VCU Libraries Advisory Committee, November 16, 2018
3rd Floor Conference Room/Boardroom
James Branch Cabell Library
2:00–3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attending
Jean Bailey, Matt Bogenschutz, Corey Davis, Nastassja Lewinski, Cheng Ly, Udhanth Mallasani, Tom Nelson, Amy Pakyz, Michele Pancoast, Valerie Robnolt, Shelly Smith, Christy Tyndall, Jayaraman Vijayakumar, Chernoh Wurie

Absent with notice
Meredith Baines, Lelia Brinegar

Absent
Les Harrison, Christina Lindholm

Staff: Kathy Bradshaw, Laurie Gariepy, Teresa Knott, Tammy Sugarman, John Ulmschneider, Pam Fraga (recording secretary)

Guest: Hillary Miller (VCU Libraries faculty)

Business

Review and approval of agenda
The agenda was approved as presented.

Review and approval of minutes from September 2018
The minutes were approved. A miss-spelling of Dr. Lewinski name in the minutes was corrected.

Mr. Ulmschneider reported that the chair, Meredith Baines, was unexpectedly called away. Dr. Corey Davis agreed to serve as chair for this meeting.

Mr. Ulmschneider introduced two new members of VCU Libraries senior leadership team: Tammy Sugarman, joining VCU form Georgia State University as Associate University Librarian for Collections, Discovery and Budget, and Laura Gariepy, with nearly a decade at VCU, as Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning.

Review of charge to VLAC – handouts
Mr. Ulmschneider drew the Committee's attention to the handout. The first page was the current charge to the Committee, last changed in May 2015. The second page showed proposed changes in the text of the current charge, and the third was a "clean" version of the proposed new charge. He discussed all three and opened the floor for questions and feedback. In discussion, the Committee determined that the new charge could become effective with the next academic year (2019-2020) and thus not interfere with the current membership. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the new charge as presented.

Reports and Discussion

Inclusive Excellence RFP-IE-001 Diversity & Inclusion Course and Program Compendium –
PowerPoint
Ms. Gariepy summarized the Division of Inclusive Excellence's RFP in order to provide an overview of
the proposals VCUL intends to submit, and how VCUL might support proposals from other VCU units.
She noted that the deadline for intention to file a proposal had passed (11/14/18) and that the deadline for
submission of a complete proposal was in December. The RFP aims to develop a wide variety of course
options and that there would be five (5) main areas of interest:

- Diversity and Inclusive Leadership Certification Program
- Pop-up Short Courses
- Seminar Series
- Training Program
- Hands-on Workshop

She described each area. VCU Libraries submitted three "intent to submit" proposals, focused on power
in the scholarly conversation, gender-inclusive practices, and best practices for inclusive hiring. Most of
these were proposals for short-courses, but with the flexibility in some cases to take the form of a training
program or workshop. Ms. Gariepy encouraged the VLAC members to think of librarians as partners in
developing/implementing their own proposals. She noted that librarians are available to support both
student and faculty research related to proposals and subsequent programs, both in one-on-one capacities
and instructional capacities online and in person. In addition, the Workshop has a vast array of resources
available to faculty, including A/V setup, video and voice recording, sewing, and animation that could
support proposals for the RFP (and many other routine coursework and research at the university). She
said that she welcomed inquiries about library support and that the Committee Members should feel free
contacting their liaison librarians as well.

In discussion, it was noted that while TML doesn't have a full complement of makerspace equipment
now, VCU Libraries plans to equip either the existing space or the new TML temporary location with
equipment and expertise similar to the Workshop in the near future. VCU Libraries will fund this
equipment through its own budget and through Student Technology Fee revenue.

Course redesign initiatives and Affordable Course Content – PowerPoint
Hillary Miller, Scholarly Communications Librarian, opened the topic by discussing how the costs of
course materials affects student success. High course material costs can lead students to skip textbook
purchases, which can impact course performance, or decide not to register for a course, even a course
required for graduation. She said that "affordable course materials" means course materials that are free,
very low cost, or licensed by libraries for student use. "Open Educations Resources" (OER) are one
example of affordable course materials: not only are they free of cost, they also have no copyright
restrictions, so that materials can be openly shared, copied, edited, or otherwise modified for the course
being taught, providing more flexibility and options to faculty and students in the learning process. She
pointed out that the University is focused on improving student success, and the lower costs of ACC, and
the ability to tailor materials for course needs more easily, can advance that goal.

In discussion Committee members observed that using already-familiar commercial texts is easier for the
faculty, and assembling information from several different sources is very time consuming. Ms. Miller
said that VCU Libraries has been developing capabilities to address the challenge. First, new online tools
will be made available this spring to help faculty collect and customize materials for their courses from
open and low-cost sources. Second, VCU Libraries has a program to assist faculty in redesigning courses
that rely on more conventional texts to use free and open-source materials. The Affordable Course

Content Award program from VCU Libraries provides up to $5,000 to selected faculty each year to cover the costs of redesigning a course to use ACC.

Ms. Miller noted that two other course redesign initiatives are underway at VCU. First, the VCU Course Redesign Program, organized by the Provost's Office, is specifically tailored to redesign certain courses in order to reduce their DFW rate. Participants will have access to library expertise to incorporate ACC materials as part of course redesign. Second, the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) will be funding a course redesign initiative as part of a state-wide effort to grow the use of ACC materials. VCU Libraries will be the local contact for the VIVA application process.

Journal package cost disclosure – handout
Mr. Ulmschneider reminded the Committee that VCU Libraries requests funds every year to cover unavoidable, contractually-obligated cost increases for journal subscriptions. He noted that few faculty know the true costs of journal subscriptions and the burden those costs place on university budgets. There is evidence that a vigorous effort to inform faculty about these costs will garner their support in VCU Libraries work to reduce subscription costs.

Mr. Ulmschneider drew the Committee's attention to handouts giving the costs of the Elsevier journal bundle contract. He noted that conventional measures of subscription value for the university community – primarily the number of times a journal's articles are viewed or downloaded – are simple, crude measures that don't reflect the full range of factors affecting value. VCU Libraries is working with research libraries in Virginia to develop more powerful ways to capture the value of subscriptions.

A key element in controlling costs is disclosing to the community the actual costs and the newly-developed value metrics for journal subscriptions. Cost and value transparency will help VCU Libraries to cancel subscriptions and take other steps to control costs. Mr. Ulmschneider told the Committee to expect public disclosure of costs, the first step in planned disclosure efforts, within the next few weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.