

## VCU Libraries Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 30, 2025 2:00-3:00 pm, Zoom

[Slides](#)

### Attending

Jean Bailey, Keith Baker, Jason Burkett, Stephen Day, Ywone Edwards-Ingram, Anika Hines, Ryan Jackson, Richard Joh, Adin Lears, Molly McFadden, Tracye Proffitt, Stacey Reynolds, Valerie Robbnolt (chair), Sarah Steele, Christy Tyndall, Anusha Vaddi

### Absent

Qasarah Bey Spencer, Frank Gulla, Dayanjan (Shanaka) Wijesinghe

### VCU Libraries Staff

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

## Business

### Review and Approval of Agenda (Valerie Robnolt)

The meeting opened at 2:01pm. The meeting agenda was approved as presented.

### Review and approval of minutes from September 19, 2024 (Valerie Robnolt)

The minutes from November were reviewed and approved as presented.

## Reports & Discussion

### Welcome

Robnolt welcomed Stephen Day as the new representative from the School of Business. Committee members introduced themselves. Robnolt inquired if we will continue to meet over Zoom, or if we can meet in person, or hybrid. Dean Irene Herold explained we used to meet in person, but due to COVID and the difficulty having members across both campuses, we've maintained the meeting over Zoom. We will send a poll to determine if members would like to meet in person, hybrid, or via zoom for the last meeting in April.

### Space and Facilities Update

#### Cabell Library (Laura Gariepy and Jimmy Ghaphery)

At the beginning of this discussion we experienced several connectivity issues. After a few minutes we were able to proceed. Laura Gariepy (Associate Dean for Research and Learning) provided a brief overview of space and facilities updates at Cabell Library. The JBC lecture hall construction was completed in 2015, since that time there have been a number of improvements. The AV was upgraded in 2023, in the summer of 2024 there was an acoustical accessibility upgrade, and the video wall will be replaced in 2025.

Gariepy shared that some JBC damaged chairs will be reupholstered during spring break. She also provided an update on the JBC sensory room (2nd floor, Room 235B). VCUL has partnered with Student Accessibility and Educational Opportunity on this initiative, and sought input from the Occupational Therapy department and VLAC representative Stacey Reynolds. The room is intended to be a space that affords low stimulation or high stimulation environments in order to support neurodivergent students or others who may have a particular need for such a space. More student input will be solicited this spring, and we hope to open the sensory room by fall 2025.

**Q:** Anika Hines inquired if access will be limited to students with documented neurodivergence, and if students will use a sign-up similar to the other study rooms to reserve the sensory room.

**A:** Gariepy replied those who have a documented need, or Student Accessibility has determined could benefit, will have access. Students will be able to reserve the sensory room, similar to the study room system. However, there will be a separate calendar that is not widely available to all students. It is intended for those with additional needs. We will continue to work with Student Accessibility to make sure we have a generous stance for ad-hoc needs, and grant access when the room is available.

Jimmy Ghaphery (Associate Dean for Scholarly Communications and Publishing) provided an overview of the Cabell workshop ventilation project. Installation was completed on an industrial roof fan from the makerspace to the roof. The fumes from 3D printers and laser cutters feed directly into the fan to the roof. While Safety and Risk Management did not believe it was necessary for safety as the fumes were determined to be non-toxic, they agreed that it would be a great improvement to the Workshop. VCUL has also partnered with Dr. Hulshof from Biology to create a data visualization wall outside the Workshop. Programming is to be determined, but we're excited about the possibilities. Right now we're working with Facilities to determine if the wall outside the workshop can hold the screens without further reinforcement. We hope to have it online and installed by fall 2025. Lastly, Ghaphery gave an update on the Crestron Study Room Displays that have availability and scheduling indicators. We had 2 of these installed as tests in JBC in early 2024 and now have 23 in production (14 on JBC 2nd floor and 9 on HSL 2nd floor). The next phase will be expanding the Crestron study room displays to the first floor in JBC, hopefully by summer 2025.

### **Special Collections & Archives Expansion on Cabell 4th Floor**

Herold shared a floorplan of the current configuration of the 4th floor of Cabell. She explained that we are out of space and need to combine and consolidate Special Collections and Archives at Cabell and HSL. Herold then shared a proposed space plan for the new configuration of the 4th floor. This plan would add an additional 17,200 square feet of storage space, and offices for Special Collections and Archives staff that will be brought over from HSL. Lastly, this plan would account for a dedicated book arts lab. VCU Libraries is in the top four book artist collections in the U.S, with over 4,000 items. [Tate Bernard, the inaugural Book Artist in Residence](#) recently had her work exhibited at The Anderson. February 1-7 Bernard, accompanied by Carle-Mae Crookendale (Arts Research Librarian) will present her work at VCUarts in Doha, Qatar.

**Q:** Molly McFadden inquired if the artist residency in book arts will be annual?

**A:** Herold responded that the donor is very generous and excited about the work from this year. We are hoping to sponsor another student. The call will go out soon and we will share the announcement.

Herold emphasized the scale of the project. The current cost estimate is 9.2 million dollars. We have raised some funds, but will need to campaign and seek other university support to raise the remaining amount.

#### **Offsite Storage** (Teresa Knott)

Teresa Knott (Associate Dean of Libraries and Director of the Health Sciences Library) shared that Trent Corporation was selected as the Library of Virginia State Records Center (SRC) expansion contractor. The project was approved for construction and it is expected to take at least 18 months to complete. We believe a better estimate is 24 months. Once completed, the offsite storage will hold a maximum of 2 million volumes. We expect to move 1 million volumes, with room to expand to 1.5 million.

#### **Resource Sharing Migration** (Jimmy Ghaphery)

Ghaphery announced that over the spring the Libraries will be migrating our resource sharing platform from ILLiad to [Rapido](#). It's a module in our existing system and will be more efficient for staff and more user-friendly.

**Q:** Stacey Reynolds asked if there will be any changes in what can be accessed.

**A:** Ghaphery replied in the negative, and added users may see additional benefits. For example the new system for article delivery has interesting features that promises how quickly articles will be delivered.

**Q:** In the chat, Ryan Jackson sought clarification. The materials will still be available to request from other university libraries, it's the system that is changing.

**A:** Knott confirmed that the system is changing, access is not.

#### **Spring 2025 VIVA Open and Affordable Course Content Updates** (Jimmy Ghaphery)

Ghaphery emphasized [Open Course Grants](#) applications are due March 5, 2025. He reminded committee members that we have a competitive history in VIVA grant applications. He announced the [Faculty Textbook Portal](#) will be retired July 31, 2025. EBSCO will no longer be supporting the platform.

[Abbey Childs](#), VCU Libraries OER Librarian, stands ready to help faculty with these updates as well as any questions about open and affordable course content (childsam@vcu.edu).

**Q:** Robnolt asked if e-books purchased through the portal will be affected

**A:** Ghaphery explained that anything VIVA has purchased on VCU's behalf will be available in perpetuity. The retirement of the portal impacts the ability for faculty to request new books through VIVA. If faculty have already requested e-books, they will not be impacted.

### Summary of recent AI activities at VCU Libraries (Laura Gariepy)

Gariepy explained that the Libraries developed VCU's first [GenAI primer](#) in 2023. Oscar Keyes (Multimedia Teaching and Learning Librarian) and Hope Kelly (Online Learning Librarian) are recognized as GenAI leaders on campus and nationally. They have been instrumental in organizing panels and workshops across campus. We are working with library users (faculty and students) regarding education around generative AI, and have been engaged in conversations with faculty in all schools and departments to understand their experiences. We are excited to work together and integrate our expertise in information management.

### Q&A

Herold opened the meeting to Q&A. Robnolt asked if there were seats available for the Black History Month lecture on February 4. Herold confirmed, but requested folks [RSVP](#) online to ensure we've put out enough chairs. Cookies and cider will be available after the lecture. The conversation turned to the 4th floor expansion at Cabell. Robnolt acknowledged there are a lot of moving pieces with this project and Herold agreed. Robnolt then asked about the status of the Health Sciences Library and Herold explained that VCU Health Sciences wants the Health Sciences Library location for other projects. We have been given two, maybe three years to vacate the location. Herold emphasized the vital role VLAC members have in advocating for HSL presence on the MCV campus.

Stacey Reynolds questioned how VLAC members can advocate for the library, and asked if they should reach out to their deans or Dr. Levy. Herold acknowledged that sharing the need for the library is essential. Robnolt wanted to know more about the metrics at HSL. Knott reported that HSL is used predominantly as a collaborative space for students. But it's also used for instruction, consultation, clinical, and research collaboration. Irene added that the library supports clinical practice partners, folks doing rotations, and folks doing research on the evenings and weekends. Reynolds questioned if we would lose librarians. Knott replied that is unlikely. Herold informed members that she meets regularly with the deans, and requested they continue to advocate for a presence on the MCV campus. Robnolt acknowledged that faculty and student voices are important. Herold and Gariepy will be meeting with the SGA (Student Government Association) in February. Ryan Jackson observed that the group might be interested in learning more about the sensory room, changes to the interlibrary loan system, and collections.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm**

### Upcoming Events

- [Black History Month Lecture](#), February 4, 2025, 7 pm, JBC 303
- **Artistic Mansions** (Brownell Architecture Lecture), April 5, 2025, 2-3:30 pm, JBC 303
- **Creative Inquiries**, Ann Reardon, food scientist, dietitian, author, and YouTube content creator, March 24, 6-7:15 pm, online only as the speaker is in Australia
- 2025 **Social Justice Lecture**, October 15, 2025, Bryant Terry, 7 pm, JBC 303
- 2026 **Black History Month Lecture**, February 5, 2025, Elizabeth Way, 7 pm, JBC 303

## **Information Links**

[VLAC Charge](#) | [VCUL Mission Statement and Strategic Framework](#) | [Generative AI](#)

**Future VLAC Meeting:** April 24, 2025 2:00 - 3:00 pm