

VCU Libraries Advisory Committee, September 27, 2019
Main Conference Room
Tompkins-McCaw Library
2:00–3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attending

Matt Bogenschutz, Rachel Cloutier, Corey Davis, Aniket Jadhav, Adin Lears, Cheng Ly, Tom Nelson, David Shields, Christy Tyndall

Absent with notice

Lelia Brinegar, Nastassja Lewinski, Amy Pakyz, Michele Pancoast, Valerie Robnolt (substitute was Monty Jones), Jayaraman Vijayakumar, Chernoh Wurie

Absent

Jean Bailey

VCUL Employees:

Kathy Bradshaw, Laura Gariepy, Teresa Knott, John Ulmschneider, Pam Fraga (recording secretary)

Business

Introduction of members (Ulmschneider)

Ulmschneider extended a welcome to returning and new members, who introduced themselves.

Review and approval of agenda (Ulmschneider)

The agenda was approved as presented.

Review and approval of minutes from April 2019 (Ulmschneider)

The minutes were approved as presented.

Election of chair for 2019-21 (Ulmschneider)

Dr. Tom Nelson was unanimously elected as VLAC chair for a two-year term.

Reports and Discussion

Adjusted hours at Tompkins-McCaw Library (Knott)

Tompkins-McCaw Library will now close at 6pm and opposed to 8pm on Fridays. Monday through Friday, the library will open at 7am as opposed to 7:30 am. Both changes are in response to user needs.

VCU Libraries Strategic Frameworks 2020 (Knott)

Knott, with Kathy Bradshaw, led the VCU Libraries work group responsible for revising the VCU Libraries Strategic Framework through 2020. The new plan includes increased emphasis on diversity and inclusion, community engagement and collaboration, improving health and well-being, and staff development. These areas tie into Quest 2025. The framework is available at: https://www.library.vcu.edu/media/vculibrary/documents/strategic-framework/strategicframework2020_.pdf

Inclement weather guidelines and procedures for VCU Libraries (Gariepy)

Gariepy offered an update following a discussion in VLAC in April of 2019 about revising how VCU Libraries handles university closures during winter weather. After a thoroughly researched process, VCU Libraries will abide by the following:

- Tompkins-McCaw Library will follow the university's closure schedule during winter weather.
- Cabell Library will follow different protocols depending on the proximity of exams.
 - During the exam period and weeks leading up to it, Cabell Library will remain open in the event of winter weather if the university closes and exams are canceled, although hours may be reduced. Employees who are designated to work during winter weather will be provided lodging, parking, and funds for transportation as needed.
 - Outside of exams and the weeks immediately preceding them, Cabell Library will follow the university's closure schedule through one full day of closure. Thereafter, Cabell will make a good faith effort to open, again making available lodging, transportation, and parking as needed for employees.

In the event of extremely severe weather or a declared state of emergency, VCU Libraries will assess the feasibility of opening Cabell Library and may divert from this plan, even during exams. Both libraries' operating status will be posted on the VCU Libraries webpage, in VCU Alert, and on social media.

VCU Libraries vision for collections storage 2020 and beyond (Ulmschneider)

Ulmschneider provided an introduction to VCU Libraries. He noted that there were no new updates on the renewal process and contract negotiations for the Elsevier Big Deal, but that feedback from the various universities that had already dropped the Elsevier package was that this action had not negatively affected their student and faculty population nearly as much as had been feared.

Other highlights about VCU Libraries included recent Association of Research Libraries (ARL) membership and an increase in faculty satisfaction for initiatives and resources offered at VCU Libraries according to the recently administered Ithaka S+R faculty survey.

Ulmschneider explained that VCU Libraries has dealt with the urgent need for more storage in a variety of ways and is now pursuing an offsite storage facility in collaboration with the Library of Virginia. Careful selection of low-use items to be moved to storage plus speedy retrieval (less than 24 hours) will be prioritized if the project moves forward. In the best-case scenario, the General Assembly will approve funding for planning and design of a shared storage facility in the upcoming biennial budget session. That will allow planning and design to commence in FY21, laying the groundwork to request construction funding in FY22.

Tour of newly renovated spaces in Tompkins-McCaw Library (Knott)

Since the demolition of Tompkins-McCaw Library and plans to construct a new Health Sciences Library are no longer imminent (but still part of the ONE VCU Master Plan), the funds that had been set aside for that purpose were released for use in renovating the existing building. This included renovation of group study rooms, the development of a new faculty space, and adding an audio and video studio in the basement level. Ms. Knott showed these new spaces to any and all members who would like to see them.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.