



VCU

Libraries

VCU Libraries Advisory Committee Friday, November 19, 2021, 2:00-3:00 pm, Zoom

Attending

Jean Bailey, Matt Bogenschutz, Leila Brinegar, Rachel Cloutier, Ywone Edwards-Ingram, Catherine Ingrassia (*chair*), Inho “Richard” Jho, Jim Keck, Nastassja Lewiski, Sonali Rathore, Valerie Robnolt, David Shields, Christy Tyndall, Jayaraman Vijayakumar, Dayanjan (Shanaka) Wijesinghe

Absent

T. Corey Davis, Shawn Rosalez, Samara Shabon,

VCU Libraries staff

Trudi Batiste (*recording secretary*), Jimmy Ghaphery, Irene Herold, Teresa L. Knott, Tammy Sugarman

Business

Review and approval of [agenda](#) (Ingrassia)

The meeting opened at 2:00 pm. Agenda was approved with no objections.

Review and approval of [minutes from September, 24, 2021](#) (Ingrassia)

Minutes from September 24, 2021 were approved as presented.

Reports and Discussion

VCU Libraries Overview and Update (Herold)

Dean Herold recently met with the [Student Government Association](#) and responded to a request to expand Cabell’s hours of operation to 24 hours. She indicated that there is not enough use of the library between midnight and 2 A.M. to justify the additional hours. She also noted the library is currently experiencing staffing challenges with over twenty vacancies.

Library [Hours](#)

In observance of Thanksgiving, Cabell and HSL will be closed November 25-27, 2021. Winter closure, December 23-26, and January 1, 2022.

Capital Projects

Gender-inclusive restrooms at Cabell and Health Sciences Libraries are estimated for completion in Summer 2022.



We have nearly reached our fundraising goal for the Reflection Room. It will be an open space located on the 2nd floor of Cabell and used for meditation, yoga, reflection, quiet time, or any activity contributing to student wellness. We estimate completion in Winter 2022 or early 2023.

VCU Libraries, in collaboration with the State Records Center, is in the planning phase of building the offsite storage space. The majority of the space will house 1.4 million volumes of materials. The space will include growth for expansion and an office for scanning and retrieval of materials to ensure timely access. The project will take approximately 24-36 months to complete. We estimate groundbreaking in Spring 2022.

Question: What materials are stored offsite?

Currently, in Academic Center 500, there are various books, periodicals, microfilm, and film. The State Record Center will house physical books and bound periodicals.

Question: Can adjustments be made to the frequency of the hourly pandemic announcement as we approach final exams? Dean Herold requested that we lower the volume to help minimize the distractions. Unfortunately, many students still need the announcement to remind them to mask up.

Student Library Fees: The student library fee sustains library spaces, services, personnel, and operations that advance student success across both campuses and online. The current fee is \$40 a semester for full-time students. VCUL has requested a \$2 increase for the upcoming academic year.

Researcher Support Webpage

[Stacy Wahl](#) and a team of collections experts launched an investigation of the [researcher support](#) page to help identify different ways to support the needs of researchers and those engaged in research projects outside of a class assignment.

Stacy invited the committee to participate in an exercise using three scenarios to test the page's new features and responded to the group's feedback and questions. Stacy and her team plan to form focus groups with students and faculty for additional feedback.

Elsevier Update

Our current contract with Elsevier ends at the end of the calendar year 2021. VCUL has successfully negotiated a 3-year contract to be in effect for calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024. All content will remain the same.

The negotiation included a 1% increase for the first year, 1.5% for the second year, and 2% for the third year. The total cost for our access is over \$2 million per year. VCU Libraries will be the only library in Virginia to have the full Elsevier bundled content.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm