

VCU Libraries Advisory Committee, September 28, 2018
Main Conference Room
Tompkins-McCaw Library
2:00–3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attending

Jean Bailey, Meredith Baines (chair), Matt Bogenschutz, Lelia Brinegar, Corey Davis, Les Harrison, Nastassja Lewinski, Christina Lindholm, Tom Nelson, Amy Pakyz, Valerie Robnolt, Christy Tyndall, Chernoh Wurie

Absent with notice

Cheng Ly

Absent

Shelly Smith, Jayaraman Vijayakumar

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

Business

Dr. Baines opened the meeting by introducing herself and inviting others to do the same. She welcomed all new and returning members.

Review and approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Review and approval of minutes from April 2018

The minutes were approved as presented.

Introduction of VLAC members – see above

Reports and Discussion

Overview of VLAC and its work – handout

Dr. Baines briefly reviewed the charge to VLAC and described topics and issues on which VLAC has given guidance in the past: plans for renovations for Cabell, relocation of portions of the collection to off-site storage, efforts to gain membership in ARL, removal of fines, approval of working hours, and other issues. She noted that the VLAC might consider a review of its charge given the recent changes in position classifications and other changes at VCU. Mr. Ulmschneider added that the VCU Libraries will call on VLAC members for input and guidance during the upcoming relocation of TML.

Overview of the VCU Libraries and major initiatives – PowerPoint

Mr. Ulmschneider welcomed the Committee to the new academic year. He briefly recapped the

experience of the VCU Libraries with VLAC over the past 19 years and thanked the Committee for their very helpful and necessary guidance and advice. He gave a brief presentation on key elements of VLAC's work, core operations of the VCU Libraries, and the impact of VLAC on the University as a whole:

- VLAC advice on University investments: Keeping the libraries open and supporting faculty and student work; acquiring collections essential for teaching and clinical research; and ensuring that faculty and students can create, find, and use materials provided by VCU Libraries
- Organization of VCU Libraries and a review of the organization chart
- Expenditures – how VCU Libraries' expenditures are divided between personnel and collections; rankings in total expenditures compared with other research universities, which show that VCU's library investments place it solidly in the range of major research universities (also demonstrated by VCU's membership in the Association of Research Libraries effective January 2018)
- Challenges
 - Relocation of the health sciences library and eventual design and construction of a new health sciences library for VCU
 - Advancing Affordable Course Content at VCU
 - Textbook costs are a serious problem
 - Affordable Course Content can be a real help/option
 - Addressing obstacles to ACC, including how ACC can be helpful and what is being done to broaden awareness of its availability

Mr. Ulmschneider added that in the coming year, the VCU Libraries will need to develop a new strategic plan. The current plan has expired, and a strategic planning effort offers an opportunity to align a new VCU Libraries strategic plan with the University's Quest 2025 plan. He noted that the VCU Libraries would certainly need the help of the VLAC members in developing this plan. In answer to a question from a VLAC member, he responded that VCU Libraries was not at the GenEd planning meetings held by the University.

Upcoming Ithaka Local Faculty Survey – handout

Mr. Ulmschneider noted that the VCU Libraries first conducted the Ithaka Local Faculty Survey on faculty research practice at VCU about three years ago. The VCU Libraries will conduct the same survey again this fall, with questions that help elucidate the distinctions between the research practice of STEM and non-STEM faculty as illustrated in the handout from the previous survey.

Discussion of the survey led to a more general discussion about ownership of research data and research findings. VLAC members noted that giving custody of data to the University from faculty research projects is “distasteful” but more appealing if the custodian is the VCU Libraries. Faculty generally have more confidence that credit for research work will be given to the author of research when dealing with the library than with the University as a whole. Mr. Ulmschneider noted that the Center for Open Sciences (cos.org) has created a research management infrastructure, the Open Science Framework, that helps investigators and authors manage the data they create and to make it more available for re-use and citation. The OSF retains strong custodial oversight by faculty while complying with both Federal mandates and

university intellectual property guidance. The VCU Libraries and the Office of Research and Innovation jointly manage the operation of the OSF at VCU.

Developing a new strategic plan for the VCU Libraries

Mr. Ulmschneider said that as mentioned earlier in the meeting, the faculty and staff of VCU Libraries, along with assistance from VLAC, will begin work on a new strategic plan in the very near future. He asked to defer further discussion in order to give more time to the next item on the agenda.

Status of off-site storage and new health sciences library – PowerPoint

Ms. Knott reported that the VCU Libraries learned last fall that two new VCU Health inpatient towers would be constructed on the footprint currently occupied by the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences (TML). To accommodate this construction, TML will be temporarily relocated to the East Marshall Street Pavilion and then again, in 5+ years, transitioned to a new library building at a location yet to be determined.

The relocation of TML is a hugely complicated task with many moving parts that must be managed together. One important part is the relocation of TML's print collections. There are over 340,000 print volumes at TML; some will be moved to the new temporary location of the health sciences library at the East Marshall Street Pavilion (10,000 volumes), with the remainder moved to either the State Records Center managed by the Library of Virginia, or the current VCU Libraries collections storage center at the corner of Harrison and Broad. The location for rare and unique materials from TML's Special Collections and Archives is a separate challenge that the VCU Libraries, VCU, and VCU Health are working to solve.

Ms. Knott reviewed a draft floorplan for the Marshall Street location. The basement and first three floors are dedicated to TML with the 4th floor reserved for VCU Health contractors. VCU Health has to move fairly quickly to its inpatient care towers constructed, so the relocation of TML likely will begin next spring with a target completion date of sometime in fall 2019 – which means the renovation work on East Marshall Street Pavilion must be complete by summer, so the health sciences library has somewhere to go.

Mr. Ulmschneider pointed out that while the relocation of VCU's health sciences library is a major inconvenience and challenge, it also presents an unparalleled opportunity. It appears that no research institution has constructed a major new health sciences library in the U.S. since at least 1998. Because of that, VCU and the VCU Libraries are in a position to design and construct a visionary new facility that will express for the entire country the impact and promise of new health science library facilities for the 21st century.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.