

MOBIUS 2007 Users Conference Planning Committee
Conference Call Meeting
October 26, 2006
DRAFT

Present:

John C. Baken (Bridges)
Cindy Bassett (Arthur)
Felicity Dykas, Committee Chair (MERLIN)
Elise Fisher (Wilo)
Gayla McHenry (Lance)
Cheryl Riley (Quest)
Katy Smith (Archway)

Absent:

Tony Garrett, Immediate Past Chair (SWAN)
Mark Wahrenbrock (MCO)

A conference call meeting was held using MeetingPlace Conference software. This worked well, though Elise was disconnected and missed part of the call.

1) Shall we have one-day or two-days of programs and meetings for the conference in 2007?

Current schedule (Option 1):

Tuesday: Reception
Wednesday: General session and concurrent programs
Thursday: Training sessions

Proposed schedule (Option 2):

Wednesday: Longer general session, concurrent programs, reception
Thursday: Concurrent programs, training sessions

Decision: Use Option 1 for 2007. Pursue implementation of Option 2 for 2008.

This was not an easy decision to make. Committee member opinions were mixed. In addition, several committee members surveyed their staff and these results also were mixed.

Considerations used in making the decision to retain one-day of programs for 2007:

Staffing: This is a conference that paraprofessional as well as professional employees attend. Gayla noted that Truman State University sends several employees every year. This leaves the library with minimal staffing. If the conference was extended to two days, the same number of people probably could not attend or they might have to choose to attend only one of the days.

Cost: If a library sent two different groups of people (one group each day) the travel cost for the library is doubled. If fewer rooms are available each night, more attendees (or their libraries) might have to pick up the additional cost.

General opening session: Those surveyed were not interested in a longer general session.

Training on the second day: 4:00 is too late a time to end for those who travel 4-5 hours to get home. MACRL training sessions have been longer than one-half day, and this isn't accommodated in the proposed schedule.

Planning and member input: We have a lot of ideas for what we could do with more time. We want to get further input from MOBIUS members. More planning time is needed to determine what interests our members; this will help ensure that the change is successful.

Changes to our current schedule:

As the current one-day of program schedule will not accommodate a longer opening session, we agreed to set aside three program slots for such programs as IUG reports and III updates.

Extending the length of the conference schedule in 2008:

There is much support and enthusiasm among committee members for extending the length of the conference after the 2007 conference. We would like to implement this in 2008. The committee will put the discussion of how to make this happen on an upcoming agenda. A member suggested that retaining the current members of the committee for another year will help as committee members will be able to focus on conference planning rather than learning the steps to conference planning.

The benefits the committee noted for a longer conference are:

We may be able to have longer time slot for concurrent programs. They are currently 45 minutes long. One-hour is more desirable.

We could develop the idea of offering a "membership meeting."

We could offer more programs.

2) Call for papers

We discussed whether we wanted to delay sending out the call for papers until after the November Executive Committee meeting. It is at that meeting that we expect a decision will be made to open the conference to non-MOBIUS members. We agreed to send out the call for papers before that meeting. Last year's committee proposed sending out the call earlier to give the committee more time to seek additional proposals to fill in gaps in topic coverage. In our second call we can widen the distribution list and open up the submission of proposals to non-MOBIUS members.

Gayla wrote a call for papers based on last year's. Felicity will send it out to the committee for review soon.

3) Keynote speaker

John and Felicity will be asking the committees for topic ideas for the keynote speaker. When a topic is narrowed down they will review possible speakers.

4) Conference theme

Discussing the idea of having a topic for our keynote speaker raised the question of a conference theme. Last year's committee chose a theme, but it wasn't used. There were mixed thoughts on whether a conference theme is useful. A member mentioned the use of it as a marketing tool. It also was noted that the theme can set the tone of the conference. There was concern that a theme might restrict the program proposals submitted. We agreed to consider a broad conference theme. John and Felicity will generate some ideas for a theme for the speaker that also can be used for the conference.

Submitted by:
Felicity Dykas