

Date: December 1, 2008
To: CARLI Board of Directors
From: Scott Drone-Silvers, Kathryn Harris, Allen Lanham, Ellen Sutton, Tom Dorst
Re: Recommendations on Membership Fees and Categories

The committee appointed by the Board of Directors on September 19th to consider the current membership category structure of the organizations and, met on November 12, 2008. After a review of the background for establishing the current three tier membership structure and an examination of the current distribution of members, the committee makes the following recommendations.

The current membership structure with Governing, Associate and Basic categories should be retained.

The committee felt that we did not yet have enough information to recommend a realignment of the categories. The Basic members comprise institutions that have modest needs for services or are in the process of developing their program. Providing a low cost means of participation is appropriate. The Associate member category is somewhat problematic, due mainly to too little separation in membership fees between Associate members and the minimum fee for Governing members and because there is no currently a substantial difference in the programs and services available to the different categories. However, there has been a consistent trend for Associate members to upgrade to Governing status, so the committee felt that retaining this transitional status for appropriate for the immediate future.

It should be clearly communicated to Associate members that as funding patterns evolve in strained economic times, they may incur fees for programs and services in order to cover the incremental costs of providing them. Such fees may be applied to both current and new services and programs.

Currently neither Governing nor Associate members pay service fees for a range of subsidized services, including full text electronic resources, database brokering, ILDS, etc. The CARLI staff will recommend to the Board which services and programs require additional fees and in what amount.

It should be clearly communicated to Basic and Associate members that they may not be eligible to receive particular services or participate in specified programs because their membership fees are not sufficient to defray the costs of providing the service or program.

The model for differential access to services and programs is I-Share, for which only Governing members are eligible to participate. The CARLI staff will recommend to the Board which services and programs should have limited access.

The minimum membership fee for Governing members should be raised by \$125 per year in FY 2010 and FY 2011 to a total of \$1,000.

Raising the minimum Governing member fee to \$1,000 will create the necessary separation from the Associate member category and will lessen the disparity between the minimum and maximum fees in the Governing category. NOTE: Any Governing member with a fee greater than the current minimum (\$750) but less than \$1,000 will have its fee raised to \$1,000 in FY 2011.

The membership structure and fees should be reviewed for FY 2012.