MOBIUS Advisory Committees
Analysis and Recommendations for Restructuring

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Analysis of advisory committee membership: Currently, MOBIUS advisory committee membership is based on one representative and one alternate per cluster and the focus of the committees is primarily on the operation of the MOBIUS union catalog. There are ten clusters. Clusters vary widely in the number of libraries within a cluster and the size of libraries within a cluster. In addition, two academic libraries and two public libraries operate their own servers and are not members of a cluster but, in some cases, do have membership on advisory committees. The current advisory committee structure has resulted in some problems, including the following:

1. Large and rather unwieldy committees
2. Clusters with few libraries or clusters composed primarily of small libraries must draw on a very small pool of eligible committee members
3. Disproportionate committee membership for libraries which operate their own servers
4. Current categories of advisory committees are currently based primarily on participation in the MOBIUS union catalog which limits member input in other areas of consortium business
5. Current committee structure is not favorably disposed to broadening MOBIUS membership/services as recommended in the recently adopted MOBIUS Strategic Plan
6. Charges to advisory committees are not consistent and responsibilities of the advisory committees and between the advisory committees, the Executive Committee, and the MOBIUS Consortium Office are not always clear.

Goals of advisory committee restructure:

1. Create smaller committees with higher levels of expertise and more equitable representation
2. Create a larger pool of eligible members
3. Include broader participation based on possible future membership in MOBIUS
4. Create a structure that provides for advisory committees with responsibilities other than/in addition to participation in the MOBIUS union catalog
5. Create a structure that more effectively defines the advisory role of committees but provides flexibility for quicker response and greater effectiveness
6. Create charges for advisory committees that are more precise and consistent in format.

Recommendation 1. Change membership structure of MOBIUS advisory committees based on **type of library** and **size** to meet the following goals: a) smaller committees with higher levels of expertise and more equitable representation; b) larger pool of eligible members; c) broader participation based on possible future participation in MOBIUS.

Proposed MOBIUS Advisory Committee Structure

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	POSSIBLE NO. MISSOURI LIBRARIES	MEMBERS
Academic Library, Large (student FTE>7,500)	11	1 member, 1 alternate
Academic Library, Medium (student FTE 2,500 but <7,500)	12	1 member, 1 alternate
Academic Library, Small (student FTE <2,500)	37	1 member, 1 alternate
Public Library, Large (population served>50,000)	17	1 member, 1 alternate
Public Library, Medium (population served 20,000 but <50,000)	25	1 member, 1 alternate
Public Library, Small (population served <20,000)	110	1 member, 1 alternate
Special Library	136	1 member, 1 alternate

NOTES:

- While the membership of academic libraries in MOBIUS closely matches the figures for the academic library categories in the second column labeled "Possible No. Missouri Libraries" in the table above, the figures for public and special libraries represent ALL POSSIBLE public and special library members. Currently MOBIUS has only two public libraries as cooperating partners, both of which would fall into the LARGE public library category. It is unlikely that all possible public and special libraries would become members of MOBIUS. However, should we be pleasantly surprised at the membership levels in these categories, the table above could certainly be adjusted as deemed necessary to provide adequate representation on advisory committees in these categories.
- I tried several different size groupings but the combinations selected in the table above seem to provide the most equitable divisions based on the assumption that larger libraries have more resources and broader levels of staff expertise than smaller libraries. Therefore, fewer large libraries will provide a similar level of desired membership characteristics as will a greater number of small libraries; the special libraries tend to be small.
- Some committee membership categories would remain vacant until eligible members join the consortium; one library may have two members on a committee if it is the only library in a category.
- Maximum possible committee size is 7 members with 7 alternates.
- The structure is sufficiently flexible to add a category in the future, such as school libraries based on student enrollment.
- A list of the libraries in each category of the above table follows at the end of this document in Appendix A.
- Population served (student FTE in the case of academic libraries) seems to be a more easily acquired and equitable variable than library collection size.

Recommendation 2. Change the categories/kinds of advisory committees as indicated below in order to meet the following goals: a) include broader participation based on possible future membership in MOBIUS; b) create a structure that provides for advisory committees with responsibilities other than/in addition to participation in the MOBIUS union catalog.

Current advisory committees:

Access (MAAC)
Conference Planning (MACPAC)
Coordinators (MCAG)
Catalog Design (MCDAC)
Collection Management (MCMAC)
Electronic Resources (MERAC)

Recommended advisory committees (with possible areas of responsibility):

Collection Management Advisory Committee

- Consortial licensing (electronic databases; eBooks, etc.)
- Document delivery (services, pricing, etc.)
- Preservation digitization
- Copyright
- RSS Feeds
- Web 2.0 tools

Conference Planning Advisory Committee –

- Recommend theme
- Recommend possible keynote speakers
- Solicit and recommend proposals for presentations and forums
- Solicit and recommend presenters for Share Fair

Union Catalog (MOBIUS) Advisory Committee **(membership limited to participants of the MOBIUS union catalog)**

- Circulation policies and procedures (system-wide loan rules, loan periods, fines, etc.)
- Union catalog design
- Cluster catalog/union catalog issues
- Union catalog standards
- Union catalog enhancements

Membership Services Advisory Committee

- Membership policies and procedures
- Courier Service
- Continuing Library Education/Workshops/Training
- Institutional/Legislative Advocacy
- Information literacy/competitive intelligence
- Social networking interfaces

NOTES:

- Additional responsibilities may be assigned to the advisory committees above to fill them out more completely
- Additional advisory committees may be required as the redevelopment of MOBIUS proceeds - either as a merger with MLNC or through singular implementation of the MOBIUS Strategic Plan
- Overlap between advisory committees could be handled by forming a joint task force when necessary.

Recommendation 3. Adopt *MOBIUS Advisory Committee Policy* included in this document as Appendix B.

Recommendation 4: Prepare detailed committee charges based on the template in Appendix C of this document.

Recommendation 5: Implement this proposal in Spring 2009 by requesting that interested people submit their names for selection based on the *MOBIUS Advisory Committee Policy* with voting members serving only one year to create an ongoing staggered schedule.