

**Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Libraries Advisory Committee**

**Main Conference Room, Tompkins-McCaw Library
January 17, 2014**

Minutes

Attending

Lisa Brown, Matt Browning, David Burton, Corey Davis (chair), Kathy Kreutzer, Gerald Miller, Whitney Newcomb, Lisa Phipps, Jeanne Schlesinger, AJ Shriar, Carolyn Song

Absent with notice

Meredith Baines, Faye Prichard, Carolyn White

Absent

Jose Dula, Les Harrison, Peter Nguyen

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

Guests: Mike Rawls (VCU Libraries), John Cyrus (VCU Libraries)

Review and approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Review and approval of minutes from November 2013

The minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Ulmschneider opened the meeting with a demonstration of the new VCU Libraries website. It includes a section on the new library building which features a short video clip of students streaming through the doors of Cabell Library. He also distributed a new print booklet on the VCU Libraries, “Momentum”, which provides an overview of VCU’s library system.

Creating a Scholarly Communications Advisory Council

Mr. Ulmschneider reminded the Committee that last year’s search for Director, Scholarly Communications had been unsuccessful. After the search, the VCU Libraries administration revisited its entire concept of a scholarly communications program, and created a white paper outlining a new approach for taking immediate action in the absence of a leadership position dedicated to the initiative. The white paper proposed three key actions:

- Build and complete the technology foundation for a VCU press and institutional repository.
- Establish a Scholarly Communications task force for internal planning.
- Create a Scholarly Communications Advisory Council that includes members of the VCU faculty and others.

In discussion, these points were highlighted:

- The Advisory Council would provide guidance on how to reach out to the faculty community and identify problems and challenges. Issues identified by the Council would be addressed by the VCU Libraries and not by the Advisory Council
- The proposed press and institutional repository will be entirely digital. It may include the capability for print-on-demand, but the VCU Libraries will not provide the equipment necessary to support a print-on-demand service.
- While the technology will support the work of editorial boards, including the peer review process, the VCU Libraries will not perform or contribute editorial functions.
- The press will publish both e-books and e-journals. It could provide a platform for existing publications on both VCU campuses.
- The technology will provide an institutional repository that will hold documents and scholarly materials generated by the VCU community in a variety of mediums, including video and audio.
- The chosen software platform is Digital Commons from BePress, a company established by faculty at the University of California-Berkeley to support open-access publishing.
- Several VLAC members indicated a willingness to serve on the proposed council.

Reports and Discussion

Budget and investment priorities for 2014-2015

Mr. Ulmschneider gave a brief overview of the current year's budget before explaining that he was concerned about the timeline for the 2014-15 budget. It's important that VCU address the need for strengthened staffing for the new library building in 2014-15, well in advance of the new building's anticipated opening in fall 2015. The VCU Libraries needs lead time to recruit and train staff, and also to equip the new building, before the building comes online. In the budget request for 2014-15, the VCU Libraries has proposed an alternative to the university for funding the needs of the new building: a student library fee of \$22/semester, about half the Student Technology Fee. The new fee will help ensure a smooth transition to the new building by keeping the adjacent Academic Learning Commons open until 2am during construction, and will address staffing needs for around-the-clock operations in the expanded facility. In meetings with students, the response to the proposed fee has been positive. Although no student wishes to increase her or his financial burden, the fee is perceived as relatively low, and the library is a popular and well-regarded destination for students who need to do academic work.

The university is currently putting together its budget for 2014-15, and no decision has been made regarding a student library fee. Mr. Ulmschneider said he might wish to ask the VLAC members to speak to this issue if necessary.

University Archives policy – handout

Mr. Ulmschneider referred the Committee to the proposed policy, distributed as part of their meeting packets. He noted that VCU has never had a formal policy on archives. The proposed policy will go through the formal administrative policy process, including an open comment period and approval by University Council, before it is finalized. The policy describes which records should be kept as university archives and how university archives are managed. Once the policy is adopted, there will be a large PR campaign to let the university community know about the policy and how to comply with it.

Great Place Initiative survey results: VCU Libraries institutional culture

Mr. Rawls reviewed the recent surveys done by both VCU Libraries (ClimateQUAL) and the university (Great Place Initiative), comparing the two results. He noted that in general, the survey results indicated a high level of satisfaction with job and environment, but in both surveys the effect of no increases in salaries can be seen.

In discussion about this, it was noted that none of the VLAC members present had been informed of the results of the Great Place Initiative survey by their departments.

Mr. Ulmschneider told the Committee that the SACS accreditation team would be on campus from 2/11 thru 2/14/14 as part of the university re-affirmation of accreditation process. The VCU Quality Enhancement Plan, a key component of the SACS reaffirmation process, is entitled “Learning that Matters: Building a culture of generalizable education”.

Demo: VisualDX – online demo

Mr. Cyrus gave a demonstration of VisualDX, a new diagnostic tool for use in medicine. He showed how to find the tool on the VCU Libraries website and how to use the tool with a variety of search criteria, refining as needed and leading to potential diagnosis. VisualDX links to PubMed and cites sources for additional information. It also can link to UpToDate.

Mr. Ulmschneider briefly referred the Committee to the promotion pieces included in their packets and encouraged the members to attend the lecture series.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.