

VCU Libraries Advisory Committee, April 5, 2019
3rd Floor Conference Room/Boardroom
James Branch Cabell Library
2:00–3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attending

Jean Bailey, Matt Bogenschutz, Lelia Brinegar, Corey Davis (acting chair), Nastassja Lewinski, Cheng Ly, Tom Nelson, Valerie Robnolt, Chernoh Wurie

Attending for Udhanth Mallasani: Helen Gweur

Absent with notice

Meredith Baines, Les Harrison, Udhanth Mallasani, Amy Pakyz, Christy Tyndall

Absent

Christina Lindholm, Michele Pancoast, Shelly Smith, Jayaraman Vijayakumar

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

Guests: Jessica Kirschner (VCU Libraries), Hillary Miller (VCU Libraries)

Dr. Corey Davis acted as chair for this meeting in light of Dr. Baines's absence.

Business

Review and approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Review and approval of minutes from January 2019

The minutes were approved as presented.

Review of HEETF and STF requests from VCU Libraries (Ghaphery)

Ghaphery presented a memorandum summarizing the nature of requests for technology funding VCU Libraries is submitting to the university for the Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund and Student Technology Fee. VCU Libraries anticipates submitting requests totaling approximately \$466,000. Major areas of focus include digital publishing, viewing, and transforming; computing tools; and collaboration and learning spaces. A motion to endorse the HEETF and STF purchases as presented was made and seconded; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Proposed building hours for academic year 2019-20 (Gariepy)

Gariepy presented the proposed hours for JBC and TML from August 2019 - August 2020, noting that most changes to proposed building hours are a result of changes to the academic calendar. The most notable change of this variety is the week of Thanksgiving, during which the university will not hold classes, and therefore both libraries will operate on a reduced schedule with some closures for the holiday. In summer 2020, both libraries will close on 7/3 and 7/4 in observance of Independence Day. Gariepy also noted that both libraries are often open when the University is closed. A motion to endorse the library hours as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Reports and Discussion

Update on Inclement Weather Procedures (Gariepy)

Gariepy thanked the Committee for their input at the last meeting regarding potential inclement weather procedures for both libraries. VCU Libraries administration continues to engage in the development of potential approaches, and expect to make tentative decisions over the summer, returning to VLAC for consideration in the fall. Student and employee safety are chief considerations.

Strategic Planning (Ulmschneider)

VCU Libraries is in the process of carrying out the Strategic Plan and engaged in a planning process to update the VCU Libraries Strategic Framework, with plans to fully re-envision the VCU Libraries Strategic Plan in the future.

Cabell Book Drop (Gariepy)

Cabell Library's new external book return is available on Cabell's east wall facing the lawn and Cathedral.

Affordable and Open Course Content Initiative: Update and Discussion (Miller and Kirschner)

Miller began by saying that the priorities for this effort are to increase student success, lower course materials costs for students (with a goal of zero-cost), and provide more flexibility for faculty in the use of materials for classrooms. There are state and national level efforts to make course content available at no or low cost to students. Miller presented the VIVA Faculty Textbook Portal, a collection of over 200,000 open and unlimited access ebooks. VCU faculty can adopt ebooks already available through the portal for their courses, and they can review request the purchase of new ebooks through the portal. She reviewed the VIVA Course Redesign Grants, two of which directly affect VCU: grants given to adopt an open textbook for all sections of Introduction to Biological Sciences I & II (BIOL 151 & 152) and a multi-institutional project to create a new textbook for Research Methods in Social Work (SLWK 609). The interest in and response to these offerings has been overwhelming and proposals totaling over \$800,000 have already been received. The General Assembly is very enthusiastic about this effort, and at the national level, an Affordable Textbook Act bill has been submitted to Congress this year. In addition, VCU's Affordable Course Content Awards have helped over 2,000 students and saved about \$370,000, a savings that will continue to accrue each year.

VCU Libraries has also recently invested in 21 e-textbooks that are or will be available with unlimited number of simultaneous users, saving students \$128,000 yearly. The libraries have also uncovered about \$282,000 in savings on required texts for the School of Medicine and \$50,000 in savings for the School of Pharmacy, resulting from unlimited access ebooks already made available by the libraries.

The total savings for students from all VCU Libraries affordable course content efforts is \$1,298,000 annually, impacting courses with a total annual enrollment of 4,700.

Miller introduced Jessica Kirschner, the new Open Educational Resources Librarian, who encouraged the Committee members to let their colleagues know of these opportunities and to feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns or feedback.

University of California Decision on Elsevier Big Deal: Discussion and Implications for Virginia Efforts (Ulmschneider)

Ulmschneider summarized the University of California system's decision to end their Big Deal with Elsevier, due primarily to continually increasing costs for packages that see uneven use of materials

within them. Ulmschneider explained that 30% of VCUL's collections budget goes to just three vendors for Big Deal packages.

VCU Libraries is crafting a statement of support for the UC System's decision alongside other VA Research Libraries. UC did a careful study of their faculty and the way their access to needed resources would be impacted, and found that breaking their Big Deal with Elsevier would have minimal impact thanks to promoting other services and tools to ensure faculty's access through other means.

When VCU's current Big Deal contract with Elsevier expires in 2021, it will not be renewed. More details of the discussion on journal costs is available on the [Library website](#), including efforts to reassure and support faculty going forward.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.