

## RIPS-SIS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** January 14, 2026

**TO:** RIPS-SIS Members

**FROM:** RIPS-SIS Executive Board

**RE:** January 2026 RIPS Board Meeting

**In Attendance:** Sara, Julia, Heather, Theresa, Emily, Olivia (came in late, after the committee updates)

### OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the minutes for last month's meeting.

- Motion to approve the minutes
- Minutes approved

### NEW BUSINESS

#### COMMITTEE NEWS & UPDATES

- **Teach-In Kit Committee** – No updates yet, but there have been calls to submit materials
- **TiK Task Force** – Meeting scheduled for later this month
- **Scholarship Committee** – Meeting scheduled for later this month
- **Research Skills & Instruction** – They have three subcommittees that are working on various projects.
  - A pedagogical best practices subcommittee wants to do 5 conversations in 5 days on the listserv in February.
    - This is no problem; they can go ahead and do this on the RIPS listserv.
  - The exploring Legal Research subcommittee wants to do a RIPS blogpost.
    - We will put them in contact with the blog editors.
  - The AI impact on legal research instruction subcommittee wants to do a Coffee Chat.

# RIPS-SIS

## RESEARCH INSTRUCTION & PATRON SERVICES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

- They can find information about how to propose a coffee chat here: [Webinars & Coffee Chats - AALL](#). However, if they are speaking about vendors, they will have to be careful. We can discuss alternate forums if they are interested.
- The committee also wants to know if there are resource-sharing platforms to share resources with the broader committees and SIS.
  - They can share on their website page (contact Chris Siwa), or a Google doc they can make public and share on our listserv, or share resources on My Communities.
- **PR Committee**- No updates
- **Program Committee** – Nothing new to report
- **Patron Services** – They were interested in writing a guest blogpost. Theresa connected them with the editors.
- **Nominations** – Nothing new to report, but they do have nominations for each position
- **Grants Committee** – Most of their questions that were administrative we were able to answer. There are more substantive outstanding questions we will work on answering.
- **DEI Committee** – Nothing to report yet since they sent their thoughts on the DEI Board Position
- **Outreach and Mentorship** – Nothing to report yet. Emily will reach out to Taryn about the ALL-SIS about their results from the survey in the fall.
- **RIPS Blog** – Updated stats:
  - Since the last update (Nov. 21, 2025), there have been over 5000 visits to the RIPS Blog (according to Wordpress stats)
  - Since the last update (Nov. 21, 2025), we've maintained consistent posting of 2 to 3 blog posts a week except for the week of Dec. 29, 2025
  - Since the last update (Nov. 21, 2025), all regular blog contributors have continued to publish posts along with some guest posts
  - Jennifer is going to work with Christine Park, co-editor, to determine the best ways to help her prepare to transition to editor

A potential question for the board: Will the new My Communities Code of Conduct Policy impact the RIPS Law Librarian Blog in anyway – either through posts published directly on the blog or through the sharing of recent RIPS Blog posts on ALL-SIS and RIPS-SIS listservs?

- We do not think so. We do not think the policy extends to the blog.

# RIPS-SIS

## RESEARCH INSTRUCTION & PATRON SERVICES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

### GRANT COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

- Teaching the Teachers: \$1000 grants X2; RIPS Annual Meeting Grants: an award pool of \$3500; RIPS Annual Meeting DEI Grant: (up to \$3000). Last year that was a single grant, and they are requesting the flexibility to offer a single full grant and, if funds remain, offer any additional funds to other DEI applicants as bridge funds, if requested.
  - If they want to disburse the DEI grant to more than one recipient, they can treat it the same as they as the RIPS Annual Meeting grant and make it an award pool.
  - Or they can do a fixed amount that's only covering the cost of registration and then give it to multiple people.
- The necessity/value of letters of recommendation with applications
  - The committee can decide this, but we think there could be some value to requiring the LOR.
  - Or they can change to a list of references instead of letters.
- Any feedback the board has regarding the demonstration of need would also be appreciated.
  - An expression of financial need due to limited institutional funds, and potentially factors that may make attending more expensive, such as flights, should be the only factors considered.
    - Institutional support
    - Other external funding
    - Any other factors that influence the cost of travel and attendance
    - Everything they should be factoring is already in the application:  
<https://www.aallnet.org/ripssis/awards-grants/#tc>
    - We will follow up to have a more in-depth conversation with the Board and Committee

### DEI BOARD POSITION

- We received the feedback from the DEI committee and have drafted new Bylaw modifications and position descriptions.
- Because we need to make changes to our Bylaws, we need to send the revisions to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee

# RIPS-SIS

## RESEARCH INSTRUCTION & PATRON SERVICES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

- The position description and we can send back to the DEI Committee for their feedback.
- Do we want to change the name of this position to spell out Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer?
  - Vote for sending the existing language to the DEI Committee and the Bylaws Committee
    - Vote unanimous
  - Changing the name to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer.

### RIPS MID-YEAR UPDATES

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Board position being created
- Proposed RIPS events for the Annual Meeting
- Committee Updates