MOBIUS Governance Task Force Report

# Charge

The Governance Task Force will explore possible revisions to the bylaws, the governance structure of MOBIUS, and the advisory group structure.

# Members

Cynthia Dudenhoffer, Chair, Kathy Hart, Musa Olaka, Stephanie DeClue, Sharon McCaslin, Donna Bacon, Ex Officio

# Timeline

The task force was formed in summer 2014 and met twice by conference call. A report will be submitted for the February 2015 Board Meeting, and will be presented to the Membership at the March 2015 meeting.

# Recommendations

MOBIUS Governance

* Each MOBIUS member institution should be allowed to designate their representative to the Membership. This representative should be approved by the appropriate institutional administrator(s) and does not necessarily have to be the library director. Any designated representative to the membership from a MOBIUS member institution shall be able to serve on the Board of Directors.

Justification: Many institutions are governed by a nontraditional structure, which places the library under the management of an administrator who is not necessarily the Dean or Director, but who is responsible for the day to day management of the library. This will allow for greater flexibility and more accurate representation, as these designees would have full voting rights and may have more in-depth knowledge of the processes and procedures taking place in their library.

* If there are institutional types not represented in the elected make-up of the Board of Directors, the Board President may invite ex officio members to attend from the non-represented institution types.

Justification: Since Board members are elected through a competitive electoral system and the bylaws only prescribe members from academic, public, special, and school libraries, it may be the case that some types (4-year, 2-year, small public, etc.) might not be represented. So, this change would give the Board President the power to invite a non-voting “advisor” from a non-represented institution so the Board can hear from all member types.

Advisory Groups

* Dissolve the following MOBIUS Advisory Groups as they currently exist:
  + MOBIUS Collection Management Advisory Group (MCMAC)
  + MOBIUS Conference Planning Advisory Group (MACPAC)

Justification: These group rarely meet. It is difficult to recruit members and difficult to create agendas. MCMAC should be replaced by a committee or working groups more reflective of the work of the Cooperative Collections Management Taskforce and of the E-resources manager. Conference planning is now down by MOBIUS staff and the keynote speakers have been approved by the Board.

* Dissolve the MOBIUS Catalog Design Advisory Group and create a new Union Catalog or Cataloging Interest Group or Committee.

Justification: Catalog design is handled by the MOBIUS staff. MCDAC’s current membership is not concerned with the user perspective and works too slowly to be useful as an advisory group for the design of the catalog.

* Retain and Rename the MOBIUS Access Advisory Group (MAAC) the Circulation and Courier Committee.

Justification: This name would accurately reflect the work of the group. This advisory group is productive and valuable. Advice and consultation with members is very important for this area.

* Create an E-Resources Committee.

Justification: As MOBIUS builds its e-resource contracts and explores new projects, a standing committee could help focus the staff on what products and services are desirable for member libraries.

* Allow for the Board to create Working or Interest Groups as needed.

Justification: Working groups may only be needed for a short time, to solve a particular problem or work on a short-term project. Proposed Working Groups might include: Physical Storage WG, Digital Storage WG, Conference Door Prizes WG, etc. Working and Interest Groups would allow the Board and MOBIUS as a whole to be more nimble and to address the ever changing work and interests of the library profession.

* For the two standing groups, E-Resources and Circulation and Courier, return to the name “Committee”.

Justification: Under non-profit law in Missouri, a Committee must include Board representation. Creating committees would require that each has a least one Board member on its roster, serving as either a liaison or Ex Officio member. A board presence on these committees should keep the group directed and on-task, as well as providing a direct link to the work going on at the executive level.