



Draft Minutes

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

Attending

Jean Bailey, Matt Bogenschutz, Lelia Brinegar, Rachel Cloutier, T. Corey Davis, Catherine Ingrassia, Aniket Jadvah, Nastassja Lewinski, Holly Morrison, Tom Nelson (*chair*), Valerie Robnolt, Srinivas Sistla, James Smither, Christy Tyndall, Jayaraman Vijayakumar

Absent

Lex Coelho, Sydney Biodini, Richard Joh

VCU Libraries staff

Laura Gariepy, Jimmy Ghaphery, Emily J. Hurst, Teresa L. Knott, Jodi Koste, Tammy Sugarman, Antonia Vassar (*recording secretary*)

Business

Review and approval of agenda (Tom Nelson)

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

Review and approval of minutes from January 29, 2021 (Tom Nelson)

Minutes from January 29, 2021 were approved as presented.

Reports and Discussion

VCU Libraries Overview and Update (Teresa L. Knott)

Tom's term as chair ends this year, if you would like to self-nominate to serve as chair next year, please let Tom or Teresa know. The chair's position is a two-year term.

Dean's search: A final candidate for Dean of Libraries and University Librarian has been identified and will be on campus for a visit in a few weeks, probably on April 19-20. Five candidates were interviewed via Zoom and this final candidate is the only one invited for an on-campus visit. Teresa will look into options for the final candidate to meet with the VLAC committee.

Scholarly Communication: The VCUL Sustainable Scholarship Communications Workgroup mentioned at our last meeting has been charged and is examining best practices, developing messaging, and identifying appropriate venues with an eye to ramp up education and community engagement after the spring semester. One VLAC member volunteered to serve as a sounding board for the messaging and others would be welcomed. Will likely distribute an email to VLAC members asking for recommendations about appropriate venues to engage and update faculty on progress. As you prepare for Summer and Fall 2021, please check out ebook options available through the [VIVA Faculty Textbook Portal](#). It includes VIVA Shared eBooks and OER options.

HEETF/STF Requests (Jimmy Ghaphery)

Presentation of annual technology spending plans for next year (FY21-22). Requests include Student Technology Fee (STF) & Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund (HEETF). Bringing these to VLAC (as well as student advisory groups) for comment and endorsement is part of our annual process, and helps build competitive and relevant requests. The requests are developed through student input and library staff.

No drastic changes were made in the spending plans due to COVID-19, will wait to see what the on-campus experience looks like. Approximately 75% of the request is to replace aging equipment and 25% for new items. A portion of the STF fee helps support online services platforms such as online chat, library research guides, and calendaring appointments for research consultations and other services. New investments: increase in equipment available for checkout (mobile podcasting kits, new cameras), new equipment for digitization, and document scanners for inter-library loan and document delivery. Student computers are replaced at a constant rate of ¼ each year (to have a stable budget request and steady rotation of new computers).

VLAC unanimously moved to endorse the requests as presented.

Summer/Fall 2021 (Laura Garipey, EmilyHurst)

Expecting most COVID-19 operations to continue for the foreseeable future (face coverings, physical distancing etc.) Unsure if Entry Pass will be required in the summer/fall.

Cabell Update: [Current hours are online](#). Starting Monday 4/5/21, Cabell will open at 7:30 am M-F. Going into exams+ period at Cabell, expanding to midnight on school nights, expanded hours on Friday and Saturday. Traffic has been at about 10% to 20% of pre-pandemic building use. Don't expect to see a huge increase of students in the hours during exams+ period, just want to offer more hours to the students who use the buildings. In the summer, Cabell will revert to current hours with small adjustments. About 85% of summer classes are expected to be online.

Fall hours currently under consideration. Monitoring probable campus operations and density for fall – not likely to be like Fall 2019, but expecting a significant return to in person classes. Not all classes will be in person, and many people's work patterns have changed. We are considering whether or not we will need to offer continuous overnight hours (24/5). Considering holistic emphasis on wellness as it relates to late-night hours. Going through a comprehensive overview of historic building use from 2016-2019, we had seen some reduction in use of overnight hours in Cabell, likely due in part to the opening of the Gladding Residence Center. Acknowledgement of students' busy schedules, and that overnight hours might not be optimal but might be necessary.

Library is counting traffic, seeing sustained engagement in course integrated instruction (faculty having librarians come into classes to work with students), seen decrease in physical collections checkouts, reduced in-person interactions at service points, increased interactions via text, chat, email, phone, huge increase in curricular online learning objects (information created by librarians for insertion into courses). Web stats showed slight decrease (down 20%) but not nearly as much as gate counts. Online research consultations have remained steady. Have reached out to SGA for input regarding building hours but haven't yet heard back. Need to be thoughtful about how the questions are asked, need to help students have information about broader scope of operations (ask about actual behavior as opposed to hypothetical).

Health Sciences Library update: have worked with the student advisory committee to get feedback on hours throughout the pandemic. Reviewing usage and demand, looking at complexity of MCV

campus schools and schedules. [Current hours](#) will be kept in place for near future, but will expand hours during exams period if necessary.

Collections and Services: VCU Libraries offers robust physical and electronic collections. Access is available through in person checkout, delivery of materials to homes/ offices, and expansive digital content is available online. We are assessing data for our front door pickup service to determine future offerings. Access to librarian created webinars and videos are available online. Additional online services include: robust research guides, online consultations, and chat, text, and email reference services.

[Chat hours available](#) at both Cabell and Health Sciences libraries.

Health and History Series (Jodi Koste)

[This presentation](#) was part of the inaugural series called “[History and Health](#).” The series is designed to confront the history of VCU/MCV, especially the relationship to the patient community. In this presentation, Jodi looked at the institution’s legacy in several areas: anatomy, segregation, student culture, urban renewal, and research rather than approaching VCU/MCV’s history chronologically. VLAC was encouraged to look at the [various modules](#) developed for the History and Health program and view the [presentation](#).

Teresa invited all to [attend upcoming events](#), especially the Sanger Series lecture by Dr. Cassidy Sugimoto on the [Institutionalization of Gender Disparities in Science](#). It is scheduled for 5:30-7:00pm on April 27.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 pm.