



VCU Libraries Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 2:00-3:00 pm, Zoom

[Slide Deck](#)

Attending

Jean Bailey, Keith Baker, Qasarah Bey Spencer, Jason Burkett, Ywone Edwards Ingram, Ryan Jackson, Inho "Richard" Joh, Adin Lears, Tracye Proffitt, Doug Pugh, Stacey Reynolds, Valerie Robnolt (*chair*), Sarah Steele, Christy Tyndall, Dayanjan (Shanaka) Wijesinghe

Absent

Frank Gulla, Anika Hines, Molly McFadden, Anusha Vaddi

VCU Libraries Staff

Laura Gariepy, Jimmy Ghaphery, Irene Herold, Teresa L. Knott, Annika Parks (*recording secretary*), Tammy Sugarman; Absent: Kathy Bradshaw

Business

Review and approval of agenda (Valerie Robnolt)

The meeting opened at 2:03 pm. The meeting agenda was approved as presented.

Review and approval of minutes from April 11, 2024 (Valerie Robnolt)

The minutes from April were reviewed and approved as presented.

Introduction of members (Valerie Robnolt)

Chair Robnolt welcomed new and returning members.

Reports and Discussion

Overview of VLAC Service

Dean Irene Herold greeted members and provided a brief overview of [VLAC](#) service, the role of the chair, and the charge to the committee. Chair Valerie Robnolt emphasized the importance of members sharing information and resources with their respective departments and school/college.

Review of Topic Survey Responses

Herold reviewed the topic survey responses. She presented data graphics for the responses and noted the frequency in which members want to discuss the topics. This will serve as a guideline for future meetings.

[Academic Year Reminders: Services, Collections, and Spaces](#)

Laura Gariepy (Associate Dean for Research and Learning) provided an overview of the [VCU Libraries website](#) with special attention to the resources for [faculty and staff](#), [graduate students](#) and [undergraduate students](#). Gariepy emphasized that the Libraries has 3.9 million volumes in its collection, and the open and affordable course content has resulted in over \$10 million in cost avoidance since the program commenced. Gariepy reported that both libraries (James Branch Cabell Library and the Health Sciences Library) are equipped with study and research space for individuals and collaborative work. Both locations have lactation rooms, service desks, gender inclusive restrooms, maker-spaces with audio and visual studios, and special collections and archives. Gariepy pointed out that Cabell Library has a [reflection room](#) and is in the process of creating a sensory room for neurodivergent students.

In response to a question about NIH and NSF requirements for SciENCv, Jimmy Ghaphery (Associate Dean for Scholarly Communications & Publishing) identified a [resource link](#) for faculty.

Herold addressed Ywone Edwards Ingram's question about accessibility and user-ability concerns. She referenced the new [Department of Justice Title II regulations](#), and explained that we are working across the state (SCHEV-Library Advisory Committee) on guidelines, and added that licensing, privacy, and WCAGs 2.0 AA standards are on their radar.

A committee member shared details of a ConnectED information literacy workshop co-sponsored by VCU Libraries.

Upcoming Events

- [Constitution Day event](#), Carolyn Eastman & John Aughenbaugh explore 26th Amendment, September 19th, 2-4 pm, Cabell Library Lecture Hall (JBC 303)
- [Levis Reading Prize](#) by Elisa Gonzalez, October 10th, 7-8 pm, JBC 303
- Social Justice Lecture, Michael Caulfield, [Rumors of Theft: Navigating election integrity discourse online](#), October 15th, 7 pm, JBC 303
- [Cabell First Novelist Award Lecture](#), Alice Winn, novel *In Memoriam*, November 19th, 7 pm, JBC 303
- **Black History Month Lecture** (speaker to be announced soon – finalizing the contract), February 4, 2025, 7 pm, JBC 303

Next Meeting Topic

- [Strategic Action Plan \(SAP\)](#)
- Draft Priorities for FY25

Q&A

The meeting closed with time for questions and answers. There was a robust discussion about how to utilize AI to facilitate students' research. Shanaka Wijesinghe suggested that AI search

indexing could help students search for materials and support on the VCUL website. Tammy Sugarman (Associate Dean for Collections, Discovery, and Budget) pointed out that the chat box on the VCUL website is not operated by a bot, but a live person. Right now VCU Libraries is not pursuing AI in terms of search box indexing.

In discussion around the creation of the sensory room, Stacey Reynolds suggested partnering with occupational therapy. Laura Gariepy added that VCUL is partnering with [Student Accessibility and Educational Opportunity](#).

Teresa Knott (Associate Dean of Libraries and Director of the Health Sciences Library) discussed the ongoing plans for the Health Sciences Library. She explained it's a multi-stage project which involves funding from the legislature and several scenarios for demolition and construction. An offsite storage pod will hopefully break ground in early 2025. It will take roughly 18 months to 2 years to complete, and then the VCU Libraries can start relocating collections to storage.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Information 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 2:00 - 3:00 PM via Zoom)
November 14, 2024 | January 30, 2025 | April 24, 2025