

# **VT 2014 Library Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 22, 2014**

**12PM, Multipurpose Room (Library, 1st floor)**

**Present:** Leon, Walters, Wang, Ogejo, Boes, Sorice, Back, Finn, Hall, Steen, , Thomas (**Excused:** Du, Bryon; **Absent:** )

1. Leon welcomed the committee members and asked them to introduce themselves.
2. Walters updated the committee on the ULC Letter to Commissions that was the main action item from the committee for the 2013-14 year (see attached). Walters reported that he had presented the letter to all three commissions and that it was well received. However, it was unclear what the commissions could do with the letter. **Action Item:** Leon will follow up to see what the Commissions can do to make sure items in the letter are addressed by upper administration.
3. The discussion on the Library Strategic Plan by Walters was tabled until the next meeting
4. Assoc. Dean Mathews provided information on library facilities at peer institutions and other Virginia universities. These comparisons are always difficult but they indicate that in comparison with peer institutions (GT, NCSU, Purdue, Cornell, etc.) VT has relatively little individual and group study space for students in the Library. The use of the Library continues to increase and change and VT needs to adapt; some temporary relief will come with the renovations in the first floor that are beginning. However, the main challenges remain:
  - a. the procurement of adequate off-campus storage space to move older serial collections and infrequently used materials so that some space can be freed for more social learning spaces. There is currently a 15,000 sq. ft. facility in the VT research park that has outlived its service life and a new 10,000 sq. ft. facility that is being reconditioned. However, the latter does not have the dense shelving capabilities of the older one.
  - b. the maintenance of the existing Library continues to be a problem that will likely worsen with time. The original building is about 50 years old and the addition is over 25 years old; neither has been the subject of a comprehensive upgrade; utilities and such are a maintenance nightmare.
  - c. VT needs to remain competitive with peer institutions insofar as student facilities are concerned. VT seems to have less study spaces than most peer campuses and the current Library facilities do not compare well with what prospective students will see in typical campus visits.
5. No new business was brought forth.

6. It was decided that future meetings will take place about monthly on Mondays at noon in the Library. The next meeting will take place on October 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

## **LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMMITTEE TO UNIVERSITY COMMISSIONS**

The University Library Committee (ULC) is charged with disseminating knowledge and making recommendations concerning policies, services, and development of the University's libraries. This letter outlines specific needs and ULC recommendations for enhancing the libraries' role in advancing the University strategic plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

Virginia Tech's strategic plan, *Envisioning Virginia Tech 2012-2018*, informs the University Libraries' strategies for supporting teaching, research, and service. The University Libraries' mission is to provide collections, expertise, services, and collaborative environments that act as catalysts for discovery, scholarship, engagement, and inspiration. As Virginia Tech continues to expand into technological and academic areas and to implement new campus planning and international initiatives, it is essential that the University Libraries provide leadership and integrate fully into the university framework as a key resource in these new environments.

### **GROWING USE AND COSTS OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

Virginia Tech faculty and students download 2.4 million scholarly articles and check out over 135,000 library materials every year. Recent, much needed, increments to its budget have enabled the University Libraries to avoid significant cuts to journal and database subscriptions and book buying, but no permanent adjustments have been made to account for the University Libraries' increasing collections cost. Journal subscription costs currently increase at a yearly rate of 5%. Despite the University Libraries' collection management efforts, continuing increments will be needed just to maintain existing collections. When new degrees are added to the curriculum or new research initiatives are launched, the library must support these efforts by expanding its collection. Thus a steady and continuing increment of the Libraries' budget is necessary to fulfill its current functions and to address areas of concern for faculty and students. Priority resource needs include:

- (1) Funding that is sufficient to maintain existing collections;
- (2) Linking newly approved research and teaching programs to recurring increases in collections funding;
- (3) Specific support for foreign language acquisitions to underpin the international scope of the strategic plan;
- (4) Additional, offsite storage space – both physical and virtual – for housing library collections; and
- (5) Improved services to increase integration and enhance access for off-campus users.

### **SUPPORT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE LIBRARY FACILITIES**

The University Libraries are a vibrant hub for learning and research. Visits to Newman Library have increased by 85% percent in the last five years. The SCALE UP classroom, Multipurpose room (multimedia presentation), Writing Center, Study Café, and other amenities draw over 1.2 million faculty and student visits each year. In the digital age, libraries are a collaborative space for students to create, study, and interact with peers. Faculty members and researchers need specialized spaces that support

research and teaching and build a sense of scholarly community. Increasing the Libraries' presence on campus is integral to the new vision for undergraduate education and stronger partnerships with faculty and graduate researchers. The ULC requests that campus planners incorporate new library spaces in all future designs. Additional library space(s) will:

- Provide services and tailored spaces for study, collaboration, experimentation, and innovation;
- Provide a digital sandbox for emerging technologies where the hands-on, minds-on philosophy can be exercised;
- Promote lifelong learning by offering inspirational and diverse environments; and
- Enable collaborative partnerships with faculty and students by providing library resources, spaces, and services in closer proximity to classrooms, offices, and laboratories.

The University Libraries strive to go beyond traditional roles for research and instruction. Their vision includes partnerships for advanced research, idea development, and student learning. The University Libraries' ability to fully participate in these areas is dependent on the University's support for library spaces and collections. Therefore, the University Library Committee seeks a commitment from the CGSP, CUSP, and COR to support increased funding for collections and library spaces.

Signed,

Members of the ULC