WVLS & SCLS System Governance – Updated

South Central Library System Governance and Decision-Making

Wisconsin library systems are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the County Board Chair or County Executive, and ratified by the county board of the member counties. Membership on the system board is proportional to population and must be recalculated after every federal census.

The **SCLS System Board** consists of 20 trustees. If MCPL joined SCLS it would probably have 2 representatives on the system board.

Meetings of **All Directors** are held 4 times a year, in March, May, July, and November. Items decided and discussed at these meetings include system budgets, costs of services, priorities for shared purchases, and ILS issues that affect all libraries.

Membership on the following groups are by *Cluster*. A Cluster consists of the libraries in a county. Most counties elect one representative to these groups. Dane County has two clusters. Dane County Library Service (DCLS) and Madison PL have two votes. Appropriate SCLS staff are non-voting members of these committees.

The **Administrative Council** is the primary advisory group to the SCLS Board and SCLS staff. This body determines the course of action and oversight of "big picture" issues that affect all members. It receives reports from the committees, makes planning recommendations and recommends the annual budget, plan and services priorities. The Administrative Council has two subcommittees: Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Library Innovation.

The **Delivery Committee** serves as a forum for discussion and decision-making concerning delivery.

The **ILS Committee** oversees the software development and implementation and maintenance of the ILS. It serves as a forum for discussion and decision-making concerning the ILS and creates working groups for ILS issues. The ILS Committee has three subcommittees: Circulation Services, Collection Maintenance, and Discovery Interface.

The **Technology Committee** oversees technology projects and schedules. It serves as a forum for discussion and decision-making concerning technology. Oversees planning, determines procedures, makes recommendations concerning policy and budget, and creates working groups for technology issues.
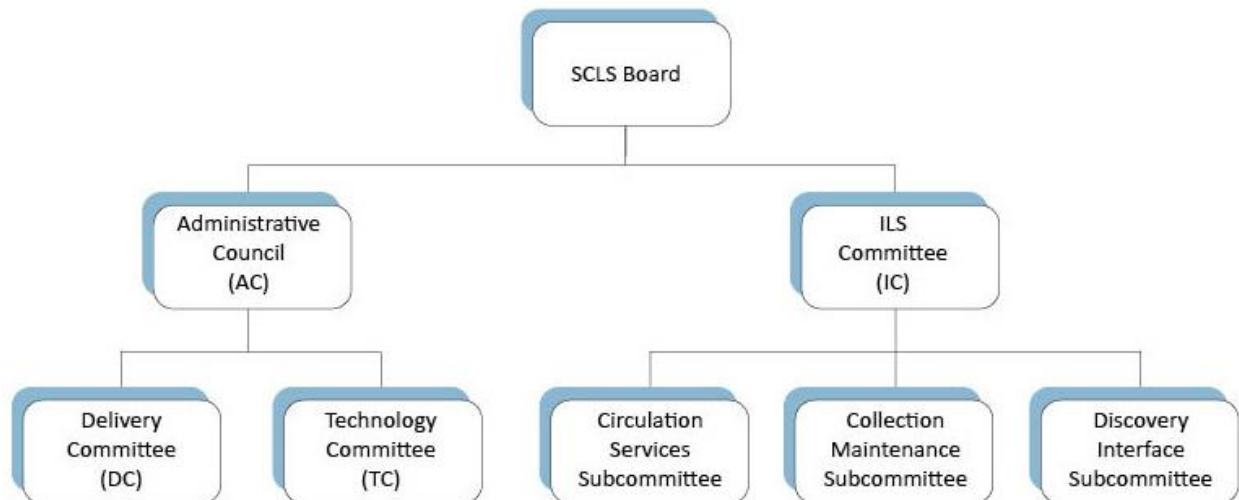
The Delivery and Technology Committees are empowered to decide issues within current policy and budget. Other issues may be referred to the Administrative Council. The decisions of the ILS Committee are not subject to approval by the Administrative Council.

There are additional **Workgroups** which focus on specific projects or tasks.

How does the All Directors meetings fit in on the chart below?

I assume the several "Vote share" documents on this page https://www.scls.info/committees/all-directors/2019-07-18 govern voting at All Directors meetings? These are all based strictly on cost? Are there times when voting is one library/one vote or by cluster?

Are actions carried by simple majority or is a greater percentage needed in some cases?

Wisconsin Valley Library Service Governance and Decision-Making

Wisconsin library systems are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the County Board Chair or County Executive, and ratified by the county board of the member counties. Membership on the system board is proportional to population and must be recalculated after every federal census.

The **WVLS System Board** consists of 15 trustees. Marathon County has 7 representatives on the system board. The board has a 7-member **Executive Committee** which meets as needed.

The **V-Cat Steering Committee** develops the annual V-Cat budget with the guidance and final approval of the V-Cat Council and WVLS Board. It reviews V-Cat bylaws and committee structure with the final outcome being a more active and participatory V-Cat membership that adheres to the set V-Cat procedures. This committee consists of 6 library representatives, 4 members of the WVLS Board of trustees, and system staff.

The **Library Advisory Committee** is the primary advisory group to advises the WVLS staff and Board of Trustees on promotion and implementation of collaborative programs and services, system budgets, LEAN WI technology budget, costs of services, system plan and priorities, and on communication among all libraries and entities in within WVLS borders.

The committee consists of 4 permanent members from the 4 largest WVLS libraries: Antigo, Merrill, Marathon Co, and Rhinelander. Smaller libraries are represented by 6 members who serve 2-year terms. One member represents academic and technical college libraries and 4 represent school and special libraries. The Committee meets at least two times a year.

The **LEAN WI** Partnership is an operational framework of shared capital and human resources. Each partner shares technology strategy and operation expertise, costs for jointly utilized infrastructure, and shared application licensing. There is no formal governance model for LEAN WI itself as it is just an operational framework. Partners have similar needs and are either able to meet them jointly or can resolve them independently using the shared resources. Each partner operates within the LEAN WI framework through its own respective governance models. WVLS technology operations are guided by the CIO, under the direction of the WVLS Director, and as such are governed by the LAC and WVLS Board of Trustees.

The **Database Advisory Work Group** advises the WVLS staff on the prioritization and purchase of databases on behalf of member libraries.

The **OverDrive Advantage Selection Work Group** selects ebook titles for the WVLS OverDrive Advantage Collection with funds donated by WVLS, public libraries and community members.

The **V-Cat Council** oversees the software development and implementation, and maintenance of the ILS. It serves as a forum for discussion and decision-making concerning the ILS and creates working groups for ILS issues. The V-Cat Council has three subcommittees: **Bibliographic and Interface Committee**, **Cooperative Circulation Committee**, and **Voting Models Exploratory Committee**. A **Discovery Layer Advisory Group** is currently being formed with members from the V-Cat committees and the Database Advisory Work Group to review Discovery Layer needs and products.

==Are actions carried by simple majority or is a greater percentage needed in some cases?==

Yes, by a simple majority, except for V-Cat Council matters. The V-Cat Bylaws state:

"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." https://wvls.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/VCat-Bylaws-REV-Apr-4-2014-Final-1.pdf

==Are votes in these groups 1 library/1 vote or are they weighted somehow?==

Each representative on the WVLS Board, and on each of the committees and advisory groups has one vote, however some libraries have more than one representative on committees, which has the potential to garner more influence. For example, Marathon County has seven seats on the fifteen seat WVLS Board of Trustees totaling approximately 47% of the votes. See the "Board and Committee Representation" document included in this packet.

==Are there any times when all directors get together and vote on things?==

All directors can come together to vote on matters related to the ILS through representation on the V-Cat Council. However, Directors may designate a library staff to serve as a representative on the V-Cat Council.

All library directors are invited to attend 2-4 WVLS Listening Sessions annually to share concerns and receive briefs on WVLS service priorities.