

**VCU Libraries Advisory Committee, January 26, 2018**  
**Main Conference Room**  
**Tompkins-McCaw Library**  
**2:00–3:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Attending**

Lorraine Anderson, Lelia Brinegar, Corey Davis, Nicole Ekanem, Hassen Hafiz, Cheng Ly, Valerie Robnolt, Nancy Stutts, Kenneth Warren

**Absent with notice**

Meredith Baines (chair), Matt Bogenschutz, Sarah Mizer, Tom Nelson, Amy Pakyz

**Absent**

Frank Gulla, Les Harrison, Faye Prichard, Jayaraman Vijayakumar

Staff: Karen Cary, Jimmy Ghaphery, Teresa Knott, John Ulmschneider, Pam Fraga (recording secretary)

Corey Davis agreed to act as chair in the absence of Meredith Baines.

**Business**

**Review and approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Review and approval of minutes from November 2017**

Committee members noted that the submitted minutes should be corrected to reflect the right date, and to show that Dr. Davis was present. With these two revisions, the minutes were approved.

**Reports and Discussion**

**Senior leadership changes**

Mr. Ulmschneider summarized for the Committee on recent changes in the senior leadership of VCU Libraries. Most of the changes have come about from retirement of senior leaders.

- Jeanne Hammer, associate university librarian for administration and policy, retired December 31, 2016
- Patricia Selinger, head of Preservation, retired in the December 2016
- Sarah Williams, head of Academic Outreach, retired in December 2016
- Lynne Turman, head of Collections at TML, retired in March 2017
- Barbara Anderson, head of Collections and Metadata at JBC, retired in July 2017
- John Duke, senior associate university librarian, will retire in March 2018
- Dennis Clark, associate university librarian for Research and Learning, will join the faculty of the University of Virginia Libraries in February 2018

In response to a question from a Committee member, Mr. Ulmschneider said that when the search committee is assembled for Clark's position, student representation will be considered.

**Status of off-site storage facility initiative**

Mr. Ulmschneider updated the Committee on the status of this initiative. He noted the urgency of implementing a solution for off-site storage in order to store much of the TML collection preparatory to

relocating TML to a new location. The VCU Libraries has been working with VCU Facilities, the Library of Virginia, and the architectural firm of BCWH to develop options and project costs. Four options for off-site storage of library materials have been identified:

- Renovate an existing VCU building
- Renovate a suitable property in the region
- Build a completely new building
- Expand the existing State Records Center on Charles City County Road and operate the expansion jointly with the Library of Virginia.

Option 4 has emerged as the most cost-effective solution, since it will leverage much of the existing infrastructure at the State Records Center. Implementing this option will require land acquisition and construction to expand the existing facility.

Deciding what items in the TML collection to store off campus will require both careful analysis of the collections and their use, and also review and input from the VCU community. Mr. Ulmschneider assured the Committee membership that the process will remain sensitive to the actual needs of the VCU community of users.

#### **VCU Libraries budget request 2018-19, including student fee request**

Mr. Ulmschneider informed the Committee that in a presentation to the University Budget Committee in November, the VCU Libraries had outlined an increase of \$455,000 for fiscal year 2018-19 to address specific university priorities. To fund part of that expansion, the VCU Libraries has requested an increase in the student library fee of \$5/semester (from \$30/semester to \$35/semester). The additional revenue from the student fee will cover operating costs arising from the unexpectedly large increase in student use of the new Cabell Library, and help fund the university's effort to expand the use of free and reduced-cost textbooks and course materials.

In discussion, it was noted that many professors already have reviewed their course requirements and changed or reduced required course materials to reduce cost to students. However, it has proven challenging to document the extent of these changes and how much they have already saved the student community at VCU: simply gathering the data and reporting on it represents significant work. The VCU Libraries expects that the student fee funding will help with that.

One Committee member asked whether the VCU Libraries could advise professors about the number and kind of textbooks and materials required. Mr. Ulmschneider responded that course design and the choice of supplemental materials to support curriculum rests with faculty members, not librarians. However, raising awareness among the faculty of alternatives has proven effective elsewhere in motivating faculty to redesign curriculum to reduce student costs. He noted that the Student Government Association understands the benefits of affordable course materials, and has adopted a resolution asking the university to include consideration of affordable course content in its guidelines for textbook adoption.

Mr. Ghaphery and Ms. Miller may go to the Faculty Senate to bring this information to that body, as well.

#### **Focus: a new health sciences library on the MCV Campus - PowerPoint**

- **Parameters for the new space: likely temporary location, size of temporary location, housing for regular collections and special collections**
- **What are your expectations for a new library?**
- **Building off the discussion in the November meeting, what are essential features and functions for a physical library space on the MCV Campus?**

Ms. Knott presented a PowerPoint showing the timeline for relocating Tompkins-McCaw Library and its collections. The proposed temporary location for TML is the East Marshall Street Pavilion, possibly for as long as three years. She reported that the VCU Libraries is exploring with VCU Health how much of the East Marshall Street Pavilion must be allocated to TML in order to meet the library needs for the MCV Campus. The Pavilion's flooring can't support library collections, although at least 10,000 volumes must be housed in the temporary library location. The limitations of the space amplify the need for an adequate off-site storage facility. VCU Health and the VCU Libraries has explored using the Museum of the Confederacy for collections, but have determined that it isn't large enough and that it also has its own floor loading challenges.

Ms. Knott underscored that at this point there is no commitment from the university for a new, permanent health sciences library. She noted that the VCU Libraries believes that the university should commit to a clear path forward to a new library, and that the new facility should be of comparable quality to the new Cabell Library on the Monroe Park Campus. There has been some speculation that the final home for TML might be on the McGuire Annex property but that is not definite. The temporary structure should allow for around-the-clock student access. Ms. Knott said that the future structure should be envisioned as a community center for the MCV campus to advance research and collaboration and to provide space to students for academic pursuit. It has the potential to become a prototype or model for health science libraries at research universities.

The Committee discussed member suggestions for both the temporary and permanent structures:

- Abundant electrical outlets
- Sound proofing
- Ability to reserve space
- Graduate study space
- Natural light
- Many options for desks and study
- Located in the heart of the MCV campus
- The VCU Libraries needs to communicate to the university student needs for this building
- No other buildings on the MCV campus can provide additional academic work space to students – they're simply full
- When VCU built the other new buildings on the MCV campus, they were for the university. The new library will be for the students.
- Graduate students on the MCV campus tend to feel like they don't belong, that they don't have a place to be. The new library might provide a "home" for them.
- SGA is having a joint session on 1/31/18 and Mr. Hafiz will ask that this topic be on the agenda and try to get student feedback. Ms. Knott said she would forward the proposal to him for his use.
- There is a lack of community culture at MCV, possibly because of a lack of common space for collaboration and study.
- Faculty need more collaborative and research space

Ms. Knott will send out her questions to the full Committee to be shared with their colleagues.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.