

December 10, 2024

TO: The Faculty of Dartmouth College
FROM: David Kotz, Provost
RE: Report from the Committee on Institutional Statements

As a result of discussion in the Steering Committee of the General Faculty during its meeting on May 10, 2024, I created an ad hoc Committee on Institutional Statements. Its task was to consider how and when Dartmouth (or its component schools, centers, and departments) should speak. I attach the [charge and membership](#) of that committee here. The committee met throughout summer and early fall of 2024, and its chair presented an overview of the committee's recommendations at the October 11, 2024, meeting of the General Faculty.

With this memo, I enclose the October 31, 2024 [final report of the Committee on Institutional Statements](#). The report notes that, on October 25, 2024, the committee voted to approve the report, 6 in favor and 1 opposed (the committee chair did not vote). The dissenting member submitted a statement outlining their concerns. I also enclose the dissenting member's statement.

The Steering Committee of the General Faculty met on November 7, 2024; they reviewed and discussed the final report of the Committee on Institutional Statements and the dissenting statement. They formally accepted the final report on behalf of the General Faculty, and expressed to me their desire to see both the report and the dissenting statement shared with the faculty.

Several members of the committee, as well as the Steering Committee of the General Faculty, expressed concern that the dissent did not accurately reflect the report recommendations. Nonetheless, we include it here for maximal transparency.

The Board of Trustees met on November 8, 2024, after receiving a copy of the final report of the Committee on Institutional Statements and the dissenting statement. The board voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation of general restraint in issuing institutional statements articulated in the October 31, 2024 report.

After consulting with senior leadership, I created a new [policy on Institutional Restraint: Statements from Dartmouth and its academic units](#) from the committee's recommendations that replaces the prior [policy on Institutional statements vs Individual statements](#). In winter 2025, Professor Carey and I will meet with the deans and chairs of departments, programs, centers, and institutes, to discuss how this policy applies to their academic units.

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