

**VCU Library Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, September 16, 2005**  
**Tompkins-McCaw Library 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**ATTENDANCE**

Sadeeka Al-Majid, Diane Biskobing, Kimberly Hall, Sharon Lanning, Judy Lewis, Roy McKelvey, Jean Shipman, John Speich, Jodi Teitelman, John Ulmschneider, Pam Fraga (recording secretary).

Guest speaker: Marilyn Scott

Acting chair Sadeeka Al-Majid called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and asked members to introduce themselves.

**BUSINESS**

Minutes from the April 15, 2005, meeting were reviewed and approved.

- **Election of chair**

Sadeeka Al-Majid was elected to chair the committee for the 2005-2006 academic year.

- **Fall schedule of meetings:**

The Committee tried to identify meeting days convenient for most if not all the members. Several have classes or other commitments that make the current date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday difficult. It was decided that the recording secretary would poll the committee members by email and work with Mr. Ulmschneider to arrive at the most convenient time for the most members.

- **Library facilities and service hours**

Copies of the current hours for both libraries are attached and were discussed. Hours have been extended, and the VCU Libraries now offers the most open hours of any state university except UVA, which has a 24 hour library. Some members expressed concerns that closings around the holidays and inclement weather were inconvenient for faculty and students. There also was discussion about the various services now being offered to students to help students feel more involved with the campus in general. These activities include evening informational classes, librarian outreach through services and organizational visitations, and an outreach program entitled "Commuter Brakes" which focuses largely on the commuter student population.

Mr. Ulmschneider asked the committee to endorse the current schedule as offered with the caveat that the matter of holidays and unplanned closings will be revisited. A motion to accept the schedule as offered was made and seconded and the motion was passed.

- **Compact shelving storage guidelines**

Mr. Ulmschneider reviewed issues arising from the demand on library spaces on both campuses. He noted that VCU has not added library space in 30 years, and in fact has 25% less library space available to the student body now than in 1975, even though enrollment has grown 80%. One response to the challenge is to relocate selected titles into compact storage in existing library facilities, from which the volumes can be retrieved in about 4 hours. Mr. Ulmschneider presented guidelines for identifying such titles in the general collections. The guidelines incorporate several factors, including the age of the material, frequency of use, and relevancy of the material to current research and curriculum needs. -Mr. Ulmschneider explained that endorsing the guidelines draft will signify the Committee's approval of the guidelines. After discussion, a motion to endorse the draft guidelines for the compact shelving storage selection was made, seconded, and passed.

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

- **New services and physical changes during summer 2005**

A list of new services and physical changes at the James Branch Cabell Library were distributed and discussed. These include new carpeting, new sidewalks, a new ramp (ADA access is now available on both sides of the Cabell entrance,) and some refurbishing of offices, although much more is needed. A book swap program has been instituted on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The book swap allows students to take a book and leave one in its place, which strengthens a sense of community and belonging. There is a newly upgraded online catalog system and search tool which can simultaneously search more than one library when volumes are requested. Use of Blackboard has been encouraged and increased, assisting with course presentation and communication between faculty and students.

- **Lecture programs through October 2006**

Several reading and lecture programs are being developed for the coming year, but one of the most exciting is a lecture by author Neil Gaiman, scheduled for October 6, 2006. Gaiman is an award winning and very popular author and screen writer. The VCU Libraries will promote the event broadly and a very large turnout is expected. Gaiman was moved to accept an invitation to speak at VCU because his favorite author is James Branch Cabell. Judy Lewis suggested that Mr. Ulmschneider nominate Mr. Gaiman for consideration by the VCU Honorary Degree Committee. The lecture will be free to the public.

- **Black History Month**

Mr. Ulmschneider announced that the speaker for Black History Month this year will be entertainment personality Tony Brown. The VCU Libraries is partnering with the School of Mass Communication to sponsor Mr. Brown. This will be a high-profile event and turnout is expected to be strong.

- **VCU Libraries Annual Report 2004-2005**

An abbreviated version of the Annual Report was attached and discussed.

Highlights included:

- The number of visits to library facilities continues to increase by 14% higher compared to last year and is continuing a trend of 12-14% each year. The number of individual visitors exceeded 1.5 million in FY04-05.
- The VCU Libraries had the largest budget and largest expenditures in its history in FY04-05. Collections expanded, and no journal cuts were made.
- Significant challenges remain in both budget and space that must be addressed in coming years. Despite the strong budget, the VCU Libraries still ranks last among research libraries, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the State of Virginia, in total expenditures.

- **VCU Libraries 6-year budget proposal**

Mr. Ulmschneider reported that in response to the University's request, the VCU Libraries had submitted an aggressive 6-year budget proposal proposal. The proposal requests a significant increase for library collections, mostly for journal subscriptions. Mr. Ulmschneider reported that the Provost is supportive of the proposal and has forwarded it intact for consideration by the University leadership.

- **Demonstration of Get It @VCU**

Guest speaker Marilyn Scott gave a presentation of this new technology for journal article retrieval that has been implemented by the VCU Libraries. The system uses a technology called "OpenURL" that recognizes the citation, surveys multiple databases and then identifies the location of the citation. It retrieves location data from both the VCU libraries and the Virginia Community College system. The level of access to a given piece of information is relative to the permissions given by either the author and/or the publisher.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.