

University Library Committee (ULC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 16, 2017; 12:00-1:15 pm
427 Newman: Research & Informatics Conference Room

Present: Jactone Ogejo (chair, College of Agriculture); Virginia (Ginny) Pannabecker (Commission on Research); Anthony Carno (Graduate Student Assembly); Godmar Back (Faculty Senate); Bradley Klein (Veterinary Medicine); Edward Becker (Architecture and Urban Studies); Michael Kucsack VT libraries representing Dr. Walters); Heidi Mesmer (College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Education); Vincent Magnini (Business).

Welcome and introductions

Committee chair called meeting to order at 12:05 pm and welcomed all to the 2017/2018 ULC. Those present at the meeting introduced themselves.

General notes

The committee chair reiterated the charge of the ULC and reported on the potential issues of interest from the commissions ULC reports. Only the Commission of Graduate Studies and Policies had specific request to the ULC as stated below.

- Commission of Graduate Studies and Policies (CGS&P) would like input from the ULC on the following: (1) how to implement use of Ithenticate software (which they would like the university to purchase) for faculty and students to prevent submission and publication of plagiarized material – dissertations and theses are an area of particular focus, (2) issues around development of student electronic portfolios, and (3) how the library would be impacted by the anticipated university's growth by 2024 with respect to research funding and graduate students.

State of the library presentation

Mike Kucsak made a presentation on behalf of the University Libraries. The presentation focused on what the library does, locations, and spaces in the library.

- Provide access to books /journals /databases. Millions of titles on site; will get whatever clientele needs if unavailable on site. A new discovery system, EBSCO, is under consideration and was selected based on a combination of cost and usability factors. Committee raised the question/concern that EBSCO tend to push the content they provide to the top during the discovery process. Based on the university libraries choice criteria for a discovery system, they determined that EBSCO provided better relevant results and metadata compared to other systems. The libraries will work with faculty and other clients to talk about the change and make the system work as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- Locations: University library locations include: Newman, Art and Architecture, Art and Architecture, Veterinary Medicine Library, Virginia Tech Carillion School of Medicine Library in Roanoke (connected as a partner, but not part of VT Libraries at present), Northern Virginia Resource Center in Falls Church, and the Library Service Center.
- Spaces & Studios: Include the CommLab; Writing Center; Athenaeum - Digital Humanities Hub; Studios (3D Design, Fusion, Virtual Environments, Data Visualization, Data Transformation, Learning Design, Digital media – coming soon); Study Spaces (open group, quiet study desks, and group study rooms); Grad Study Lounge; Learning Commons (spaces for collaborative

work), Multimedia Collaboration Stations; Multipurpose room (flexible space to accommodate wide range of activities); Classrooms (flexible design lecture or group based activities). A question was asked about the developments regarding improving study spaces for graduate students (a topic of interest last year) – it was noted that the library generally avoids construction during the semesters so some projects are on hold until the summer. Also, the library is currently challenged by decreased ability for new construction - need to review infrastructure improvement process. Examples of infrastructure improvement challenges include stairs and egress.

- Digital Libraries and Repositories: VTechWorks (publicizes and preserves the scholarly work of Virginia Tech faculty, students, and staff: journal articles, books, theses, dissertations, conference papers, slide presentations, technical reports, working papers, administrative documents, videos, images, and more), VTechData (highlights, preserves, and provides access to research products (e.g. datasets) of the Virginia Tech community), Digital Libraries, Odyssey Special Collections online.
- Initiatives: New [VT Publishing](#) site; OER - Open Educational Resources - materials, textbooks, faculty OER grants, Data Management, Data Curation consultation, Data Forensics (getting old formats to new formats - floppy discs, etc.); Digital Literacy; Student Portfolios

General Discussion

- Library navigation: Improve signage for each floor. Signage should be strategically located near each entry stairway and elevator and should include a map of the floor indicating floor and “noise” levels (quiet, not quiet etc.), and spaces and materials on that floor. This level of information does not currently exist. Could also consider using an app with a link / barcode and message ‘check the app for up to date floor info’ etc.
- College of Architecture and Urban studies value their collection and spaces available at their branch. It was also noted that the new studio labs at Newman have been helpful to architecture students who continue to use them to complement what they have at the college library.

Adjourn at 1:15 pm