

**Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Libraries Advisory Committee**

**Main Conference Room, Tompkins-McCaw Library
October 24, 2014**

Minutes

Attending

David Burton, Corey Davis (chair), Susan Johnson, Mike Ryan, Vincent Ryan, Neha Sakhawalkar, Jeremy Stultz, Kenneth Warren

Absent with notice

Meredith Baines, Jose Dula, Les Harrison, Whitney Newcomb, Peter Nguyen, Faye Prichard, Carolyn White, Hu Yang

Absent

AJ Shriar

Staff: Teresa Knott, John Ulmschneider

Guest: Margaret Henderson, VCU Libraries

Business

Review and approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Review and approval of minutes from September 2014

The minutes were approved as presented.

Continued discussion: re-orienting committee focus

Dr. Davis reminded the Committee that at the previous meeting this topic had been raised and that it was hoped that the Committee begin to focus on broader topics related to new requirements for library services and collections emerging from contemporary scholarly practice. The Committee would still address operational and policy issues as required, but may be able to accomplish its work with fewer meetings.

Mr. Ulmschneider reviewed some topics that he thought the Committee might be interested in undertaking, including but not limited to:

- Embargo period for dissertations and thesis, currently under review by the Graduate School
- Metrics for evaluating the impact and value of articles in journals. Mr. Ulmschneider remains concerned that there is very little dialogue on this issue at VCU, but emerging measures of publication impact hold great potential for more complete evaluation of faculty contributions to scholarly discourse.

Mr. Ulmschneider asked the Committee to consider ideas that they would like addressed. Several topics were suggested. The most vigorous discussion arose from the topic of how open access publishing might be assessed in the promotion and tenure process. It seems that it would be beneficial to grow awareness among faculty about open access options and to educate the VCU community on ways to assess contributions to open access journals. At VCU, a publication in an open access journal is not necessarily valued as highly as it should be. A faculty member's candidacy for promotion and tenure might be negatively affected if that faculty member has used open access journals for their work. The group also discussed some of the emerging challenges for university presses, how their decline might affect promotion and tenure in book-dependent disciplines, and what might be done to address the challenge.

Dr. Davis led a brief discussion about agenda items for the spring meetings of VLAC and said he hoped that the representatives, under the proposed plan, would have time to both take ideas to their departments and schools, as well as time to gather input from their colleagues to bring back to the meetings.

Reports and Discussion

AAU-ARL prospectus for institutionally funded first monographs – handout

At Mr. Ulmschneider's request, Dr. Davis introduced this agenda item early, since it was directly relevant to the previous discussion. Mr. Ulmschneider referred the Committee to a handout which described a proposal from the AAU and ARL for a process by which new faculty hires in certain disciplines would have the costs of publishing their first monograph covered by their institution.

This led to a discussion about reducing the ever-increasing costs of journals. Most journals increase their prices annually, often at rates far above the consumer price index or other measures of inflation. One way to reduce the rate of growth in these prices is to demonstrate the value of journals published by non-profit and open-access publishers, which may lead more faculty to publish in them and erode the foundation for cost increases in for-profit journals. In the long run, the current pricing model for journals is simply unsustainable, and VCU must join with other research institutions to fundamentally change the publishing model through efforts to strengthen alternative publishing mechanisms.

Dr. Davis noted that is exactly the kind of topic that VLAC representatives can tackle in depth in the future, report back on their deliberations to their schools, and gather input from their colleagues to bring to VLAC.

Investment plan for VCU Libraries: recent decisions – handout

Mr. Ulmschneider briefly referred the Committee to a handout that outlined the strategic framework for budget expenditures by the VCU Libraries in the current year and next year. The document focuses expenditures in ways that align with university priorities and the Quest plan.

Demo: Research data management – PowerPoint

Ms. Henderson reported on the ongoing work of her department since its inception last year. She explained how she had been gathering data from across the University on how researchers are both creating and storing their research. She described the use of the Data Management Planning Tool (DMPTool) for created data management plans. She noted that a data management plan is only effective to the extent that it ensures both the storage of data and the ability to find the data when needed. The

DMPTool and other resources are available on the VCU Libraries website as this is a service for the whole University, not just VCU Libraries.

Ms. Henderson told the Committee about the Research Data Management Boot Camp which will be held 1/7/15 – 1/9/15. The Boot Camp is a collaboration of 7 Virginia universities, originally started by Virginia Tech and UVa, to help faculty with data management and long-term data curation. She also stressed that the Boot Camp targets all types of research, not just research in the sciences. There will be a registration form available in early November for the Boot Camp.

Mr. Ulmschneider reminded the Committee of the upcoming VCU Cabell First Novelist Award on November 4, 2014, at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.