



Special Board Meeting Minutes

MOBIUS

1/23/2026 10:00 AM CST

@

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89720658098?pwd=1A8JGC4cpy1oDz2rrA4n6c0pj53Qgy.1>

Attendance

Present:

Members: Donna Bacon, Brandy Brady, Maegan Bragg, Sarah Brown, Janet Caruthers, Kim Kietzman, Jill Mahoney, David Morris, Maud Mundava, Jennifer Nutefall, Samantha Perkins, Keli Rylance, Sarah Smith, Kara Whatley

I. Call to Order and Introduction

David Morris called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Keli Rylance introduced herself. She is replacing Emily Jaycox on the board as the special libraries representative. Keli is the Head Librarian at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Sarah Smith moved to adopt the agenda. Brandy Brady seconded.

III. Old Business

A. Reviewing the MOBIUS-EBSCO Discussion

Sarah Smith and Sarah Brown had notes from the Discussion they shared with the board. Sarah Smith brought up a comment made by a member at the end of the meeting where they said they were angrier than before the discussion. Sarah Brown shared she felt the first hour went well and we were getting good information, but in the last 20 minutes the member frustration began to become more apparent. Janet Caruthers shared the State Library felt like they were hearing the same things we have heard before. David shared a testimonial he received about the EBSCO discussion. The member said the following: they appreciated EBSCO's willingness to meet with us, but that the meeting was disappointing. The member does not believe EBSCO can deliver the product we need. If EBSCO has met their contractual obligations, this reflects a poorly structured contract, which is concerning. The member appreciates the work of the Board and MOBIUS, but does not believe MOBIUS will be able to compel EBSCO to give us the product we need. They do not believe our contract with MOBIUS should be renewed or extended past 2027, and we should go through an RFP process while renegotiating with EBSCO.

David says he is not as pessimistic as this member, but understands why they feel that way. If Sunflower is not successful, the Board will need to make some decisions fast about what we can do. There are two metrics the board should be following--help desk tickets and Circulation. From early October until January there hasn't been a significant reduction in help desk tickets. OpenRS tickets specifically were at 168, which is the highest we've had and has been increasing. David also looked at Circulation from the 4th quarter of 2025, 2024 and 2023. Across the consortium in the 4th quarter of 2025, the total for borrowing and lending was 20,562. 2024 was 23,510. 2023 was 125,266. This reflects an 83.6% decline from 2023 to 2025. David doesn't believe we will ever get back to the numbers pre-migration, but we should start to see an increase. Kara Whatley mentions MU Libraries has been keeping in mind their spending on other resource sharing platforms. Their OCLC bills have been increasing

significantly because patrons have been redirected there. Donna mentions that a lot of the OpenRS tickets are clustering tickets that have just been sitting there waiting for the new clustering algorithm to be implemented, which is why the numbers aren't changing. Sarah Smith says we should be discussing what our options are if Sunflower is not as successful as we need it to be. We've lost a lot of members and our members may not have fully understood what it takes to adopt an open source product. She does not believe this consortium can handle the level of participation that goes into assisting with the development. Donna stated we don't have money in contingency to do another migration. When we did our first RFP, Alma and FOLIO were the only options with resource sharing. Alma (Rapido) was very expensive, \$200,000 more than Folio. Sarah Brown says during our RFP process, we focused a lot on coming up with an option that the membership could afford. She believed we would be getting a lot more support from EBSCO because they are the "middle man" between MOBIUS and FOLIO. Donna mentions it will also be hard to recruit new members if we are going through an RFP process. Kara says when talking to prospective members we have to be open and transparent that we are working through challenges. She says the resource sharing staff at MU feel that the improvements in Sunflower will solve a lot of our issues. When talking to current members, we need to let them know they are heard and what our options are. Janet Caruthers asked if we could look at the contract and what the promised deliverables were. Once we have a compiled set of notes from the meeting, David will share with Gar Sydnor and then can share with the membership.

B. SLU and WashU

David says in his conversations with academic library directors, they express their support for some sort of deal with SLU and WASHU that gives continued access to their collections, whether through a new membership model or ancillary services. If SLU and WASHU are out of MOBIUS, the only institution remaining with a 4-5 level research collection is MU. David has not received any terms back from WashU about their continued participation in MOBIUS. SLU's terms are attached. David says the question for the board is whether we can enter into contractual services with non-member libraries. He said we already do, and it is up to the board to determine when it is appropriate to enter those agreements, and then explain to membership why we have made certain decisions. Sarah Smith motioned to accept the contract with SLU. Kara Whatley seconded. The motion passed. When David hears back from Mimi at WashU he will bring it back to the board.

 [SLU Terms.docx](#)

 [SLU and WashU MOBIUS Stats.docx](#)

C. Committee Chairs Meeting

February 2nd looks like the best date to have all the committee chairs meet.

D. Mizzou and NSF Grant

Kara says she is interested in is the CC*(Campus Cyberinfrastructure) program. NSF hasn't issued a new call this year and she is unsure if they will. Another potential solicitation could be explored, that Arkansas and K State may also be interested in. Kara will keep us posted on both solicitations.

IV. New Business

A. Rapido Discussion

Rapido will likely be cost prohibitive, but as a Board we would like to be transparent with the membership about looking at other resource sharing options. Kara Whatley moved to get a

quote for Rapido for the consortium. Brandy Brady seconded. The motion passed. When we have the quote, we can share with the membership and let them know the cost of switching from Open RS.

B. Three Rivers College and Print Collection

Three Rivers College contacted MOBIUS. Three Rivers hasn't had a director for many years, and has been instructed to withdraw their entire print collection and to go completely digital. They have already boxed up most of the collection and needed guidance from the Help Desk on how to remove their materials from FOLIO. They want to remain on FOLIO and use MOBIUS for print borrowing. This violates bylaws because the bylaws require members to have a collection to lend. Donna will try to contact someone at Three Rivers to discuss this. Sarah Smith asks if they have a voting member to represent them in MOBIUS. Donna says no, they say they don't have the staff. Sarah Smith asks if we could have some sort of alternative contract with them. Kara suggests charging them an additional fee for not having a collection. David suggests talking with them about retaining some kind of physical collection. Donna will reach out to their staff and try to figure out who she needs to talk to.

C. MOBIUS and the Demographic Cliff (David)

David is putting together a memo of how the demographic cliff should inform strategic planning, recruitment, and assessment models. He has gone through IPEDS and found that 2 of our highest paying members have had steep enrollment declines.

 [MOBIUS and the Demographic Cliff.docx](#)

D. Institutions to Recruit and How?

MCO can work with Renee Blumett to get a meeting with the Dean at Missouri State U library. Keli Rylance mentions other art libraries and museums have inquired about partnerships.

V. Executive Director's Report

No report.

VI. State Librarian's Report

No report.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Kara Whatley motioned to adjourn. Sarah Smith seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.