MOBIUS Board Meeting Minutes

MOBIUS
8/8/2025 10:00 AMCDT
@ Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86412669938?pwd=gSJ1J5fWaRFVOVLiebaE8iKTR62tDb.1

Attendance

Present:
Members: Donna Bacon, Brandy Brady, Sarah Brown, Janet Caruthers, Maegan Gattorna, Emily Jaycox, Kim Kietzman, Jill Mahoney, David Morris, Maud Mundava, Jennifer Nutefall, Samantha Perkins, Sarah Smith

Absent:
Members: Bella Gerlich

I. Call to Order and Introductions

David Morris called meeting to order at 10:00 am. New members introduced themselves: Maud Mundava and Brandy Brady.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Sarah Brown notioned to adopt agenda. Sarah Smith seconded. The agenda was adopted.

MOBIUS Board Agenda, 8-8-25.docx

III. Approval of the June 4 Meeting

Sarah Smith and Donna Bacon had additions and changes for the minutes. After the changes and additions were discussed, Emily Jaycox motioned to approve and Brandy Brady seconded. The minutes were approved.

June 4th Board Meeting Minutes Draft.docx

IV. Treasurer's Report

Total assets as of May 31st, 2025 are $3,449,203.15, which is $44,000 less than last year at the same time. In fiscal year 2025, the board approved $207,000 from the contingency fund to cover three EBSCO hosting amounts. As of May 31st, 2025, the contingency fund has $761,048.11. The total market value of MOBIUS investments as of July 31st, 2025 is $1,573,589.55.

May 2025 Financial Statements.pdf

V. Committee Reports

VI. Bylaws (Bella)

Bella Gerlich was unable to attend the meeting. Kim Kietzman brought up that the outgoing President is supposed to Chair the Bylaws committee. Kim Kietzman will communicate with Bella Gerlich about this.

VII. Circulation and Courier (Jennifer)

The committee met July 24th and the meeting was mostly organizational. OpenRS issues were discussed. There was also discussion about the relationship between this committee and the Enhancements committee. The courier is up for renewal this year, and that may be discussed in this committee at a later date.

VIII. Digitization (Emily)

The committee met the week of August 4-8th. Davina Harrison is the new chair and Christina Virden is the MOBIUS liaison. The committee is made up of both Hyku and non-Hyku users. The committee discussed topics to explore in the coming year that would be of general interest to libraries doing digitization, whether on Hyku or not, such as rights statements. Hyku users discussed their belief that Hyku would be ready to seamlessly contribute metadata to DPLA, but Notch8 says there is some mapping that will have to be done, and will probably take place in mid-September.

IX. E-Resources (Maud)

Have not met yet--still getting organized. A topic that will carry over from last year is accessibility.

X. Professional Development (Brandy)

The committee is trying to find a time that works for everyone to meet. First meeting will likely be in September.

XI. Cataloging (Jill)

The cataloging committee continues to meet twice a month. The new chair is Rachel Utrecht and the vice chair is Julianne Newberry. The committee completed a withdrawal guidelines document that will be posted to the Wiki soon. The committee is currently working on a guidance document for 856 fields and how they appear in the records, as well as guidelines for overlaying records and protected fields.

XII. FOLIO and OpenRS Enhancements (Samantha)

The committee meets twice a month and have developed subcommittees. Each subcommittee is looking at different sets of enhancement requests and will rank the requests by August 27th. The committee is working on a Google Form for enhancement requests--but may consider using Trello instead of or in conjunction with Google Forms. Discussed the feedback that they want to receive and how they receive feedback from members. They will provide MOBIUS membership with a quarterly report and also host open hours for anyone to ask questions about enhancements.

FOLIO and OpenRS Enhancements Committee Report August 2025.pdf

XIII. Old Business

XIV. OpenRS Updates (Donna/David)

Donna Bacon reports that our last few features are mostly on staging, improved reclustering is being processed on staging, and the DCB admin for libraries is at a demo stage. Staff requesting is being tested on staging, as well as Pick Up Anywhere. They are also working on improved messaging for holds so libraries can see in the ILS if there is an issue. Steve Strohl and Scott Peterson went to Altoona Public Library. They now have a login to the Polaris system there and learned how to troubleshoot tickets in OpenRS. They found a problem with materials types and are working with KI on that.

XV. EBSCO Invitation to October 17 Meeting (David)

David Morris will invite Gar and/or Harry to the October 17th Board meeting.

XVI. SEMO and WashU (Donna/David)

Donna Bacon and David Morris went to visit with SEMO and their new director, CIS admin and Access Services librarian. SEMO didn't report many problems, and seemed generally happy with how things were going. They do plan on staying with MOBIUS. They are migrating to Alma next June and a connector to KI is almost completed.
Davis Morris mentions the discussion from the June board meeting about WASHU and their future with MOBIUS. He went to meet with Mimi Calter at WASHU on July 2nd about the issues they are having with MOBIUS and what they need out of MOBIUS.

XVII. New Business

XVIII. President's Statement (David)

David Morris read a prepared statement to lay out what we will focus on for the year. Some highlights of the statement include:

- MOBIUS is a social good--shares burdens and expertise while reducing costs.
- Maximizes our collective voice at a difficult time for libraries of all kinds.
- MOBIUS reduced the costs of transactions from an average of $25 per item to $2 per item.

Also mentioned is that MOBIUS is in danger of losing the only private R1 member, as well as other larger libraries. MOBIUS must evolve or face diminished academic presence in the consortium. David mentioned three reasons for this issue:

1. decline in print circulation
2. disruption to resource sharing caused by the migration
3. upheaval to higher education

David has met with all of the Deans of the R1 libraries in MOBIUS and all board members and presented them with these proposals:

- Shared print--shared print repository system across MOBIUS
- Shared research and data infrastructure--open to all members, but tailored to the particular needs of research universities. The vision is tiered data services that R1's would pay into that would provide revenue for MOBIUS.
- Cross-consortium partnerships (with CARLI)-- pair with CARLI, the academic library consortium in Illinois that has 90 members.

XIX. Proposal of New Committees/Working Groups (David)

One of the concerns of the R1 library Deans was that they do not feel they have an adequate voice. David Morris would like to propose the possibility of adding to the composition of the Board, maybe having a designated R1 seat. Three new working groups are also proposed: Shared Print, Research & Data Infrastructure, and Governance. David wants the board to have a formal vote on these committees by the end of August and the groups to be formed and ready to go before our October 17th Board meeting. Maud Mundava asked about the working groups, how they would be formed and who would decide the members. David says we will do that as a Board, although the Deans at the R1s have people they would like to nominate for them.

XX. Vice President (David)

David Morris announces that Samantha Perkins will be the Vice President of the Board. David asks for a motion to appoint Samantha to Vice President. Sarah Smith moves, and there was a second but it was not possible to tell from the recording of the meeting who seconded. All members approved and Samantha Perkins will be Vice President of the Board.

XXI. MOBIUS Contract Updates (Donna)

Donna Bacon reports contracts were sent out after the annual conference and as of August 8th, she has received 23 signed contracts. 2-3 contracts are with the attorney because of redline versions from the administration of the institutions, and she has also recently received 4-5 more redlined versions of institutions wanting changes.
One issue institutions are bringing up is the need to give one year's notice to leave MOBIUS. Donna tells them it is in the Bylaws and was approved by membership. Another issue brought up is the concern about an increase in assessment fees not being known until October when MOBIUS does the budget, but notice to leave must be given by July 1. This doesn't give libraries time to see if there will be a big increase that is beyond their ability to pay. Some ideas Donna discussed with Sarah Brown were:

- doing the budget earlier in the year (April), but that did not seem realistic
- Sarah Brown had the idea of when the budget is sent out in October, if we have something in our agreements that states if your assessment goes up over 2-3% (or whatever agreed upon number), than the library would have a specific time period to give notice.

Samantha Perkins says we need to determine the threshold. She proposes 5% because most libraries prepare for a 5% increase in most annual subscriptions.
Jennifer Nutefall asks if this will cause conflict being doing this and what the bylaws say about giving a year's notice. She also thinks we need to look at how the assessments are figured. Sarah Brown says the finance committee will be looking at the assessment this year. Sarah Brown asks if we could make an amendment to the bylaws and Donna Bacon says to change the bylaws, it has to be voted on by the membership. We can do a mail-in ballot through the courier.
Donna said we should exclude the courier because it goes up 2.5% every year and that is not related to what MOBIUS charges.
Sarah Smith says 3% sounds good, but also worries it may be too low. She also says we need to have more discussions as a Board before proposing this to the membership.
Donna Bacon expresses worry about tying it to a specific number like 3%, because they will be trapped by that number and never be able to raise it more that, even if under circumstances like libraries closing or leaving.
Sarah Brown offers to start a shared document with justifications for this change and how to propose it to the membership.

XXII. ROI Reports (Donna)

Donna Bacon provided an example of a ROI report that was done for SEMO. It is in infographic form, and Donna is happy with some aspects of the report. She believes different types of libraries will need different things in their report. She received information from EBSCO detailing how much each library would have to pay for FOLIO, Panorama, and EDS on their own. Donna mentions some libraries may pay more in their assessment than they would for the products through EBSCO. However, libraries also receive management of their ILS, database discounts, and training through MOBIUS. Donna would like ideas on what should be included in the reports and would like one or two board members to work with her.

Southeast Missouri State University 06-25-1.pdf

XXIII. MOBIUS Policy on Standing Committees and Working Groups (Donna)

The policy needed to be updated with new committees being formed. Donna Bacon revised the document and added the Enhancements committee. She also added the responsibilities for the committees detailed in the strategic plan. Samantha Perkins motioned to accept the revised policy and Sarah Brown seconded. The motion passed.

committee policy rev approved-8-08-2025-draft.docx

XXIV. ILS Marketplace Report (Donna)

Donna Bacon has to prepare this report for SOC 2 Type 2 compliance. It is a written summary of Marshall Breeding's annual marketplace report. This report is published in American Libraries.

2024 Library Systems Report.docx

XXV. Budget Prep for 2026-27 (David/Donna)

David Morris says the finance committee will be meeting soon to work on the budget.

XXVI. Membership Update

No membership update.

XXVII. Executive Director's Report

Donna Bacon says the Ramsoms update and LOCATE update went fairly well. There were a few problems and the MOBIUS staff is working through the tickets related to the updates.
Wichita State University is going live on FOLIO on September 16th. Five MOBIUS staff will visit the library in the upcoming week to meet their staff and talk about MOBIUS--the culture, services, discussion lists, governance, etc. Wichita State will also implement OpenRS after they are live on FOLIO.
During the MARMOT visit in June the MOBIUS staff learned about how they manage their IT services. They use Jira which Donna said looked really good and could possibly be a replacement for what the staff currently uses (Request Tracker).
The MCO staff attended a 4 week course on artificial intelligence. They learned ways to implement AI into their daily workflow.
The State of Iowa had to end their contract with IA Shares, the courier MOBIUS managed for them. It was funded by LSTA money and they could no longer fund the program. MOBIUS only had one week's notice to help the libraries end the courier service. MOBIUS made $50,000 from that project and that will now be gone.
Concordia Seminary left MOBIUS without a years notice and were sent their bill in July. The library director is now asking why they have received the bill. They were made aware when they provided notice that they would still be responsible for the bill due to not providing a year's notice.

XXVIII. State Librarian's Report

The state librarian, Janet Caruthers, provided the board with an update on IMLS funding. The committee responsible for IMLS, the Senate Appropriation Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education, met on July 31st. Their recommendation was to give IMLS as a whole $3 million less, but grants to states program would get $3 million more. The House committee will not meet until September.

XXIX. Other Business

David Morris asks for everyone to return their conflict of interest form to Maegan if they have not.
Cindy Thompson from UMKC will try to put together a MOBIUS event during WolfCon.

XXX. Adjourn Meeting

Emily Jaycox motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am.