



**Virginia Commonwealth University  
VCU Libraries Advisory Committee  
Thursday, November 9, 2023, 2:00-3:00 pm**

### **Attending**

Jean Bailey, Keith Baker, Matt Bogenschutz, Eric Campbell, Ywone Edwards-Ingram, Frank Gulla, Catherine Ingrassia (*chair*), Inho “Richard” Jho, Lillian Lewis, Tracye Proffitt, Doug Pugh, Valerie Robnolt, Sarah Steele, Christy Tyndall, Dayanjan (Shanaka) Wijesinghe

### **Absent**

Yunus Bidav, Stacey Reynolds, Anusha Vaddi

### **VCU Libraries Staff**

Kathy Bradshaw, Laura Gariepy, Jimmy Ghaphery, Irene Herold, Teresa Knott, Tammy Sugarman, Antonia Vassar (*recording secretary*)

### **Business**

At 2:00 pm, Chair Ingrassia opened the meeting. The meeting agenda was approved as presented. The minutes from September were reviewed and approved as presented.

### **Reports and Discussion**

#### **VCU Libraries Overview and Update**

Dean Irene Herold greeted VLAC members and gave updates from VCU Libraries. The Reflection Room has been opened, formal ribbon cutting for donors will be held on November 14. VCU Libraries was the inaugural academic library to receive the [Intellectual Freedom Award](#) from the Virginia Libraries Association. 12,599 students have saved an estimated \$1.14M in textbook cost just during this fall 2023 semester due to the VCU Libraries [open and affordable course content efforts](#). For the full presentation, please see the [slide deck](#).

VCUL needs to look at usage and campus needs for Elsevier contract, and wants to ensure that it is a seamless process for users to access content if VCUL unbundles Elsevier journal subscriptions. Will be looking at feasibility and cost efficiencies.

#### **New at VCU Libraries (Gariepy, Ghaphery, Knott)**

Ghaphery: VCU Libraries [recently joined APTrust](#), a consortium of 21 higher ed institutions devoted to preservation of digital content. [GIS Day](#) will be held November 15th; activities include demonstrations, a career panel, and a GeOreo bar. Generative AI updates: a [library research guide](#) was published and there is a library faculty member on the Faculty Advisory Committee on Gen AI and Teaching and Learning. The Workshop is offering a slate of [Gen AI Workshops](#) and VCU Libraries has been conducting internal staff development and sharing on AI. JSTOR now offers a [Beta AI tool](#).



Gariapy: [StudyWell initiative](#) overview – programs focus on student well-being as they engage with the VCU Libraries on both campuses. StudyWell programming includes recurring study hours for various student groups (TRIP, Men of Color, Transfer Tuesdays, YouFirst) and an increasingly robust partnership with YouFirst (first generation students). In response to a question about how these events are advertised – many of the events are in high traffic areas, so advertising is not needed. Have done some special advertising for a few of the events, social media as events are in progress. Participated in over 300 StudyWell events last year with 6,000 participants. Ingrassia and Gariapy will coordinate on getting the word out to transfer students.

Knott: The Health Sciences Library is currently hosting [an exhibit](#) on HIV/AIDS from the National Library of Medicine and is doing robust programming related to the exhibit. Hosted [NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellows](#), including a 3-day leadership institute and a 2-day capstone with a graduation ceremony.

VCU Libraries hosted ACTAL (the Association of Creative Technologies in Academic Libraries) [conference](#) – 2nd annual conference for makerspaces, AV studio work.

## Upcoming Events

Dean Herold announced VCU Libraries' upcoming events:

- RICE (Richmond Indie Comics Expo) to be held at Cabell Library on November 12, 2023.
- [Tess Gunty](#), winner of the 2023 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award for "The Rabbit Hutch," November 13, 2023, 7pm - 9pm.
- Jeffrey Blount book release event February 27, 2024.
- Brownell architectural history lecture first Saturday in April, 2024.

Lillian Lewis thanked VCUL for the pop-up held at VCU Arts. VCU Libraries has been offering Artist Books/Book Arts Tours for campus community members and donors, if there is interest this can be offered to VLAC.

Christy Tyndall thanked Jenny Stout for her work with the Journal of Undergraduate Research. [Current list of journals is here.](#)

Ywone Edwards-Ingram reminded the group that Academic Technologies has approved a pilot for 20 Focused Inquiry faculty to receive a free Adobe Creative Cloud license for the 2023-2024 academic year. Oscar Keyes of VCUL Creative Technologies and Scholarship is serving as a point person.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm



**VCU** Libraries

**Informational Links**

[VLAC Charge](#) | [VCUL Mission Statement and Strategic Framework](#) | [Strategic Action Plan 2028](#)  
[Center for Teaching and Learning](#) | [Generative AI](#) | [VCUL apparel](#)

**Future VLAC Meetings (VLAC meets 2:00-3:00pm via Zoom)**

[January 18, 2024](#) | [April 11, 2024](#)