science theory of retrospective voting, which states that voters judge incumbent candidates based on recent performance rather than expectations of how candidates might perform in the future. He noted that Trump faced a significant economic downturn during his administration, just as recent one-term presidents Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush did.

“I do think this was a referendum on Trump’s handling of the economy, and



DANIEL MODESTO/THE DARTMOUTH

Local residents celebrate Biden’s and Harris’ win near in Hanover on the Saturday after the election.

also probably of COVID,” Lacy said. He noted that positive economic news in the third quarter of this year — the economy recovered roughly two-thirds of the output lost in the pandemic-related downturn in the first half of the year, and the unemployment rate continued to fall in October — may have made the election closer than it otherwise would have been.

Economics professor Bruce Sacerdote said that voters tend to care about their current financial situation, and the COVID-19 recession was a “gut punch” for those who earn the least because they are disproportionately employed in jobs that could not go remote.

Additionally, the 2020 election is projected to have the highest rate of voter turnout in over a century. Nachlis praised several factors that increased democratic participation, including increased grassroots mobilization efforts in states like Georgia and new laws that expanded mail-in voting and implemented automatic voter registration. The question, he indicated, is how permanent those changes will be post-pandemic.

“Optimistically, and I think plausibly, we’ve seen these huge increases in making voting easier, in some large measure due to the pandemic,” Nachlis said, adding that he thinks the effects may be lasting. “It would be hard to imagine giving people something that makes their lives easier, that increases democratic participation and increases turnout, then folks turning around and saying, ‘Well, no, we’re going to take that away from you.’”

Lacy said that he believes the election outcome represents a rejection of Trump, if not the GOP at large. This is notable, he said, because other actors in the political system have been unable to check Trump’s “antidemocratic” tendencies — like support for voter suppression efforts — leaving it to voters to do so at the ballot box.

“It’s that mechanism of having presidents and politicians stand before voters that gives voters the chance to be this rational god of vengeance and reward,” Lacy said, “and constrain elected leaders in ways that they can’t appear to constrain each other.”

However, despite the rejection of Trump and the GOP in the highest office, voters may have elected a divided federal government. Though Biden won the presidency, Republicans look likely to pick up seats in the House of Representatives and maintain control of the Senate; the latter is contingent on the results of two January runoff races in Georgia.

“There’s no sweeping mandate from the people that Biden is supposed to do something other than fill the office that Trump is leaving,” Wheelan said.

Lacy said that a divided

government represents a “best-case scenario” for traditional — rather than Trumpian — Republicans, who can attempt to “exorcise Trump from Republicanism.” He noted, however, that there is a wing of the party that will likely remain loyal to Trump and his style of politics even after he leaves the Oval Office.

Nachlis posited, on the other hand, that the GOP holding the Senate may be a “blessing in disguise” for Biden because it gives him a scapegoat when more progressive Democrats become frustrated that their ideas are not being passed.

“As an electoral matter, that sort of forced moderation might help the Democratic Party,” he said.

Sacerdote said that a top priority for Biden and Congress should be another stimulus bill to help boost the economy until COVID-19 is controlled.

“Almost all economists agree that when faced with a crisis of this magnitude — a potential collapse in demand — engaging in fiscal stimulus is a wise thing to do,” he said, adding that a stimulus package “particularly makes sense in an environment with ridiculously low interest rates and no inflation.”

Lacy, Nachlis and Wheelan all said that whether other policy

measures can get passed will depend on whether Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other Senate Republicans choose to work with the Biden administration or not.

Lacy said he can even “imagine a scenario where Biden can’t get his cabinet nominees selected.”

“Under very narrowly divided government, with someone who was in the Senate for decades, can we still achieve compromise?” Nachlis asked. “I’d like to believe the answer to that question is yes, and if the answer is no, then I think that provides further evidence for a set of worries that a lot of people have about whether we’re still capable of competent, pragmatic, functional government.”

Biden could still achieve some of his policy goals via executive action, such as creating a plan to help bring COVID-19 under control, rejoining the Paris Agreement and reversing Trump’s downsizing of national monuments. Still, any major new policies are likely to require congressional approval, meaning compromise between both parties.

Sacerdote said he believes the country is ready for a move toward more bipartisanship, predicting that “if anyone can restore some of the cooperation, it will be Biden,” given his history of working across the aisle in the Senate.

“People ... have been hoping for a move towards more bipartisanship and less polarization and asking what forces can get us there,” Sacerdote said. “Maybe we’ve finally gotten to that point where it got so bad that people are asking for something else.”

**“Optimistically, and I think plausibly, we’ve seen these huge increases in making voting easier, in some large measure due to the pandemic.”**

**-HERSCHEL NACHLIS, GOVERNMENT PROFESSOR**



CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST GRACIE DICKMAN '24

## Decriminalize Dorm Socialization

The College’s COVID-19 restrictions have hurt freshmen seeking community.

*This article was originally published on Nov. 10, 2020.*

This fall has seen an unknown number of students, many of them ’24s, sent home for violating the College’s COVID-19 restrictions — most commonly, it seems, the limit on the number of students allowed in dorm rooms. Several students have testified to their experiences, recounting that their floors have been almost entirely cleared of people — some all at once, and some over the course of the term. The College’s rules on gathering limits leave ’24s between a rock and a hard place: To obey the strict rules, students must sacrifice their social and mental well-being. Amid this dilemma, it is clear that the students are not failing the administration — the administration is failing its students.

This fall is the ’24s’ first term on campus; they are strangers to Dartmouth and to each other. Socializing is crucial to their mental health and sense of belonging at Dartmouth. The College’s restrictions on gatherings may be realistic for upperclassmen who already have made friends and constructed a life in Hanover, but they are harmful for students who are seeking to meet new people and form new relationships. The administration has prohibited students from gathering in groups of larger than nine and from having anyone from outside their dorm inside their rooms. While the College has technically now amended its policy to permit as many people as social distancing will allow, the size of most dorm rooms means that this still yields space for only one guest. These circumstances not only severely dampen ’24’s ability to meet their peers and make friends, but create a culture of division and exclusion.

While upperclassmen and other onlookers may see freshmen as irresponsible and immature for breaking the rules, I would contend that asking ’24s to maintain such social isolation is not at all a matter of responsibility or maturity. Rather, the College’s policies demand freshmen to unnecessarily sacrifice their social and emotional well-being. It is an ask that runs contrary to human nature. As temperatures drop and spending time outside or in tents becomes a less viable option, students are essentially forced to limit their socialization to only one-on-one interactions and only with people from their own dorms. This presents the dilemma: make new friends and develop relationships — be human — or follow the College’s COVID-19 policies. The

administration’s choice to harshly punish freshmen for slipping up in an environment that has rendered human interaction and following the rules mutually exclusive is absurd.

In fact, the administration’s strictness is working against them. This past weekend, reports emerged of dozens of students attending large parties off campus. These students’ actions can be seen as a symptom of the administration’s stringent rules placed on on-campus socialization. If the administration let students gather in dorms, or in other indoor locations, students would be less likely to go off campus and retreat outside of the College’s heavily-monitored bubble of COVID-19 monitoring.

The College’s continued revocation of students’ on-campus privileges is disheartening; the fact that the same students whom the College hand-selected for their intelligence and commitment to education are being sent home in droves should serve as a sign that the problem is with the policy, not with the people. The administration is clearly not supporting its students.

Yes, we all signed a contract when we decided to come to campus. But the fact that the College hangs that contract over our heads as a constant threat is abusive and unnecessary, especially considering that just one student currently has COVID-19. What was the purpose of working so hard to build a bubble on campus, if not to allow the students in it to move around with a modicum of freedom? The administration must adjust its policy to decriminalize dorm socialization, allow friends to enter each other’s dorms and state an official number of people allowed in a room to clear up the unease that comes with the current restrictions. In addition, the College must implement a warning system, or a progression of disciplinary actions for students to face if they break social distancing rules (meeting with a dean and then probation, for example), rather than immediately sending students home for their entire freshman year.

For the sake of morale, for the sake of mental health and for the sake of building a community to which the ’24s, especially those sent home, will want to return, something must be done. Demanding social isolation from freshmen attempting to meet new friends and build a community at Dartmouth has proven unwarranted as a public health measure, unrealistic in practice and detrimental to both students and the College.

STAFF COLUMNIST MAX TESZLER ’23

## Beware the GOP’s Climate Ambivalence

Republicans are are thwarting any attempts to solve climate change.

*This article was originally published on Oct. 19, 2020.*

Amid the general turmoil of the first presidential debate, it was easy to miss that Donald Trump made a truly extraordinary statement for a Republican president — when asked if human pollution contributes to climate change, he said “I think a lot of things do, but I think to an extent, yes.” Eight days later, Vice President Mike Pence said that the Trump administration will “always follow the science” on climate change.

Have Republicans finally come around on climate? In actuality, there’s little change when it comes to real policy — Trump’s campaign has released no comprehensive plan to address climate change and proudly touts the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord as a “promise kept.” But the rhetorical shift, whether intentional or not, represents a new type of climate ambivalence from the GOP — not outright denial of human-caused climate change, but opposition to any needed solutions.

Politically, this new language on climate change makes sense. Despite Trump’s concerted attempts to downplay the issue — he has called climate change a “hoax” and said in 2018 that he didn’t believe a landmark national climate report commissioned by his own government — the public’s concern regarding climate has steadily grown over recent years. In June, a Pew Poll found 60% of Americans rated climate change as a major threat to the wellbeing of the U.S., compared to 44% in 2009. Another June Pew study showed that 65% of Americans believe that the government does too little to combat climate change.

Strikingly, that same survey showed that close to two-thirds of Republicans believed human activity contributes at least somewhat to climate change. This is the party whose most recent “moderate” nominee, Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, declared “we don’t know what’s causing climate change,” in 2012, a time when 97% of publishing climate scientists believed that anthropogenic climate change was occurring. In 2015, Sen. Jim Inhofe, the Republican chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, held up a snowball on the Senate floor as proof it was cold out, intended as “evidence” that global warming wasn’t real. Those days may be gone — but the new Republican position is dangerous all the same.

The past half-decade or so has revealed the increasingly stark prognosis for climate change. A 2018 UN report revealed that even with just 1.5 C of warming, disastrous consequences could still occur — the report estimated a total of \$54 trillion in economic damages. As the scientists issue dire warnings, we’re living through the consequences of already-existing warming. Some of the largest

wildfires in California’s history burned across the state this autumn, covering much of the country in smoke. The fight to reverse these trends will be hard, with carbon generation intertwined so closely in the matrix of modern human society. The same 2018 report which spelled out the consequences of increased warming advised reducing emissions 45 percent by 2030, and to net-zero by 2050 — a herculean task which will require steps like virtually eliminating coal generation of electricity.

Conservatives’ climate ambivalence has no answer for this pressing reality, instead relying on untruths and even outright lies. Pence claimed the Trump administration would follow science — yet that administration has for years suppressed government scientists and stifled climate reports. Trump called himself the “number one environmental president,” but he has presided over a comprehensive agenda of environmental deregulation. The GOP platform acknowledges climate change, but warns that treating it as a legitimate national security issue would represent “the triumph of extremism over common sense.”

And that forms the second critical backbone of Republicans trying to gloss over their record — accusing Democrats of being the real extremists. Trump and Pence desperately accuse former Vice President Joe Biden of supporting the “crazy” Green New Deal and wanting to ban fracking. The president has gone further, saying the Democrats “want to kill our cows” as part of their climate plan. Romney, for his part, now acknowledges that humans cause climate change, but dismissed the Green New Deal as “silliness.”

To confront this climate ambivalence, Democrats need to take the issue head on. A majority of voters support bold action on climate change. While Biden denies he wants to ban fracking, even in Pennsylvania (a state with a significant natural gas industry) a narrow majority are in opposition to the drilling practice. And there’s already a natural advantage to press on — according to a poll by the Democratic-leaning Public Policy Polling Group, voters in eight battleground states reported 55% to 28% that they aligned more closely with Biden than with Trump in regard to climate issues.

But with a more skilled and disciplined messenger than Trump, climate ambivalence could take hold amid the GOP. Republican voters still report far less concern about climate than do independents or Democrats, and given reality that climate legislation must clear the 60-vote filibuster in the Senate, progress is unlikely to occur without bipartisan support or dramatic procedural measures. With just a decade remaining to nearly halve emissions, Republican climate ambivalence is a disastrous type of doubt.

STAFF COLUMNIST CHELSEA MOORE ’22

## Hanover’s Double Standard

Hanover High students shouldn’t get a free pass on COVID-19 regulations.

*This article was originally published on Oct. 8, 2020.*

On Tuesday afternoon, I was jogging through Hanover, swerving around people on the sidewalk and huffing and puffing through my sweat-soaked mask. As I made my way downtown and passed the Hanover High School soccer field, I slowed to a walking pace because I couldn’t believe my eyes. On both ends of the field, the women’s soccer team was doing tackling drills. Each group had at least 20 people, and not a single person was wearing a mask. My own mask suddenly felt a lot more prominent.

It seems a distinct double standard is taking shape. At first, I saw the discrepancies through athletic policies, including access limitations and group training protocol, but soon realized this double standard is not exclusive to sports teams. The town of Hanover is not holding itself to any of the same safety standards — including in academics — as those of the College. It is both unfair and unsafe that Hanover High School’s policies do not match those of the College.

As a student-athlete at Dartmouth, I am currently unable to practice with my team, even if I were to wear a mask. Despite living locally, I am not allowed to see my coach or use campus facilities like the gym and locker rooms. Dartmouth has prohibited all athletic competition this fall, implementing restrictions that follow the College guidelines. These restrictions include limiting practice participation to under 10 approved athletes, travel within only a 10-mile radius of campus and six feet social distancing, all while wearing a mask. Teams are partaking in a system that slowly phases in group activity, this week being the first of the phases, with only up to six hours of coach contact.

Meanwhile, Hanover High School has been holding unmasked sports practices and games since early September. While students and teachers must wear masks during school sessions, the school doesn’t mandate it for athletics, saying “athletes may remove masks while actively warming up and competing.” Players are allowed full contact with coaches, and coaches can hold a full practice schedule. On Sept. 22, the Hanover High Marauders played Goffstown High School, and photos show players unmasked, literally touching head to head. At senior night, the players

gathered on the field to take photos without masks or social distancing.

This double standard extends beyond athletics. On and off campus, Dartmouth students must maintain a distance of six feet or more. In accordance with the town’s mask ordinance, the College mandates that masks are worn outdoors on campus and in Hanover. Gatherings are limited to nine people and are broken up by Safety and Security if the number exceeds that. On top of the three initial on-site COVID-19 tests during quarantine and the weekly tests thereafter, all students in the area must complete a daily temperature and self-assessment screening. Classes are almost universally online, and we are not allowed to travel outside the Upper Valley, even if we live off campus.

At Hanover High School, students have to maintain only three feet of physical distance, and classes can have up to 25 people per room.

Students do not partake in any mandatory testing. The high school students have the freedom to travel out of the Upper Valley as long as they stay within New England.

In her column “Selfish Students,” Hanover town manager Julia Griffin wrote that the irresponsibility of Dartmouth students is putting Hanover residents in danger. There’s no denying that certain students are stepping out of line, but why ignore the other half of the town — the Hanover students

themselves? Hanover High’s weaker regulations allow students to compete in athletic competitions and to travel freely. If we’re to follow Griffin’s line of reasoning, it’s not a stretch to say that Hanover students are putting the entire Hanover community at risk. And yet, we don’t hear town officials decrying them like they decry Dartmouth students.

The restrictions that the College puts on students seem largely designed to placate the town of Hanover. This goes for the College’s limits on travel, gatherings and students’ social lives. But Hanover fails to uphold the same standards for its own high school students. The double standard is glaring and unjustifiable. Hanover should hold its high school to the same safety standards as it expects of Dartmouth. I’m not arguing for a relaxation in Dartmouth regulations, but rather an equal playing field. In the end, we are all Hanover residents, and it’s time the town acts like it.

STAFF COLUMNIST NATALIE DOKKEN ’23

## The Privilege of Silence

Silence is also a stance — it is just an irresponsible one.

*This article was originally published on Sept. 15, 2020.*

As the 2020 election draws near, I am certain that many of you, much like myself, have found yourselves involved in some dispute with a family member or friend over politics. After all, many of us have been cooped up with our families for months. During these political discussions, older relatives often ask in exasperation: Why does the younger generation get so strung out over politics? Why should someone’s political beliefs determine whether or not you’ll be friends with someone? Can you not handle someone having an opinion different from your own?

But the fact is that politics are and always have represented more than abstract ideas. The outcome of political debates and legal rulings have significant and lasting consequences. Saying that politics shouldn’t define how you view a person is an inherently shortsighted approach to politics. It is a perspective that reflects privilege and reveals a lack of the understanding that for many, the political is often extremely personal.

For many, politics matters because it defines the basic fundamentals of one’s life. If you come out at work, can your employer fire you because of your sexual orientation? If you are raped and become pregnant, who gets to decide whether or not you must face the consequence of someone else’s crime and carry your rapist’s child? If a police officer uses excessive force

because of the color of your skin, how diligently will the legal system seek justice for you? If your parents get pulled over, will that mean they get deported back to a country from which they tried so desperately to flee?

For people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, people with disabilities and most minority groups, the political is disproportionately impactful. Marginalized groups live in very different realities than that of the white, heterosexual and cisgender majority. Their rights and experiences are often determined directly by political decisions.

As a queer person, I can still be denied service in 25 states, housing in 23 states and credit and loans in 35 states on the basis of my sexual orientation. It took a Supreme Court case in order for me to be allowed the opportunity to marry or be protected from employment-based discrimination. While I am thankful for the progress that has allowed me to be an openly queer person without fear of

arrest or judicial persecution, the fact that I have to rely on “progress” at all in order to be granted the same rights and protections as my straight peers exactly proves my point. For me, politics isn’t something I can just ignore or put aside as politics determine what freedoms I do and do not have. The same is true for other individuals and communities.

Many of you may note that politics affects everyone — if Congress increases taxes, you have to pay them, regardless your identity, race or ability. While a lot of policies aren’t identity-specific, the fact that any are — that any rights or protections under the law are determined by one’s gender, race, ethnicity, ability or sexuality — is the problem. For example, Black males convicted of the same crimes as white males receive sentences that are on average 19.1 percent longer, transgender veterans are often denied Veterans Affairs coverage due to their gender identity and disabled workers are allowed to be paid a mere one dollar per hour

of work. We can’t get rid of “identity politics” until one’s identity stops determining what protections and rights one has.

To understand the disproportionate impact of politics on marginalized groups and communities and to do nothing about it is irresponsible and selfish. I, much like many of my peers, understand that politics is much more than an abstract concept, but rather a major source of influence and impact in people’s lives. And moreover, that its authority is more severe for marginalized groups and communities.

“Putting politics aside” rather than engaging in reasonable, rational debate is dangerous in that it fails to acknowledge that the ability to be neutral is, in and of itself, a privilege. If a political issue or ideology threatened your ability to find a job, access services or feel safe existing in the U.S., I am certain you would not be so quick to dismiss the merits of discussion and debate.

We must keep informed and outspoken on political issues, and speak up for those whose voices are so often silenced or spoken over. We must not be neutral in a system that assigns value and protections to individuals based on who they are or where they come from. And we must not be content with a status quo that privileges the rights and protections of one group of people over another. Silence is also a stance — it is just a lazy and dangerous one.



THE DARTMOUTH EDITORIAL BOARD

## Verbum Ultimum: Beyond Title IX

Dartmouth must continue to support survivors in spite of new Title IX guidelines.

*This article was originally published on May 22, 2020.*

On May 6, while wall-to-wall COVID-19 coverage dominated the media, the Department of Education quietly released an updated set of Title IX guidelines. These new policies have amounted to, in the words of Dartmouth’s Title IX office, a significant change in “the definition and scope of sexual misconduct” and surrounding processes.

The new Title IX guidelines will usher in a number of dramatic and detrimental policy changes. The College’s Title IX office will no longer be able to address complaints that occur off college property, thereby placing abuses that occur in off-campus housing or on Foreign Study Programs outside of the College’s purview. Dartmouth will also be required to allow direct cross examination at any Title IX hearing. And critically, the definition of sexual harassment will be narrowed, now pertaining only to “unwelcome conduct” deemed “severe, pervasive and objectively offensive.” Dartmouth now has until August 14 to comply with these new regulations.

The new guidelines amount to a rollback on protections against sexual violence. The guidelines drastically restrict the range of violations under the jurisdiction of the Title IX office and disproportionately harm survivors of sexual violence. Although we do not agree with these new policies, we do not suggest that the College act in defiance of federal mandate. Instead, in order to best prevent future misconduct and protect survivors, Dartmouth must expand the use of its Standards of Conduct, as well as increase its available resources for those impacted by sexual harassment and assault.

The new Title IX guidelines will — on a federal basis — narrow the definition of sexual harassment and limit the situations in which the College can act against it. The new definition is too narrow, and the College must continue to stand against sexual violence, regardless of the federal government’s attempts to the contrary. For the College to fully capitulate to these new regulations would amount to an unacceptable negligence regarding the safety of the Dartmouth community.

Fortunately, however, Dartmouth retains the ability as a private institution to punish supposedly “lesser” instances of sexual misconduct and preserve protections for survivors through its Standards of Conduct. The Standards define the rules that Dartmouth students are obliged to follow, emphasizing a

“respect for the rights of others,” and threatening disciplinary action against those who fail to adhere to the regulations. The Standards of Conduct already contain articles relating to sexual misconduct, harassment and gender-based violence, but they are currently overseen and enforced by the College’s Title IX office — blunting their future utility.

The College could, however, add provisions to the Standards of Conduct that encompass those acts of sexual misconduct no longer included under the Title IX umbrella. Dartmouth has substantial leeway to define acceptable and unacceptable behavior — and despite the new guidelines, sexual violence of any kind remains unacceptable. Adding provisions to the Standards of Conduct would allow the Office of Community Standards and Accountability to adjudicate over cases of sexual misconduct no longer covered under Title IX, allowing Dartmouth to protect its community members — albeit under the auspices of appropriate student behaviour and not federal policy. This tactic would place misconduct in off-campus buildings and programs abroad back under Dartmouth’s jurisdiction, and allow for adequate responses to a range of sexual misconduct.

The expanded use of the Standards of Conduct alone, however, would be insufficient in tackling the effects of the new Title IX guidelines. The new requirement to allow direct cross examination at any hearing — with the consequent additional trauma to survivors of sexual violence — will become an unavoidable obstacle, regardless of changes to the Standards of Conduct. And as the College will be unable to address this issue directly, it must instead expand the resources and support available to survivors.

In light of the new Title IX guidelines, Dartmouth should not be silent on issues of sexual assault and harrassment. It must instead make clear to its wider community that it will continue to act to protect survivors and prevent, wherever possible, future instances of sexual violence.

When this pandemic finally ends, all Dartmouth students deserve to return to a campus on which they feel physically safe. New federal policy has made this a harder goal to attain. But the College must not retreat in the face of these guidelines. It must instead redouble its efforts to assist survivors and protect its community.

*The editorial board consists of opinion staff columnists, the opinion editors, the executive editors and the editor-in-chief.*

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# Sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard’s ‘Wide Babelki Bowl’ installed

By **PAULINA MARINKOVIC**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on Sept. 14, 2020.*

On Aug. 19, Brooklyn-based sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard’s “Wide Babelki Bowl” — a large cedar sculpture resembling “babelki,” or knots on a sweater — became the newest addition to Dartmouth’s collection of public art installations.

The sculpture, which was originally installed on a private property in Woodstock, Vermont, was donated to the College by Jens and Margarit Jacobs and can now be found on display near Rollins Chapel.

Von Rydingsvard, who visited Dartmouth and the Hood Museum of Art in the 1990s, chose Dartmouth as the sculpture’s new location because she wanted the artwork to be close to its original Woodstock location and in a space where people would interact with and learn from it.

Associate curator of global contemporary art Jessica Hong said that the sculpture’s connection to von Rydingsvard’s personal history makes it an expressive and emotional piece of artwork. According to Hong, “Wide Babelki Bowl” can be viewed as a vessel that holds the artist’s personal experiences, which she has interpreted as an allegory for Dartmouth’s campus.

“It is holding these memories, histories, thoughts or ideas,” she said, “which arguably parallels the academic environment as this kind of active vessel that brings together all of the intellectual life throughout campus.”

Since the 1970s, von Rydingsvard has been a prominent name in the sculpting community for her large-scale wooden sculptures. Most of the titles of von Rydingsvard’s pieces use the Polish language, in reference to her heritage. Born into a long lineage of farmers and having spent her early years living in post-war refugee camps throughout Germany with her family, von Rydingsvard draws much of her



COURTESY OF PATRICK DUNFEY AND ALISON PALIZZOLO

The sculpture can be found on display near Rollins Chapel.

inspiration from her personal history.

**“It is holding these memories, histories, thoughts or ideas.”**

**- JESSICA HONG, ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF GLOBAL CONTEMPORARY ART**

“Babelki,” according to Hong, refers to the popcorn stitches or the small balls of wool that get knit onto sweaters — which are reminiscent of the clothes von Rydingsvard wore as a child.

Hong said that “Wide Babelki Bowl” showcases von Rydingsvard’s ability to transform wood into art that is at once monumental, abstract and deeply personal. While at first spectators observe the physical magnitude of the sculpture, its history and background imbue it with a layer of intimacy.

“The themes that she’s exploring, even just the materials that she’s using,

[“Wide Babelki Bowl”] is really quite distinct from the other public artworks in our collection,” she said.

According to Hong, the Hood Museum collaborated with von Rydingsvard to determine the work’s place on campus. While in Vermont, the piece was originally positioned on a platform, where Hong said it resembled a monument and failed to unite with the surrounding landscape. As a result, Hong said the sculpture lacked the organic and emotional nature of the sculpture that von Rydingsvard hoped to emphasize.

However, near Rollins Chapel, Hong said the work now complements its architectural surroundings and seems to blend with its environment. She added that while Dartmouth is home to a distinguished collection of public art, von Rydingsvard’s piece is unique in that it resembles a geological formation and thus interplays with the College’s natural surroundings.

Han Nazarbayev ’23 echoed Hong’s sentiments, saying that the cedar sculpture merges seamlessly with Dartmouth’s existing landscape.

“Compared to other artworks, this piece focuses on the surrounding of its environment,” he said. “Since it is made out of wood, there is a juxtaposition to the trees encompassing it. To me, there is a silent communication to be found between what is living and what is not, and the connection is the artwork’s material.”

Hong said that she is looking forward to witnessing the community’s reaction to the new addition as the seasons change.

“Cedar is an organic material and not meant to be forever,” Hong said. “The work itself will evolve and our perception of the work will evolve as it continues to become more part of our social, cultural, physical landscape.”

Campus engagement coordinator Isadora Italia emphasized that as

many students return to campus this fall, she hopes that people will safely engage with public art, given that it is outdoors.

As courses at the College remain largely remote, Italia added that the Hood Museum is finding alternative ways to make Dartmouth’s art collection more accessible, such as a “digital escape room game that will have people exploring the public art sculptures [on campus].” She also expressed hope that students living off campus will take advantage of the Hood Museum’s virtual public art collection.

“I encourage students or really anyone encountering a work of art to really take a moment to just make their way around it,” she said. “Think about the material. Think about the scale. Think about where it is placed and think about your own reaction to it and how it influences your experience with the space or with campus.”

# Q&A with Mindy Kaling ’01

By **SATHVIKA KORANDLA**  
The Dartmouth Staff

*This article was originally published on May 7, 2020.*

Those familiar with comedy TV shows including “The Office” and “The Mindy Project” are aware that Mindy Kaling ’01 is a jack-of-all-trades in Hollywood. Throughout her career, she’s done it all — from writing and starring in her own TV series to producing projects that bring new stories to life. Her latest show, “Never Have I Ever,” is a coming-of-age romantic comedy centered around an Indian-American teenager named Devi. In an interview with The Dartmouth, Kaling discusses both “Never Have I Ever” and her visit to campus last term.

**You met with the Rockapellas, Jack-O-Lantern and the Dog Day Players on campus in February to do research for a show — what did you learn from those meetings, and how did that shape the show?**

**MK:** I have a new show at HBO Max, but I’m not sure when it’s coming out due to everything happening with COVID. My co-writer Justin [Noble], who went to Yale, and I wanted to do a show about girls in college on the East Coast. We visited both Yale and Dartmouth to research what kids are like now. I graduated in ’01, and I didn’t want the show to seem like some old person reminiscing about college. I wanted to make sure that it is really topical and current. Basically, I just wanted to see how you guys talk, I wanted to see what social interactions are like, and I wanted to see the dynamics between men and women

on campus. We didn’t ask a ton of questions about that, but it was really good to just observe how campus life has changed since I had been there. And the kids were so nice! Those three clubs, they were so inviting and took out time from their own meetings to meet with us, and I had the best time. I was also in all three groups when I was at Dartmouth, so it was fun to check in and see how they are different from my frame of reference from the late ’90s to 2001.

**In what ways can we see your connection to Dartmouth manifest in the show?**

**MK:** It’s kind of early to say, because we haven’t had a chance to shoot it yet. We wrote the first episode, which definitely takes place in a New England-y school. I think the way that Dartmouth looks and the way that Yale looks, like the brick buildings and the four seasons, are definitely going to be seen in the show. We don’t get that in LA. At a minimum, the setting of the show will be similar to Dartmouth. We also hope to capture the dynamics between college students, and I think that Dartmouth students might see parts of themselves in the show.

**Your new show, “Never Have I Ever,” portrays an Indian-American teen’s high school experience — how did this part of your identity influence your experience at Dartmouth?**

**MK:** When I went to Dartmouth, there weren’t a ton of people like me of Indian descent there. But I had a very lucky reaction to it, which was that instead of feeling alienated or marginalized by it, I kind of felt special. I love being Indian, and I identify so much culturally with

being Indian-American. It also felt like my friends really loved that about me too, which added to making me feel special. I know that this is not the reaction of a lot of minority students when they go to college and they find that they’re representing a lot of other people from their race. For whatever reason, I had that positive reaction to it, which I know is very lucky.

**In the show, the main character Devi is high-achieving and hopes to go to Princeton. Was that inspired by your experiences and your own college aspirations?**

**MK:** Definitely. I started thinking about college pretty young, and it was a big part of my friend group

— going to college was important to us. For a lot of nerds — regardless of your race or your identity — that becomes your focus once you turn 13 or 14. I also think that getting into an Ivy League school was a real point of pride for my parents and I was a real people-pleasing kid, so I wanted them to be proud of me. So yes, that part of Devi’s character was definitely taken from my childhood.

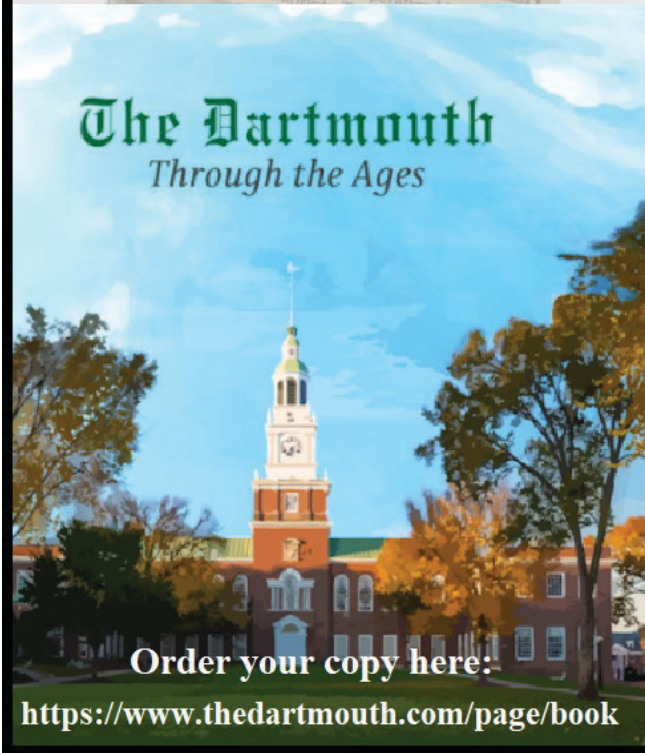
**What are your hopes for the impact of “Never Have I Ever” and for its future?**

**MK:** I think when you are Indian-American, or really any minority, you’re starved for representation on screen. There’s so much pressure when you’re making a

show with that representation because everyone’s experience is different — there’s no single experience for an entire group of people. When you watch it, I think a lot of reactions from people can be along the lines of, “Oh no, that’s not what my experience was!” I just hope that with the success of this show, that there are other shows with casts that look like this one, so that there’s less of a responsibility on one specific show to represent every single type of South Asian person. I hope that because the show seemingly did well in its first week, that there’ll be more shows like it.

*This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity and length.*

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# MIRROR

## Here Today and Gone Tomorrow: Students on Being Sent Home

By CAROLINE KRAMER  
The Dartmouth

*This article was originally published on Oct. 28, 2020.*

As we approach Halloween here at Dartmouth, there's a heightened level of fear across the student body. This fear, however, is not caused by your typical horror film or haunted house. Rather, it is the result of a steady stream of unknowns, distrust and paranoia surrounding one of the most concerning trends of fall term: students being forced to leave campus for the remainder of the academic year due to COVID-19 policy violations.

As detailed in an Oct. 16 article in The Dartmouth, these events have prompted widespread rumors regarding the number of students sent home. Though the College administration deemed rumored numbers “wildly exaggerated,” many students remain dissatisfied with the College’s lack of transparency regarding the number of students removed and what constitutes grounds for removal.

As rumors abound and friends disappear, ’24s are responding in a variety of ways to the growing numbers of students removed from campus.

In a matter of hours, Sophie Lachenauer ’24 said she witnessed her dorm go from around 30 residents to only 20 and has since felt a significant impact on her dorm’s dynamic.

“When you go to the bathroom in the morning now, you see less people. Downstairs, there are fewer people. You don’t see many people in the hallway anymore,” Lachenauer said.

She added that living in small dorms makes the impact of each lost roommate particularly prominent — affecting the social dynamic and mood of the dorm.

Indeed, the widespread “disappearing” of students from Dartmouth’s campus has had an immense social impact throughout the freshmen community. While many ’24s have quickly developed close, trusted friend groups, some

of these connections are threatened when friends suddenly have their on-campus privileges revoked.

Zachary Brown ’24 struggled with this reality when one of his closest friends was sent home.

“It was a really shocking experience,” Brown said. “It’s crazy to think about how he was physically removed from my life so quickly. I was just laying around in my room. I had a ton of work to do but I couldn’t do it because I was so upset. I’d only known him for two or three weeks at this point, but we hung out almost every day. It was crazy to have the budding of a new, good friendship cut off so early.”

Anjali Dhar ’24 also shared her thoughts on the experiences of

students whose friends were sent home.

“I have friends whose whole floors have been essentially wiped out over a weekend. Any friend groups that they might have are torn apart by getting sent home, so [my friends] are kind of stranded in a way,” Dhar said. “It’s easier to make friends here, but when your whole floor goes home and you’re still here, you end up alone. It definitely puts a strain on people’s relationships.”

On the other end of the issue, Levi Port ’24 was one of the freshmen sent home for gathering in a group in another student’s dorm room.

“This is putting me behind a whole year socially,” Port said. “It’s not even a gap year where I’d be in a whole new grade that hasn’t experienced anything. [Other ’24s] are going to get a whole term and a half of experiences that I will not be privy to. It essentially gives me the feeling that I’ll be a transfer by the time I’d return to campus.”

Beyond the ways in which the pattern of students being forced to leave campus have

impacted individual friendships, on a broader level, the widespread “disappearances” have brought about a culture of fear and division on campus.

In normal times, college students everywhere view the weekend as a break following a stressful week. Dartmouth students now approach Friday and Saturday nights with uncertainty and unease. Dhar mentioned that her floor practically celebrates if they’ve all managed to still be on campus by the end of the weekend. While this accomplishment is “celebrated” in a joking manner, Dhar noted that it reflects how prevalent and real the fear of getting sent home has become.

“I always think about it. It’s always on our minds whenever we’re deciding what to do,” Dhar said.

Though simple rules related to

mask-wearing and social distancing are well-understood by the ’24s, the ambiguity surrounding the reasons why students are sent home is enough to create an atmosphere of extreme uncertainty. For some students, just the sight of a Safety and Security car slowly driving by at night, or the suspicion that a fellow student might anonymously report them sparks the fear that they may be the next to get sent home.

“The whole thing feels very cat-and-mouse-like. Everyone’s trying to do the right thing, but at the same time, the goals of the students versus the goals of the administration feel very disconnected,” Lachenauer said. “I’m hoping that somehow we can all become more on the same page. We all want the same thing, but I think that has to start with transparency.”

**“It’s easier to make friends here, but when your whole floor goes home and you’re still here, you end up alone. It definitely puts a strain on people’s relationships.”**

- ANJALI DHAR ’24



An unknown number of students have been asked to leave campus due to COVID-19 policy violations.

MADDIE DOERR/THE DARTMOUTH STAFF

## Novack: A Home for First-Generation, Low-Income Students

By DANIEL MODESTO  
The Dartmouth

*This article was originally published on Nov. 5, 2020.*

Tuesday morning, I wake up at nine, get dressed and walk three minutes to Novack. A blast of warm air greets my face as I enter the cafe, followed by the voices of students in Zoom classes or friends chatting while they wait for their orders. Throughout this term, the line to buy my venti Pink Drink and egg and cheese croissant has grown longer. What was once a three-minute trip now takes 15 minutes, and I almost arrived late for my Native American studies class last week.

Novack Cafe, a study area at the northern end of Baker-Berry Library, seems to be one of the few places on campus where students can enjoy college life this term. The socially distanced crowd of masked students, along with the plexiglass separating workers and customers, doesn’t deter from the relaxed environment and welcoming workspace that attracts students from all across campus.

Jacob Gomez ’24 said that Novack is a social space where he and his friends can hang out and get late night snacks.

**“I think one of the really cool things about Novack is that it’s no one’s space, while being everyone’s space.”**

- MELISSA BARALES-LOPEZ ’22

As a first-generation, low-income student and a Native American at Dartmouth, Gomez has noticed a lack of spaces that feel comfortable on campus. Although the library, Collis and other spaces are also currently open, Novack has felt the most welcoming because the cafe’s lively atmosphere reminds him of home. Novack is also where Gomez has built friendships with students of similar backgrounds, including other FGLI students.

According to Novack employee Melissa Barales-Lopez ’22, the cafe has traditionally been a place for FGLI students to gather.

“I think one of the really cool things about Novack is that it’s no one’s space,” Barales-Lopez said. “But in terms of the cafe itself, it’s important and holds a unique significance to FGLI students above everyone else.”

This relationship between FGLI students and Novack extends behind the counter. Barales-Lopez recounted that she chose to work at Novack her freshman winter to meet more students, especially after having a lackluster freshman fall. While working at Novack, she found a community with fellow FGLI students. She values this community so much that she decided to work

two shifts at the cafe this term.

“I think of all my coworkers as friends who I can connect to on more than a superficial level, that I can talk to about real things, like when I’m not having a particularly good day,” Barales-Lopez said.

For many FGLI students, Novack is not just a place to feel welcome. As a first-year FGLI student, I see Novack as the perfect study spot, one where I can gather with fellow students who come from backgrounds like mine. And of course, it’s also a convenient place to grab meals.

Novack supervisor Vincent Chang ’21 noted how drastically the cafe has changed since he started working there his freshman fall. While the cafe currently offers a wide variety of Starbucks products, Chang said “it just used to be a counter and a mini oven.”

In addition to offering an improved menu, Novack has been one of few indoor study spaces open on campus during the pandemic, which means the cafe is receiving more foot traffic than in past terms.

“Certain shifts, particularly closing shifts or night shifts this term, have been inundated with people — and that wasn’t the case before,” Barales-Lopez said.

Despite the increased traffic, Barales-Lopez noted that due to COVID-19 restrictions, the cafe feels quieter and less “vibrant” than usual. “It’s so hard to hear people through the plexiglass, and we also have to be mindful,” she said. “We have to ask people to repeat themselves, and we can’t be blasting music like we

used to.”

In past terms, Novack workers enjoyed creating a lively environment behind the counter. However, Barales-Lopez said that this sometimes prompted judgment from other students, as well as explicit conversations about Novack workers on Librex.

“I feel like there’s this reputation that Novack is not the most welcoming space to people. The perception is that Novack workers are rude, and I think that in and of itself is a display of racism or some sort of racial bias,” she said.

Barales-Lopez said that these perceptions likely stem from the demographics of the workers, many of whom are people of color.

“A good chunk of workers identify as Latinx ... There have been attacks against [our] music choices, and all of these have been thinly veiled expressions of discrimination and racism. It’s definitely discouraging to see that,” she said.

This term, Novack has become more subdued because of COVID-19 restrictions, while also becoming increasingly popular for all students. As a result, the cafe has become less of a community space for FGLI students, and some FGLI students feel like they have lost a valuable gathering place on campus.

**“I think the next step is creating safe spaces [for FGLI students] – we could use more of those on campus.”**

- MELISSA BARALES-LOPEZ ’22

These changes aren’t necessarily discouraging, but rather highlight the need for Dartmouth to create spaces for FGLI students. Barales-Lopez outlined a few changes that could help FGLI students feel more welcome at Dartmouth.

“[The First Year Student Enrichment Program] got a really large grant last year, which allowed them to elongate the pre-orientation program. But I think the next step is creating safe spaces — we could use more of those on campus,” Barales-Lopez said. “I think it’s something that Dartmouth is definitely lacking, and something that could enrich the experience of many FGLI students.”

As a FGLI freshman, I haven’t been able to experience the former energy of Novack. Like other FGLI students, I regret the lack of spaces at Dartmouth that feel safe and inclusive for my community. But I still enjoy spending entire days in Novack, grateful that one of the most welcoming spaces on campus is just a three-minute walk from my dorm.

As students, we all deserve spaces where we feel at home. Until we have more spaces on campus, I’ll still pack my laptop into my tote bag, and head — whether in rain or snow — to Novack Cafe.





# Dartmouth cuts five sports teams and closes Hanover Country Club

By THE DARTMOUTH SENIOR STAFF

*This article was originally published on July 9, 2020.*

Dartmouth announced this afternoon that it will eliminate the men’s and women’s golf, men’s lightweight rowing and men’s and women’s swimming and diving programs, effective immediately, in order to increase flexibility in admissions and ease its budget deficit. In addition, the Hanover Country Club will permanently close.

These changes, which come a day after the Ivy League announced the cancellation of all fall sports, were devised by athletics director Harry Sheehy in consultation with the Dartmouth Athletic Advisory Board after College President Phil Hanlon asked Sheehy to reduce the number of recruited athletes in each incoming class by 10 percent.

In his email to campus announcing the decision, Hanlon wrote that “athletic recruitment at Dartmouth has begun to impact [the College’s] ability to achieve the right balance between applicants who are accomplished in athletics and applicants who excel in other pursuits.”

After Sheehy developed a plan to accommodate the 10 percent decrease, the changes were affirmed by Hanlon and the Board of Trustees. Dartmouth has stated that it does not intend to further reduce the number of teams.

“I can assure you that these decisions were made with great care and with the long-term interests of the learning experience provided by Dartmouth Athletics front and center,” Hanlon wrote.

Athletes from impacted varsity programs were invited at 12:45 p.m. to a 1:30 p.m. Zoom webinar in an email with the subject line “Dartmouth Athletics Update.” They were informed of the decision during the webinar, and Hanlon sent an email to campus once the athletes had been notified.

“We were all pretty blindsided because we got a very ominous text and email about 40 minutes before the webinar saying ‘very important message for women’s golf at 1:30,’” women’s golfer Samantha Yao ’23 said. “We didn’t know anything; even our coach didn’t know anything.”

The announcement comes as the College faces a projected \$150 million institutional budget deficit caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The elimination of the five teams, the closure of the country club and other administrative restructuring will save the College more than an estimated \$2 million, according to Hanlon’s statement.

The Hanover Country Club,



MICHAEL LIN/THE DARTMOUTH SENIOR STAFF

The Hanover Country Club, originally built in 1899, was Dartmouth’s oldest existing recreational and athletic facility.

originally built in 1899, is Dartmouth’s oldest existing recreational and athletic facility. According to the statement, the College expected deficits from the country club to surpass \$1 million annually and noted the downward trend of the golf industry nationally. The College has no plans to sell the property and will explore how to keep it open for community recreational use.

Public policy professor Charlie Wheelan ’88, a former men’s golfer at Dartmouth who chaired the College’s Golf Course Advisory Committee in 2018, believes the closure of the country club is a large loss for the Hanover community.

“I am disappointed but not surprised,” Wheelan said. “I do think, in light of the circumstances, it is a defensible decision by the College.”

In deciding which sports teams to eliminate, the College considered “the ability to provide a high-quality student-athlete experience; power to build community; history and tradition of success; potential for future success; quality of facilities in relation to our peers; national participation at high

school and college levels; Dartmouth’s geography and climate; and the level of investment required to ensure future competitive success in sports in which we are not now experiencing success,” according to Hanlon’s email.

Yao called the College’s decision “devastating” for herself and her women’s golf teammates.

“To be told you’re no longer going to be recognized as a sport at Dartmouth is pretty devastating,” Yao said. “I guess we’re all just in the space of processing it right now and seeing what our future at Dartmouth is going to look like.”

The College has also ensured that the new composition of the athletics department will continue to follow Title IX regulations. The percentage of female varsity athletes will reflect the percentage of women in the student body.

For varsity athletes whose sports were eliminated Thursday, the next steps remain unclear. In his email, Hanlon wrote that he hopes that these students will remain at Dartmouth but will support them if they wish

to continue their collegiate athletic careers elsewhere. Student-athletes will be permitted to take the year off from Dartmouth to pursue transfer options without losing the ability to return to Dartmouth the following year. In addition, Class of 2024 recruits will be able to request gap years without committing to enroll the following year.

Hanlon’s email highlighted the possibility for members of the varsity golf and varsity swimming and diving teams to participate in their respective club sports. Though there is no club substitute for rowing, lightweight rowers will be permitted to try out for the heavyweight team, as some rowers have previously.

“I expect juniors and seniors to stay because it is too late for us to transfer,” men’s swimmer Ethan Moon ’22 said. “I think incoming freshmen — I can imagine them transferring out. [Club sports are] something that some people will do as an alternative to continue exercising, but it in no way replaces what we had.”

Dartmouth has committed to maintaining its Dartmouth Peak Performance offerings, such as academic and career counseling, for affected athletes. Nonetheless, Yao expressed concern as to whether she and her teammates would still receive DP2 resources and funding for transportation to other golf courses as club athletes. She was uncertain whether she would play club golf in

the future.

“It’s definitely an option; obviously it’s not the option we want to hear,” Yao said. “I just want to be a varsity sport and keep playing how I’ve been playing.”

Of the five teams cut, the men’s golf and lightweight rowing teams have seen the most success. Dartmouth has won three Ivy League men’s golf championships, most recently in 1983. The program has produced seven All-Americans and four Ivy League Players of the Year. The lightweight rowing program has produced three championships for the Big Green in its history, the most recent of which came in 2007.

While at the individual level, Dartmouth has produced several top performers and championship winners in swimming and diving over the years, neither the men’s nor the women’s team have ever won an Ivy League championship. Similarly, the women’s golf team has never brought home a crown but has produced one All-American.

The five teams that will be eliminated comprise about 110 students. Additionally, a total of 15 positions will be cut in the athletics department, including eight coaching positions.

“I don’t really know what just being a student at Dartmouth will be like,” Yao said. “Being a student-athlete was a big part of my identity, as well as the team’s identity.”

# Seven former women’s swimmers join rowing team

By EMILY LU & HALLE TROADEC  
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Seven former members of the women’s swimming and diving team have walked on to the women’s rowing team, citing a desire to compete and remain members of a varsity program. The women’s swimming and diving team was among five varsity sports programs that the College eliminated in July.

Women’s rowing head coach Nancy LaRocque said that she was “heartbroken” about the decision to cut the programs and knew right away that she wanted to extend the opportunity to swimmers and divers to learn to row.

“I can’t imagine what it would be like losing my sport in college,” LaRocque said. “This I feel like just opened up an avenue for these women to keep training as varsity athletes. ... We wanted to make sure that they knew they were welcome.”

This term, five former swimmers from the Class of 2024 and two from the Class of 2022 have joined the rowing team. According to one of them, Sarah Minnigh ’22, there are more swimmers and divers not enrolled on campus this fall who are hoping to join the rowing team in later terms.

Minnigh said that the swimming

and rowing teams are close, so word spread quickly that the rowing team was open to walk-ons. She said that she was drawn to joining the rowing team because she wanted to experience the character development and teammate bonds that she said are largely unique to varsity athletic programs.

“You don’t really get that [bond] in other walks of life,” Minnigh said. “You’re doing this really difficult thing together all the time, and you’re thrown into it with a bunch of people ... and end up really close.”

In his announcement of the cuts, College President Phil Hanlon stated that one option for athletes on eliminated teams was to join club sports, while the linked FAQ offered to support students who wished to transfer. Minnigh, who has already spent two years at Dartmouth, said that she was not

considering transferring but wanted to participate in a program akin to the “level of intensity” of being a varsity swimmer.

Despite having four years of eligibility elsewhere, Diana Bates ’24 also decided against transferring and walked onto the rowing team, noting her commitment to Dartmouth

beyond the swimming and diving team.

“When you commit to a sport at a certain school, you don’t just do it for the sport,” Bates said. “I knew coming to Dartmouth — say I possibly got injured — I’d still love the school for the school.”

Bates added that while the campaign to save the swimming and diving teams is still ongoing, she feels fortunate that she has the opportunity to become a member of the rowing team.

Recruited rower Audrey Craighead ’24 noted the significance of extending a chance to compete at

a high level to the varsity swimmers, particularly after the rowing program had been impacted by team cuts as well. According to Craighead, having lost the men’s lightweight rowing team this summer, it was nice to know that women’s rowing could help out another team impacted by the cuts.

LaRocque said that in a typical year, tryouts for the women’s rowing team would be open to all of campus. Due to capacity constraints due to COVID-19, LaRocque said the athletics administration asked her not to have open tryouts this year. Swimmers who were approved to be on campus for the fall term, however, did not pose additional strain on athletic resources and therefore had the opportunity to walk on.

According to LaRocque, students with athletic backgrounds transition well to rowing. In particular, LaRocque said that collegiate swimmers have “a good engine” from training for years, as well as a “good feel for the water.”

“When your blade goes in the water and it comes out of the water ... it’s similar to freestyle or your hand going in the water and then coming out of the water,” LaRocque said.

Craighead said that the “time-based” nature of both sports also makes for an easier transition.

“It’s not the same as going from

a time-based sport to ... something like lacrosse,” she said. “It’s going from swimming to rowing, so it’s all based on similar math.”

Even with similarities across the sports of swimming and rowing, Minnigh said learning an entirely new sport has been a “rediscovery” of the memory of first learning how to swim.

“It’s kind of like when I was eight years old when I was learning to swim competitively,” Minnigh said. “You’re just constantly trying to figure out how to move and not feel clumsy in the water.”

Craighead also noted the competitive edge the former varsity swimmers have brought to the rowing team.

“There are these people who have been rowing for two weeks, who are in incredible shape and they’re getting similar scores,” Craighead said. “It’s definitely a wake up call.”

That said, Craighead believes the former swimmers add a fun, positive dynamic to the team, as they are eager and excited to learn and improve. According to Craighead, a seasoned rower knows what times she should aim to get and perhaps has some anxiety behind meeting those standards, but the new rowers are free from those potential constraints.

“They have no clue what to really aim for, so they just give it their all,” Craighead said. “It’s inspiring.”