

ANNUAL REPORT
of the COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
For the Period: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018
Submitted by Don Gotterbarn and Marty J. Wolf
Committee Co-Chairs

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 List of committee members, terms of office; begin with chair. As an appendix, attach the address list of the committee's members.

Don Gotterbarn: Chair (term expires June 30, 2018)

Marty J. Wolf: Vice Chair (term expires June 30, 2018)

Keith Miller: Secretary

Bo Brinkman: Technical Coordinator

Florence A. Appel

Karla Carter

Catherine Flick

Frances S. Grodzinsky

Kai Kimppa

Anthony Lobo

Denise Oram

Norberto Patrignani

Simon Rogerson

Kate Vazansky

Note from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2020 Don Gotterbarn and Marty J. Wolf are co-chairs.

1.2 State the purpose to the committee -- its current charter. If an ad hoc committee, state the termination date.

The Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) is responsible to: 1) promote ethical conduct among computing professionals by publicizing the Code of Ethics and by offering interpretations of the Code including responding to queries from ACM members, industry professionals, ACM governance bodies, and other key stakeholders about the intersection of computing practice and ethical behavior reflected in the Code; 2) plan and review activities to educate membership in ethical decision making on issues of professional conduct giving teacher training workshops, other public education activities; and 3) review and recommend updates to the Code of Ethics and its guidelines; 4) Carry out its role as described in the Code of Ethics Enforcement Policy.

1.3 Indicate the organization of the committee into subcommittees or other subunits; give a one-sentence description of each subunit's charter. Name the individual responsible for each subunit.

Generally the committee functions as a committee of the whole, without any sub-units. Sub-committees are formed to provide leadership on new projects and as the need arises. Work is reviewed by a

committee of the whole. There is one technical support sub-unit to maintain social media and COPE's web presence.

1.4 List dates of committee meetings.

February 22, 2018 Baltimore at the SIGCSE Conference

Multiple Skype, email, and telephone meetings occurred as the need arose

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

List all projects, of the committee or its subunits that have been active at any time during the fiscal year.

Please list active projects before passive or completed ones; and list the most important projects first.

COPE projects are of two kinds; reactive and proactive. COPE responds to concerns about behavior by individuals, organizations, or Professional Societies which are alleged to be inconsistent with the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, ACM's anti-harassment policy, and so on. Issues are brought to us by individuals, internal ACM committees like the Pubs Board, and by ACM HQ. Proactively COPE engages in a variety of projects to promote professionalism and ethical behavior consistent with and supportive of the ACM's position on professional ethics. The ACM Committee on Professional Ethics works to nurture an ethical stance by practitioners and those who employ practitioners.

On-going projects:

1. Promote the Code: With the update to the Code, we have undertaken numerous efforts to ensure that members and computing professionals in general are made aware of the Code, the changes proposed and adopted, and were able to contribute to the update process. Responsible people: Gotterbarn/Wolf, with the help of other COPE members. This has been a primary responsibility of COPE since its inception..
2. Professional Ethics Column in SIGCSE Inroads Magazine: Twice a year we write a column about professionalism. Responsible people: Gotterbarn. This has been ongoing for many years..
3. ACM representative to the International Federation for Information Processing TC 9 and supports other relevant IFIP groups. Responsible people: Gotterbarn. This has been ongoing for many years.
4. Maintain COPE's internet presence. This includes developing case studies, responding to Ask An Ethicist questions, and general website maintenance ethics.acm.org, as well as using Twitter to engage with a broad audience. Responsible people: Brinkman, Kirkpatrick, Carter. This has been ongoing since 2016.
5. Work with ACM committees dealing with ethical issues and respond to ethics questions submitted to ACM. Responsible people: Gotterbarn/Wolf. This happens on an as-requested basis..
6. Provide support for other international computing organizations developing a codes of ethics. Responsible people: Gotterbarn/Wolf. This happens on an as-requested basis.

Completed projects:

1. The Code was approved by ACM Council on 22 June 2018. Processed feedback on Draft 2 to create Draft 3. Ran survey of membership on Draft 3. Processed feedback to create final version. Numerous face-to-face meetings. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Chair of Task Force. Started January 2016.
2. Conducted online membership survey of Code draft 3. Cataloged and considered comments. People Responsible: Flick, Gotterbarn
3. Draft 2 of Code presented to ACM Council 10 October 2017. Responsible people: Gotterbarn
4. Wrote CACM article describing the update process and motivations for the Code. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Miller, Flick.
5. New Code Enforcement Policy was approved by ACM Council on 22 June 2018. Responsible people: Gotterbarn/Wolf. Started May 2016.
6. SIGCSE 2018: Presentation about Code update and how to use it in CS classes to SIGCAS symposium. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Wolf, Carter, Kirkpatrick.
7. 2 Inroads columns: Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Wolf, Miller, Flick.
8. Presentations to and support of international groups developing codes of ethics, consulting with groups in Australia, Italy, New Zealand, and UK. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Flick.
9. Developed COPE logo and Code logo. Responsible people: Brinkman, Kirkpatrick, Gotterbarn
10. Developed ethics.acm.org stickers. Responsible people: Brinkman, Gotterbarn, .
11. Established direct relationship with ACM Pubs Board. Responsible people: Kirkpatrick.
12. Work with Professional Development Committee. Responsible people: Gotterbarn

3. PLANS

- 3.1 List projects that will be completed or terminated in the coming year.
 1. Spanish translation of the Code.
 2. Chinese translation of the Code.
 3. Development of Code posters.
 4. Publication of a booklet containing the Code, case studies, and explanations of the Code.
 5. Presentation about the Code at HCC conference in Poznan, Poland
 6. Presentation about the Code at ETHICOMP conference in Sopot, Poland
 7. Presentation of a Special Session at SIGCSE 2019
 8. Presentation of a Workshop at SIGCSE 2019
- 3.2 List important changes or milestones in active projects during the coming year.

None are anticipated.
- 3.3 List new projects or programs which are proposed or contemplated.
 1. Identify ad hoc opportunities to promote the Code (and thus the ACM) to new groups in potentially new ways and venues.
 2. Identify ways to make the Code relevant to practitioners.
 3. Develop a way for organizations to adopt the Code.
 4. Discuss and develop guidelines for membership on COPE. Identify expectations of members, ways for contributing to advancing COPE's mission.
- 3.4 Indicate how well the committee composition reflects diversity with respect to younger members, geographic representation, a balance with respect to industry/academia, gender, and other under-represented groups. If there are areas that need improvement, list the details of a plan to increase the diversity of the committee membership.

The committee has fifteen members. Six are from outside the USA and five are women. COPE's mission is to support professional conduct rather than to develop advanced philosophical concepts about ethics; so accordingly, we are also concerned to have representation of computer scientists, IT practitioners, and those with philosophy backgrounds. As noted above, one of plans for this year is to address membership on the committee.

4. COMMENTS

List any comments you wish brought to your Board's or Council's attention. Please provide a brief (paragraph) summary of one or two of your activities that would be of interest to the broad ACM community (or provide a link to a write-up of such information).

There have been several prominent publications related to the ACM Code of Ethics:

ACM Code of Ethics: A Guide For Positive Action:

<https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2018/1/223896-acm-code-of-ethics/fulltext>

THINKING PROFESSIONALLY: The continual evolution of interest in computing ethics:

<https://inroads.acm.org/article.cfm?aid=3204466>

APPENDIX

Address list of all committee members, subcommittee or subunit chairs and members, and other persons responsible for projects.

Note that all members of the committee are called upon to provide input on remediation cases brought to the attention of COPE when appropriate to do so.

Name: Donald Gotterbarn

Address: 3 Red Oak Circle Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: 423 929 0660

Fax: 423 328 7843

Email: don@gotterbarn.com, chair@ethics.acm.org

Responsibility within the Committee: co-chair, stuff no one else wants to do

Name: Florence Appel

Address: Computer Science Saint Xavier University

Phone: 630-650-8995

Fax:

Email: appel@sxu.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes ideas to teaching of computing ethics

Name: Bo Brinkman

Address:

Phone: 513-907-7165

Fax:

Email: Brinkman (dr.bo.brinkman@gmail.com).

Responsibility within the Committee: Technical Coordinator: Web, Twitter, Youtube Channel

Name: Karla Carter
Address: Bellevue University, 1000 Galvin Road S, Bellevue, NE 68005
Phone: 402-557-7550
Fax:
Email: karla.carter@bellevue.edu
Responsibility within the Committee: social media, especially Twitter.

Name: Catherine Flick
Address: Center for Computing and Social Responsibility, Leicester UK
Phone:
Fax:
Email: cflick@dmu.ac.uk
Responsibility within the Committee: active in presenting/writing about the Code.

Name: Frances Grodzinsky
Address: Co-Director Hersher Institute of Ethics, Computer Science, Sacred Heart University, New Haven CT.
Phone: 203 371 7776
Fax:
Email: grodzinskyf@yahoo.com
Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to the teaching of computing ethics.

Name: Kai Kimppa
Address: School of Economics, University of Turku, Turku Finland
Phone:
Fax:
Email: Kai Kimppa Finnish Information Processing <kakimppa@utu.fi>
Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction

Name: Michael Kirkpatrick
Address: JMU, Computer Science Dept. 701 Carrier Drive MSC 4103 Harrisonburg VA, 22807
Phone: 540-568-3371
Fax:
Email: kirkpams@jmu.edu
Responsibility within the Committee: Website assistance, responsible for managing Case Studies

Name: Anthony Lobo
Address: Ethics Division, Tata Consultancy Services, Mumbai - 400096, Maharashtra, India
Phone: +91 22 67781177
Fax:
Email: anthony.lobo@ieee.org
Responsibility within the Committee: contributing case studies

Name: Keith Miller, Orthwein Endowed Professor for Lifelong Learning in the Sciences
Address: UMSL, Mailstop 100 MH, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121
Phone: (217) 206-7327
Fax: Email: millerkei@umsl.edu
Responsibility within the Committee: Case study/Ask an Ethicist content development

Name: Denise Oram
Address: Centre for Applied Internet Research (CAIR) U of Wales, NEWI, Wrexham,
North Wales
Phone:
Fax:
Email: d.oram@glyndwr.ac.uk
Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to case studies, guiding COPE direction

Name: Norberto Patrignani
Address: Politecnico di Turin, Turin, IT
Phone:
Fax:
Email: Norberto Patrignani (norberto.patrignani@polito.it)
Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to case studies, guiding COPE direction

Name: Simon Rogerson
Address: DeMontfort University Center for Computing and Social Responsibility,
Leicester UK
Phone: + 44-116-257-7475
Fax:
Email: srog@dmu.ac.uk
Responsibility within the Committee: working on web content, contributing ethics columns written for
professional computing journals.

Name: Kate Vazansky
Address: Salesforce, Denver CO
Phone:
Fax:
Email: kate.vazansky@gmail.com
Responsibility within the Committee: contribute to updates to the Code, guiding COPE direction

Name: Marty J. Wolf
Address: Math and CS Department, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone: 218-760-7130 (mobile), 218-755-2825 (work)
Fax: 218-755-2822
Email: mwolf@bemidjistate.edu, ethics@acm.org
Responsibility within the Committee: co-Chair, manages documents for COPE.

