

**Virginia Commonwealth University  
VCU Libraries Advisory Committee**

**Main Conference Room, Tompkins-McCaw Library  
March 27, 2015**

**Minutes**

**Attending**

Meredith Baines, Corey Davis (chair), Jose Dula, Les Harrison, Susan Johnson, Peter Nguyen, Mike Ryan, Neha Sakhawalkar, Jeremy Stultz, Hu Yang

**Absent with notice**

David Burton, Whitney Newcomb, AJ Shriar, Carolyn White

**Absent**

Faye Prichard, Kenneth Warren

Substituting for Robert Tombes for the College of Humanities: Cheng Ly

Guest: Fang-shen Wu

Staff: Dennis Clark, John Duke, John Ulmschneider, Pam Fraga (recording secretary)

**Business**

**Review and approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Review and approval of minutes from January 2015**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**HEETF and STF proposals – handouts**

Mr. Ulmschneider reminded the Committee that the Student Technologies Fees (STF) are expended only toward purchases that directly support the student use of library resources. Both CLUAC and VLAC are given the opportunity to review and comment on this proposal before it is submitted to the University. He then referred to the handout and noted that there are specific items to be purchased to support distance education initiatives, as well as provide new furnishings and update the computers available for student use. There are many more items than the expected approval amount of approximately \$200,000 so it is unlikely that everything on the list will be purchased. The discussion which followed was favorable to both the proposal and the University's new emphasis on distance education as an option.

A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously that this proposal be accepted as presented.

**Meeting schedule 2015-16**

Dr. Davis said that this item was on the agenda primarily to highlight to the membership that it had been decided by the full Committee in December that going forward there would be two (2) meetings per semester. Unless there are concerns to the contrary, the date will continue to be the third Friday at 2:00 pm with specific dates in September, November, January and March to be determined by the chair and

Mr. Ulmschneider. Dr. Davis also asked the members to let their respective Deans know if they wanted to continue to serve on VLAC as Mr. Ulmschneider will be contacting those parties shortly requesting the names of the representatives for next academic year.

### **Election of chair 2015-17**

Dr. Davis told the Committee that this will be his last meeting as chair as his term of office expires with the close of this meeting. The new chair will be elected in September at the first meeting. He asked the members to give serious consideration to volunteering to chair this committee and to let either Mr. Ulmschneider or himself know if anyone wanted to volunteer. Mr. Ulmschneider thanked Dr. Davis for his two years of service and said what a pleasure it had been to work with him.

### **Reports and Discussion**

#### **Staffing changes within the VCU Libraries: update - handouts**

#### **Shaping collections and services for the 21<sup>st</sup> century at VCU: the Strategic Framework for the VCU Libraries, 2014-2017 – handouts**

Mr. Ulmschneider asked to combine these two items on the agenda since they are closely related. In referring to the handout regarding the staffing changes, he noted that new positions align with the strategic framework which has been developed to support the VCU Libraries going forward, particularly as the framework relates to the University and the *Quest for Distinction*. He expressed appreciation to the staff at VCU Libraries for their efforts in recruiting the faculty positions. He then referred to the handouts for the strategic framework, noting that these are printouts of what's on the public website and that this includes the new mission statement developed by the staff of VCU Libraries.

Mr. Ulmschneider said that while strategic planning often aims to cover a five or even ten year span, reality is such that it's best to focus on the next two years; this allows for the flexibility needed to map out a plan that can meet changing needs and learning environments. He then discussed the five major areas of focus in the strategic framework:

- Learning and Teaching – this is aimed at both faculty and students. The value of distance education is seen as critical and while not desirable as a way to increase registration, it is seen as very valuable as a teaching option. In discussion, there was concern raised that not all disciplines are appropriate for distance education i.e. Dentistry and that distance education not be seen as a solution to teaching large numbers of students. However, the obvious advantage for students who are physically not able to be on campus was appreciated by all members of the Committee.
- Research Enterprise – in the broadest sense, this is seen as advancing all levels of research, increasing and improving the relationships between faculty and the Libraries and handling research data management.
- Fostering Scholarly Expression – this is focused primarily on development and management of a scholarly repository at VCU, as well as helping faculty understand their rights with regards to materials they publish, the use of open access, and data management and curation.
- Community for Intellectual Pursuit – this focuses on supplying safe, effective study space as well as seeking opportunities for community engagement and events.
- Outstanding Stewardship of Assets – this is basically making the best use of the resources and assets for the use and benefit of VCU students and faculty.

In the general discussion which followed, these are some of the highlights:

- Framework seems to be thorough and robust
- Encouraged to find ways for the community to have access to the research done at VCU; this is addressed in the 4<sup>th</sup> point.
- Community are not our “lab subjects”, they are our partners and are to be treated and included as such.
- The new Oral History Librarian position will help underscore the above point, making the history and traditions of Central Virginia a living part of the collections.
- It can be difficult to discern how to fit in with the community
- Much appreciation was expressed for the Libraries’ efforts to guardian the ethics of research and the rights of researchers. It seems to those present that the Libraries sees the over-riding picture, not just the focus on a given subject or field of study.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.