

OCLC Global Council Action Plan 2015 – 2017: Building Our Future

The Global and Regional Councils play an important role in the representation of members within the governance structure of OCLC. Key to their role is representing the interests and concerns of the OCLC Membership and providing feedback to OCLC's Board of Trustees (BOT) and Management on OCLC's strategic directions and planning.¹ By electing member delegates to the Councils, OCLC members have a collective voice in the governance of OCLC. While members interact directly with OCLC regarding their services and participation in User and Advisory groups. The Councils are elected to represent member interests at a broad and strategic level.

This year, we want to review the organization and effectiveness of Global Council and the Regional Councils to further strengthen their roles in the governance structure of OCLC so that they may better serve the members in the way described above. There are a few reasons to do this now:

- The cooperative has changed and grown: membership has grown due to the new definition of membership;
- New leadership of OCLC and strategy call for new ways for the councils to be most effective, and;
- The governance structure has been in place for 5 years now, a period long enough to fruitfully review experiences and renew the focus.

The primary goal of the review is to enhance the effectiveness of the Councils. Questions to address include:

1. What should the focus of the Councils' activities be;
2. What unique roles do the Councils play within the larger framework of governance (including the Board of Trustees) and what feedback should they provide.
3. What is the best composition of the Councils in order to achieve the set goals?

Action Plan for 2015-2017

In recent months some issues regarding strengthening the effectiveness of the Councils have already surfaced in discussions in the Executive Committees. Last year, the Regional Councils tried to align discussions in their regional meetings around discussions of the Timely Topics. Through the Timely Topics discussions, we tried to better connect the outcomes of the meetings with OCLC's activities and teams. However, this was not easy, because of the diverse ways the councils work and the diversity in regional needs and priorities. Still, at the same time, the need to align activities of the councils in order to be more effective is felt.

In addition, planning further ahead with regard to meetings was also raised as a way for the Councils to work more effectively and efficiently. And last, but certainly not least, the fact the

¹ OCLC Global Council Bylaws, Article III, page 2
(<http://www.oclc.org/content/dam/oclc/councils/global/global-council-bylaws.pdf>)

members there will be 24 open seats on the Councils during the upcoming elections (November 2015), provides an excellent chance to look at the composition of councils in terms of level of leadership, diversity, and transitioning to the next generation of library leaders.

This last item shows that we cannot use a whole year just reviewing, we need to 'act now' in order to create change. As this agenda is substantial, the execution will require 2 years, 2015/16 and 2016/17. This will lead to the following action items for Global Council:

Action Item 1: Complete a review process to be led by the Global Council Executive Committee and OCLC Executive Director for Member Relations.

Action Item 2: The Global Council Executive Committee will initiate discussions with Regional Councils to discuss alignment and coherence of Regional Plans, and Council meeting agendas, topics, and themes as appropriate by region.

Action Item 3: The Global Council Executive Committee will work with the Regional and Global Council nominating committees to inform and advise them on the upcoming elections to maximize the opportunity of filling 24 vacancies on the Councils.

Action Item 4: Prepare the agenda for the two Global Council Meetings as early as possible. The Global Council President, Vice President and Past President together with the OCLC Member Relations team will submit an agenda proposal to the Executive Committee at the August meeting.

Action Item 5: OCLC will work with the Finance Committee on a multi-year budget for all councils in order to be able to plan further ahead and work more efficiently. This budget will be discussed in the Global Council Executive Committee.

The result of these actions will be:

- A strong, effective and efficient role that aligns the councils within OCLC's governance structure and strategy.
- A distinctive purpose that reflects and articulates members' interests and concerns.
- Council activities will show a visible impact on OCLC's activities and the way the membership perceives the cooperative.
- Engagement with the larger membership to provide input through the Regional Councils. [It would be best if we get an assignment from BOT].
- The Executive Committee plays an important role to lead the engagement of all Global Council delegates, including focused, results oriented discussions at Global Council meetings.