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. Any changes approved by the Membership will go into effect beginning in July 2015.

Recommendations

MOBIUS Governance

- Each MOBIUS member institution should be allowed to designate its 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 or geographic regions 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. While all institution types and geographic regions cannot be guaranteed representation on the Board, this will give the Board the freedom to ensure that MOBIUS does not create the perception (or the reality) that it ignores institution types or large areas, particularly as we become more regional in scope. 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 and geographic areas.

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 groups 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 done by MOBIUS staff and the keynote speakers are approved by the Board.

- Dissolve the MOBIUS Catalog Design Advisory Group (MCDAC). Create the User Discovery and Metadata Committee.
  Justification: This name would accurately reflect the work of the group. The Board will be able to seek out and appoint committee members with the appropriate expertise and user-centered focus to ensure that the MOBIUS database is responsive to user needs while maintaining nationally accepted standards.

- Dissolve the MOBIUS Access Advisory Group (MAAC). Create 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 three recommended groups, User Discovery & Metadata, E-Resources, and Circulation and Courier, return to the name "Committee". Committee members will be appointed by the Board and serve two year terms, beginning July 1.
  Justification: Under non-profit law in Missouri, a Committee serves "at the pleasure of the Board," and 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. The committees would not require representation from every cluster, which, as it stands now, often means some representatives from stand alone and small clusters perpetually serve. The new model would draw on expertise and interest, without the necessity of every cluster being represented.