



**Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Libraries Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 11, 2024, 2:00-3:00 pm**

Attending

Matt Bogenschutz, Ywone Edwards-Ingram, Frank Gulla, Catherine Ingrassia (*chair*), Richard Jho, Lillian Lewis, Tracye Proffitt, Doug Pugh, Stacey Reynolds, Valerie Robnolt, Sarah Steele, Christy Tyndall

Absent

Yunus Bidav, Jean Bailey, Keith Baker, Eric Campbell, Anusha Vaddi, Dayanjan (Shanaka) Wijesinghe

VCU Libraries Staff

Present: Kathy Bradshaw, Laura Gariepy, Jimmy Ghaphery, Irene Herold, Tammy Sugarman
Absent: Teresa Knott, Antonia Vassar

Reports and Discussion

Welcome, Approval of Agenda and of November Minutes (Ingrassia)

Agenda and Minutes approved.

Update: Strategic Action Plan Year-to-date (Herold)

Dean Herold provided an overview of the Libraries' progress on [Strategic Action Plan 2028](#), with specific focus on [objectives identified for 2023 and 2024](#). Areas of focus at this time include:

- External funding activity
 - Work to date:
 - Grants and Sponsorships Expression of Interest Form (internal for VCU Libraries employees)
 - Next steps:
 - Working Group developing recommendations for creating an administrative sustainable structure for this work
- Advance Research through Equitable Discovery, Diverse Collections, and Sustainable Infrastructure
 - Work to date:
 - Assessment of platforms/processes for holds and scanning articles from our collections
 - Convening a work group to evaluate future resource sharing platforms (current platform is ILLiad)
 - Next steps:
 - Implementation of work group recommendations



- Transformative Learning Experiences and Internships
 - Work to date:
 - Draft LibGuide
 - Next steps:
 - LibGuide revision and publication
 - Additional HR support for this program
- Advance Student Holistic Well-Being
 - Work to date:
 - VCU Foundation StudyWell grant
 - 178 StudyWell events for 4616 attendees (July-December 2023)
 - Reflection Room
 - Next steps:
 - Holistic Well-Being Working Group
 - Sensory Room
 - Ram Refrigerators
- External Community Engagement
 - Work to date:
 - SCA outreach working group
 - 2 SCA open houses and Valentine's Date with Book Art
 - Health and Wellness Library partnership with American Heart Association, Capital Area Health Network, Daily Planet, Richmond Public Library & VCU Health to promote BP awareness in Richmond
 - Next steps:
 - Sustainability plan for SCA exhibits and outreach
- Foster a Healthy and Successful Learning Organization
 - Work to date:
 - Interest assessment for Staff Development Day (Organizational Development, Staff Organization)
 - Next steps:
 - Planning and June implementation

Update: Libraries & AI resources/actions (Herold)

Irene shared several links that provide context for VCU Libraries' current engagement with AI, and acknowledged it as an important area of focus for VCU Libraries going forward.

- [VCU Libraries Generative Artificial Intelligence Guide](#)
- [Ithaka S&R GenAI Product Tracker](#)
- [SCHEV-Library Advisory Committee Memorandum: The Transformative Role of Virginia's Academic Libraries as a Partner on AI, March 2024](#)

Chair responsibilities/VLAC leadership transition guideline & election of chair (Ingrassia)

Discussion ensued about the draft text proposed to provide guidelines about the chair role.

Current language regarding the chair role on the [VLAC website](#): "The Committee Chair may interact with members of other University committees to coordinate activities and investigate



initiatives to improve undergraduate, graduate, and professional education at Virginia Commonwealth University through collaborative work with the VCU Libraries.”

Draft Proposed Language to supplement current language at :

"The committee chair serves a two-year term and is selected by the group from volunteers of the appointed members.”

Selected at last meeting of academic year?

Suggested addition: option for a 1-year term extension?

The chair shall:

- Work with VCU Libraries to establish schedules for meetings
- Work with VCU Libraries to create agendas for meetings
- Convene and preside over meetings of the VLAC
- Represent VLAC as appropriate
- Ensure that VLAC functions smoothly and addresses business and professional matters referred to it by the members and other groups and individuals

Some discussion included:

- Possibility of recruiting/recommending and vetting/approving new members. Irene clarified that Deans of each school appoint the membership, so this layer of chair engagement would be challenging.
- Would an incoming chair, chair, and outgoing chair model help provide more continuity? Ingrassia noted that because of the continuity of the VCU Libraries employees on the committee, the chair role is a pleasure, but not a big lift. This may be more administrative infrastructure than needed.

Draft language is approved. See <https://www.library.vcu.edu/about/committees/vlac/>

Ingrassia did a call for nominations/self-nominations. Irene Herold nominated Valerie Robnolt, who accepted the nomination. VLAC approved, and Robnolt will assume the role in Fall 2024.

Open and Affordable Course Content (Ghaphery)

Ghaphery provided an update on VCUL’s Open and Affordable Course Content Initiative:

- Faculty Choice + Affordability = Student Success
 - 96,000 students | \$10 million cost avoidance and since 2017
- VIVA Course Driven Acquisitions FY23-24
 - 3,956 students | \$185,000 cost avoidance
 - Reminder [VIVA Faculty Ebook Portal](#) available for all VCU Faculty to search for free textbooks from scholarly publishers
- Affordable Course Content Awards FY23-24
 - Math, Business, Dentistry, Education, Health Psychology



- Applications have just closed for FY24-25 awards
- More at go.vcu.edu/textbooksavings
- Abbey Childs, OER Librarian, childsam@vcu.edu

FY24-25 VCU Libraries Technology Plans (Ghaphery)

In the fall of 2024, VCU Libraries anticipates submitting requests totaling approximately \$625,893 (\$224,091 STF, \$406,802 HEETF) for purchase in the spring of 2025. Jimmy highlighted various components of a memo distributed in advance to VLAC. For the Student Technology Fund, anticipated requests include Crestron screens that display availability outside of each library study room; more loanable equipment such as cameras; and a haptics suit. The largest request we are submitting under HEETF is a new video wall in the Cabell Library Lecture Hall. Units are now only able to request HEETF funds every other year, so we are hopeful that this will be approved this year given the Lecture Hall's key role in premier events put on by many other units.

VLAC endorsed the proposed requests VCU plans to submit for STF and HEETF funding.

Upcoming Events

Dean Herold announced VCU Libraries' upcoming events:

- MCV reunion (4/19)
- April 24th Giving Day (but any gifts now to then count towards the totals)
- VCUL Past Student Worker Reunion (5/4)
- September 17, 2024 7pm Literary Mocktail Event with [Meg Medina](#)
- October 15, 2024 7 pm Social Justice Lecture, Mike Caulfield author of *Verified* and expert in identifying misinformation/disinformation and information literacy. His topic will be misinformation and elections

Other Discussion:

- Next year's meeting will be on Thursdays at 2pm on Zoom or in person in Sept, Nov, January, and April.
- Lillian Lewis from the School of the Arts inquired about whether or not Special Collections & Archives is taking suggestions for exhibits. Dean Herold advised that any questions should be sent to Chrystal Carpenter, Head of Special Collections.
- Stacey Reynolds inquired about research on comprehension when reading in print versus online. Jimmy mentioned a couple of studies related to student success (as opposed to comprehension) focused OER versus traditional textbooks.

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



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 four times per year from 2:00-3:00 pm, one Thursday per month in September, November, February, and April.