

VCU Libraries Advisory Committee, November 22, 2019
Room 311 Sisisky Conference Room
James Branch Cabell Library
2:00–3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Attending

Jean Bailey, Matt Bogenschutz, Lelia Brinegar, Rachel Cloutier, Adin Lears, Cheng Ly, Tom Nelson (chair), Valerie Robnolt, David Shield, Christy Tyndall, Chernoh Wurie

Absent with notice

Corey Davis, Nastassja Lewinski, Amy Pakyz

Absent

Aniket Jadhav, Michele Pancoast, Jayaraman Vijayakumar

Staff

Kathy Bradshaw, Laura Gariepy, Jimmy Ghaphery, Tammy Sugarman, John Ulmschneider, Pam Fraga (recording secretary)

Business

Introduction of members (Nelson)

Dr. Nelson invited committee members to introduce themselves.

Review and approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Review and approval of minutes from September 2019

The minutes were approved as presented.

Reports and Discussion

Retirement of Dean of Libraries and search process (Ulmschneider)

Ulmschneider announced that he will be retiring effective 6/30/20. He expressed his gratitude for the support and guidance he's received from VLAC over the 20+ years he has served as Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. The Provost will convene a search committee in the near future, partnering with search firm Greenwood & Asher. A general call for nominees for the search committee will go out shortly. We hope that the search committee can meet at least once before the holiday break in December.

Open and Affordable Course Content update and initiative 2019-20 (Ghaphery)

Ghaphery gave an update on the VCU Libraries and VIVA efforts to encourage faculty adoption of [Open and Affordable Course Content](#). This includes the VIVA Faculty Textbook Portal, mini-grant programs for faculty, and use of existing library online collections. It is estimated that these efforts have reduced student course costs at VCU by over \$1.9M. Beyond financial savings, open and affordable course content can contribute to student success and give faculty freedom to tailor to their course content. Ghaphery will alert VLAC on upcoming award and program opportunities from both VIVA and VCU Libraries.

There was some general discussion and some of the points raised or covered were:

- Non-text resources are also encouraged. Both the VIVA and VCU Libraries efforts include all “learning options”.
- VCU Libraries has been working with course lists from the VCU bookstore to find matches with our existing ebook collection or from the VIVA Faculty Textbook Portal. When matches are found, faculty are notified so they can include a direct link to the ebook in their syllabus.
- Course reserves are another option from VCU Libraries to provide access to course materials and in some cases are purchased by the requesting department or faculty, not VCU Libraries.
- VCU Libraries tries to buy unlimited access options of online books that meet our collection guidelines and are used in classes.
- Not all textbooks can be made freely available to students and not all departments can adapt to open access as easily as others but every effort is made to help and offer options.

Library organization changes to improve teaching, building management, assistance to users, acquisition of library collections, and finding library holdings (Gariepy & Sugarman)

Gariepy provided an overview of recent changes in the Research and Learning division at Cabell Library that are intended to increase the library’s ability to develop learning spaces, improve teaching, and assist users. Specific efforts to do so include an increased emphasis on monitoring and planning learning spaces through reorganizations and increased investments in the facilities team; the hiring of a new online learning librarian; and a restructuring of one department to further elevate the library’s teaching and learning initiatives. Recruitment for a head of Information Services & Learning Spaces will occur in FY20. VCU Libraries is considering further reorganization of Special Collections & Archives and the nature of a leadership vacancy in that area.

Sugarman presented an overview of the organizational structure of the division of Collections, Discovery and Budget, and changes made in this area over the past year. A new department, Electronic & Continuing Resources, was created to acknowledge the increasing workload associated with managing and maintaining access to VCUL electronic collections. Recruitment for the vacant position of head of Metadata & Discovery will begin in Spring 2020.

Unanticipated budget changes 2019-20 (Ulmschneider)

Due to an enrollment shortfall, many units, including VCU Libraries, are being asked to return money -- roughly 2% of unit budgets -- to the university. Ulmschneider assured the Committee that there would be no layoffs to accomplish this reduction at VCU Libraries, nor will we reduce hours of operation. Instead, this need will be addressed as an opportunity to restructure the budget and change the approach to operational areas.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.