

VCU Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, November 11, 2005
Tompkins-McCaw Library, 1st Floor Conference Room

Attendance

Sadeeka Al-Majid, Chair (left early), Diane Biskobing, Jan Chlebowski, John Duke, Rosemary Farmer, Kimberly Hall, Judy Lewis, Curtis Lyons, Krissy Mamangun, Roy McKelvey, Wes Poynor, Jeanese Reiss, Sumana Sharma, Jean Shipman, Jodi Teitelman, John Ulmschneider, Teresa Doherty, recording secretary

Lynne Turman, guest speaker

Mr. Ulmschneider noted that chair Dr. Sadeeka Al-Majid could not attend for personal reasons. Rosemary Farmer agreed to act as Chair for the day's meeting.

Mr. Ulmschneider shared photos from the director of libraries at Tulane University of library damage at Tulane following the Katrina floods. Many of the titles are totally lost and irreplaceable. Mr. Ulmschneider noted that the LSU med school will not reopen, and that LSU's teaching hospital will close, as will Charity Hospital.

Business

Approval of agenda: move to approve, seconded, approved unanimously.

Approval of minutes: move to approve, seconded, approved unanimously.

Research overhead use survey

Mr. Ulmschneider described a user survey that will be conducted over the next year that will determine the VCU Libraries' contribution to the University's negotiated Federal overhead rate for grants. The overhead rate has many components, each of which contribute a certain percentage towards to overall overhead rate on grants, which is generally between 47% and 52%. Mr. Ulmschneider noted that it is in the best interest of VCU to have the highest possible rate, while it is in the best interest of the Federal government to have the lowest overhead rate. Consequently, every contributing element to the rate is important and must be well justified. The overhead rate is negotiated every 6 years, but this is the first time that a library survey has been conducted.

The user survey will be managed by a consulting team retained by VCU to help with the overhead rate negotiation. The University of Virginia retained the same consulting group, and they will complete the same kind of year-long library user survey in December. The team is responsible for helping VCU put together a strongly supported proposal for the new overhead rate.

The user survey will last a full year. Once a month, the VCU Libraries conduct the survey at a randomly selected 2-hour period during the month. Anyone accessing digital resources provided by the VCU Libraries will be required to answer a pop-up onscreen survey before they can use the digital resource. Anyone walking into library facilities at VCU will be given a printed survey form. It is expected that the first survey will be carried out in December.

Question: why hire a consultant to negotiate overhead? Mr. Ulmschneider responded that a consulting team is necessary to help VCU develop and conduct a valid, defensible process to create a strong proposal for its overhead rate request.

What will the survey cover? Will it try to ascertain user satisfaction? Mr. Ulmschneider responded that the survey seeks to determine only the user's affiliation, and whether that user is using library resources for grant-supported research.

Suggestion: talk to faculty in each VLAC member's area, explaining the importance of taking the survey and asking them to participate instead of walking away. Mr. Ulmschneider was not certain that this would be appropriate. The University can alert and educate about the survey, but not encourage completion or take other actions that might bias the results. Data from this survey will be combined with budget data, and space utilization data as well.

Hunton Hall operations proposal

Ms. Shipman explained that Hunton Hall renovations are moving into next phase and the renovations team is now considering how to handle operations for the newly renovated building. The VCU Libraries has met with students and Dr. Jeffrey Young to discuss the new Learning Center in Hunton Hall – 12 computers, librarian station and office. Staffing options are under discussion and will address 24 hour access to the Learning Center. Hunton Hall is expected to open in August, 2006. A proposal for staffing and operations of the Learning Center will be submitted to Provost Gottfredson and Vice-President Retchin. Since Hunton Hall is constructed with non-E&G student funds, but operations will require regular E&G funds, the proposal will be somewhat new ground for the University.

Update on winter closing hours for library facilities (attachment)

While concerns were shared about the number of days the libraries are closed during the winter break, Mr. Ulmschneider some research which showed a comparison of other colleges and universities in Virginia and demonstrated that VCU is actually open more than most other schools, with the exception of UVA, which has a 24-hour open library. It was also explained that TML is always available via a beeper system connection to a reference librarian. The libraries have to comply with VCU's overall policy regarding closure while striving to meet the needs of students and faculty.

Resolution on six-year budget plan

Mr. Ulmschneider has worked with the chair on the resolution. The sense of the room was overall approval, with two edits: 2nd to last paragraph to read “committing to” creating a library system... and revise last line to read VCU 2020, not 202.

It was decided that a delegation from VLAC should deliver the resolution to Provost Gottfredson and Vice President Retchin. The delegation will be Chair Sadeeka Al-Majid, Wes Poynor, Judy Lewis and Roy Mckelvey. All the names of the committee members will be listed on the bottom of the resolution.

There was further discussion regarding the percentage of state supported funding; Mr. Ulmschneider explained that we get 3.1% of E&G budget for VCUL, making VCU the 2nd lowest in state ahead of Norfolk State.

Moved and seconded: resolution adopted. Mr. Ulmschneider expressed his appreciation of the Committee’s endorsement.

Instructional Media Workshop pricing

The libraries now have a poster printer (which can also print GIS printouts) which can be made available to faculty. Price will be \$10 per foot with unlimited length (instead of \$200 - \$300 per poster). Specs will be put on website so that faculty and staff can add “plotter” to printer options at home pc.

DVDs and CDs: CD new price \$1 (down from \$2), DVD’s old price \$10, new price \$3. Cash and budget codes are accepted. There is a computer attached, so there are the options of removable media, VCU files or Blackboard to upload.

Reports and Discussion

24 x 5 exam periods operations for Cabell Library

The 24 hour open time begins December 4 and runs for 2.5 weeks, through last day of finals, Dec 20. The libraries will be open Sunday and will stay open through close Friday night and open Saturday regular hours. Coffee and brownies for patrons will be provided; ID will be required after 10pm. Security. There will be 2 guards during overnight, one at entrance and one walking through building.

Mr. Ulmschneider wants to thank library staff for working so hard and being creative in getting this project up and running. Commonwealth Times this week mentioned student question about 24 hour library full time.

National survey findings on library use

Mr. Ulmschneider reported that OCLC conducted a large-scale, scientific survey re perceptions regarding libraries, on a global basis and including all ages and demographics. This survey was intended to inform librarians specifically about the relationship between digital resources (via the web) and brick and mortar library. Some of the interesting findings (US market):

When asked, what information resources they consider first, 80% said they used Google (search engines), 11% libraries. Librarians are responding in part by getting library catalog into Google.

When asked regarding trustworthiness of library, more or less than search engines, 70% of US respondents believe trustworthiness is about the same (ages 14-17) 25% believe that libraries are more trustworthy; over 62, only 22%

Would you trust more if you have to pay? 93% no

One problem the study uncovered was that most people do not think of libraries when asked, but when reminded, the numbers come way up.

Presentation on Open Access

PowerPoint not working, but we will add to VLAC site.

Open Access is a movement due to changes in scholarly communities and the publishing world in reaction to the high cost of journals. Library journal price survey showed that the average price in 2005 in scientific discipline agriculture \$799, to chem. \$2877. Health sciences (med, nursing, etc) are \$1,081 per journal subscription annual cost. This reflects a percent of change over past 4 years in health science alone as being up 38%. The projection for next year is at least 9%. Because journal subs are skewed to basic science and research, actual impact to VCU is much higher. Commercial price is so much higher than individual price.

Lynne Turman explained that Open Access is defined as availability of information (scholarly inf) without cost to the user (reader), over the Internet, with authors retaining copyright. Budapest Open Access, one of the first groups, has good definition as do Bethesda Principles and DC Principles (group of scientific societies). VCU is a member of BioMedCentral, and supports the idea of open access publishing. We have had some authors (4 or 5) publish in BMC (over 100 titles/journals). The PLoS (Public Library of Science) has just 6 titles. The cost of author fees in BioMedCentral range between \$500 to \$1600 (similar to med journals), and some titles do have strict peer review. It

was suggested that the library pay for author fees for publishing to open access journals. Concerns were expressed about faculty not getting tenure record of publication by choosing Open Access instead of traditional journals. Concerns about P&T committees (promotion and tenure) and impact factors were discussed. It was suggested that we ask the office of Vice President for research involved in this discussion re open access, impact factors, tenure, etc.

Mr. Ulmschneider explained that the libraries have committed to this type of alternative to expensive journals. Libraries will push more in the coming years for open access options, due to the amount of money we spend on serials fees. Dr. Gottfredson has published in the area of impact factors, suggested meeting with P&T, Research; it is good to know that he knows our concerns.

Handouts were available from Lynne Turman re Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) and how to get faculty involved in OA process.

It was noted that Patricia Selinger did presentation to faculty senate regarding faculty publishing to open access journals.

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.
The next meeting is December 9 at JBC.