



Recommendation to V-Cat Council

Establish Voting Models Exploration Committee

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Summary:

At the September 18, 2019 V-Cat Steering Committee meeting, Kyle Schultz highlighted current language in the V-Cat Bylaws pertaining to voting. Article 4: Structure > Meetings > g. of the V-Cat Bylaws reads

“The V-Cat Council shall attempt to arrive at decisions by consensus. When consensus is not possible, decisions will be made via a formal vote. A 2/3 majority of the total representatives in attendance or via proxy will carry the vote.”

The concepts of simple majority, weighted voting, and combination of equal and weighted voting with a combination of simple and supermajority requirements to carry a vote depending on the subject. A number of Steering Committee members expressed concern that a simple majority (greater than ½ votes present) may not reflect the spirit of consensus the Council strives for and is encouraged with the current super majority (greater than 2/3rds votes present) requirement for actions to pass. After discussion, the Steering Committee recognized that member libraries should have more direct input in this exploration process. The committee agreed to ask the V-Cat Council to evaluate this aspect of the bylaws and to provide feedback to the Steering Committee.

Recommendation:

WVLS recommends that the V-Cat Council Chairperson establish an ad hoc Voting Models Exploration Committee charged with the investigation of various voting models, including the current voting model of the V-Cat Council and voting models in use by ILS Consortia in other Wisconsin Public Library Systems, and with presenting the model to the Council and to the Steering Committee it determines is most appropriate for the V-Cat Council.

Proposed diversity structuring for the committee:

- One administrative staff member from the resource library
- One administrative staff member from one of the next four largest libraries by V-Cat share: Rhinelander, Merrill, Minocqua, or Antigo
- One administrative staff member each from two of the eight smallest libraries by V-Cat share: Wabeno, Westboro, Stetsonville, Withee, Greenwood, Laona, Dorchester, Loyal
- One administrative staff member each from two additional member libraries not already represented
- One WVLS staff member

Recognizing that member libraries may need additional time to determine who if anyone to volunteer for the committee, WVLS additionally recommends the V-Cat Council Chairperson calls for volunteers and asks that member library representatives submit their respective nominees to vcats.officers@wvls.org by November 14th.