



PRESS INFORMATION

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Online news story: <https://ischools.org/blog/2018/06/28/ischools-organization-establishes-new-governance-structure/>

iSchools Organization establishes new governance structure

June 28, 2018 | For immediate release: The iSchools Organization has unveiled a new governance structure that is expected to make the Organization more responsive to the needs of its membership. To facilitate the change, the new membership structure more distinctly reflects each member's involvement with the Organization. In the works for more than a year, the new governance model was formally adopted at the annual iSchools business meeting, which was held March 27, 2018 in conjunction with iConference 2018 in Sheffield, UK.

Under the new model, [all iSchools members](#) will participate in the election of a [Board of Directors](#). This new Board consist of two groups: an Executive Committee, and an additional group of regionally elected Board members. The Executive Committee is made up of the current iSchools chair, the chair-elect, the immediate past-chair, the treasurer, the chairs of each of the three regions, and ex officio the executive director. The remainder of the Board consists of regionally elected chairs, calculated using a formula that factors the number of schools and the financial contributions in each.

The newly adopted membership structure offers a wider array of levels reflecting each member's ongoing relationship with the organization. All members may self-select the membership level that represents the level of support they wish to provide; this includes the iCaucus level, which formerly required institutional approval to join.

The new iSchools membership levels are as follows: iCaucus; Enabling; Sustaining; Supporting; Basic; and Associate. Members at all levels have a vote factored for their level of support, with the exception of those who select the non-voting Associate level.

"I am very pleased with the new governance structure adopted at our recent business meeting," said iSchools Chair Sam Oh. "These changes enable member-institutions of all sizes to have a direct impact on the Organization's mission of leading and promoting the information field in the 21st century, while at the same time recognizing the level of Organizational support that each of our members graciously provides."

Moving forward, the Executive Committee will continue to handle the ongoing day-to-day business of the Organization. The Board of Directors must approve broader decisions such as changes in the budget and membership. In addition, a majority of *all* members must vote to

approve any change in the dues or fundamental structural alterations, and will also elect the chair.

The organization held its first election under the new model earlier this month. In addition to the existing Executive Committee, the following additional Board members were elected:

Board of Directors, North America:

- Gary Marchionni, Dean, University of North Carolina, School of Information and Library Science
- Diane Kelly, Director, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, School of Information Sciences
- Tom Finholt, Dean, University of Michigan School of Information
- Kristin Eschenfelder, Director, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Library and Information Studies

Board of Directors, Europe:

- António Lucas Soares, Director, University of Porto, Faculty of Engineering in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts; alternate Fernanda Ribeiro

Board of Directors, Asia Pacific:

- Bin Zhang, Head of School, Renmin University of China, School of Information Resource Management; alternate Jenny Wang

For his part, iSchools Executive Director Michael Seadle expressed satisfaction that the Organization's extended governance deliberations have resulted in structures that support the needs of membership and will allow the Organization to address challenges and opportunities in the information field.

“All iSchools are known for their leadership and their commitment to the information field. Our Organization seeks to maximize our collective influence and impact worldwide,” said Seadle. “The Organization's former tier structure was always intended to reflect each member's relationship with the Organization. By recasting the membership levels and adding more gradations, as well as allowing members to self-select their appropriate level, we believe the egalitarian nature of our Organization will be more clearly understood.”

The current iSchools Board of Directors is listed on the Organization's [Meet our People](#) webpage. Institutions interested in joining the iSchools should visit our [Apply to Join](#) webpage.

About the iSchools

The iSchools Organization is a consortium of [more than 90 universities and institutions](#) dedicated to advancing the information field in the 21st Century. The iSchools organization supports and recognizes student achievement through its annual [Doctoral Colloquium](#), [Doctoral Dissertation Award](#), and, starting this year, [Undergraduate Symposium](#). The iSchools also provide collaboration tools and other support to assist faculty in their teaching and research endeavors.

Every year, the iSchools organization presents the [iConference](#), a forum in which information scholars, researchers and professionals share their insights on critical information issues in

contemporary society. The next iConference is scheduled to take place March 31-April 3, 2019 in Washington DC. [Click here](#) to learn more about iConference 2019.

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