

ANNUAL REPORT
of the COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
For the Period: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
Submitted by Marty J. Wolf

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 List of committee members, terms of office; begin with chair. As an appendix, attach the list of the committee's members. (Note that this was the membership as of June 30, 2022.)

Don Gotterbarn: Co-Chair (term expired June 30, 2022)

Marty J. Wolf: Co-Chair (term expired June 30, 2022)

Michael S. Kirkpatrick, Education Coordinator

Bo Brinkman, Technical Coordinator

Keith W. Miller, Secretary

Karla Carter, Social Media Coordinator

Catherine Flick, Outreach Coordinator

Florence A. Appel

Sally Applin

Richard Blumenthal

Emanuelle Burton

Ken Christensen

Frances S Grodzinsky

Kai Kimppa

Jesmin Jahan Tithi

Evelyn Lulis

Denise Oram

Thomas J. Owens

Norberto Patrignani

Tom Yeh

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 for 1) promoting ethical conduct among computing professionals by publicizing the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct 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 intersections of computing education, computing practice and ethical behavior reflected in the Code; 2) planning and hosting activities to educate computing professionals in ethical decision making, on issues of professional conduct, computing ethics pedagogy, supporting the public's understanding of computing; and 3) reviewing and recommending updates to the Code of Ethics, its guidelines, and the Code of Ethics Enforcement Policy; 4) carrying out its role as described in the Code of Ethics Enforcement Policy and the Policy Against Harassment at ACM Activities. 5) Assist the Awards Committee as described in the Awards 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. Subcommittees 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. Ad hoc subcommittees are formed to conduct investigations when violations of the Code or Policy Against Harassment at ACM Activities are submitted. We have a subcommittee to develop the Code Support Documents. We have a subcommittee working on updating the Code Enforcement Policy.

- 1.4 List dates of committee meetings.
- March 3, 2022 COPE meeting
 - April 5, 2022 Enforcement Subcommittee meeting
 - May 4, 2022 Enforcement Subcommittee meeting
 - May 21-23, 2022 Code Support Documents Subcommittee meeting
 - Dozens of meetings on various dates related to the investigation and adjudication of complaints.

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

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

Title	Responsible Person	Starting Date	Status	Funds Budgeted	Funds Spent
Code Support Documents	Marty J. Wolf Don Gotterbarn	April 2022	On going	\$10,000	\$7815
Investigate/adjudicate complaints	Marty J. Wolf Don Gotterbarn	Varies	Varies	\$0	\$0
COPE Membership Development	Tom Yeh	March 2022	On going	\$0	\$0
Promote computing ethics and the Code on Twitter	Karla Carter	a long time ago	On going	\$0	\$0
Promote computing ethics in	Richard Blumenthal	Before July 2021	On going	\$0	\$0

Computing Curricula 202x					
Update the Code Enforcement Policy	Marty J. Wolf	March 2022	On hold. Waiting for Disclosure Policy.	\$0	\$0
Ethics Case Development	Sarah Horton	December 2021	March 2022	\$0	\$0
Proactive CARE Ethics Case Development with IFIP	Don Gotterbarn	July 2021	On going	\$0	\$0
Proactive CARE Paper Presentation	Michael Kirkpatrick	April 2021	Terminated July 2022	\$5000	\$0
IFIP Code Booklet	Don Gotterbarn	July 2021	Terminated December 2021	\$0	\$0
UN UNESCO talk on the Code	Don Gotterbarn	December 2021	Terminated December 2021	\$0	\$)
Proactive CARE TETHICS presentation	Don Gotterbarn	October 2021	Terminated October 2021	\$0	\$0
SIGCSE Inroads Column	Don Gotterbarn	March 2022	Terminated March 2022	\$0	\$0
Expand the Code's applicability	Marty J. Wolf Don Gotterbarn	August 2021	Terminated October 2021	\$0	\$0
CACM article on Upholding ACM Principles	Marty J. Wolf Don Gotterbarn Michael S. Kirkpatrick	June 2021	Terminated August 2021	\$0	\$0
Video projects in conjunction with the Institute for Certification of	Don Gotterbarn	March 2022	Terminated May 2022	\$0	\$0

Computing Professionals					
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The "status" indicates whether the project is ongoing, terminated (give date), about to terminate (give expected date), etc.

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

3. PLANS

3.1 List projects that will be completed or terminated in the coming year.

- We expect all on-going projects to continue throughout the upcoming year.
- We expect opportunities to promote the Code to arise and will complete them as is appropriate.

3.2 List important changes or milestones in active projects during the coming year.

- Code Support Documents: establish agreement with a publication (some e-zine) to publish our series of twelve articles.
- Continue to seek out case studies for the COPE website.

3.3 List new projects or programs which are proposed or contemplated.

- Develop a generic framework for workshops that are specific to subfields of computing. The workshop will focus on helping computing professionals who are less skilled or confident about their capabilities in computing ethics understand the relevance of and use the Code to guide their decision making . It will be based on the Proactive CARE framework. It will be adaptable to different subdisciplines of computing.
- Develop an alignment between elements of the 202X ACM curriculum and the ACM Code of Ethics.
- Continue the process of re-organizing COPE's leadership structure with an eye toward better succession planning.
- Identify people to become liaisons to many of the groups that COPE currently liaises with.
- Develop a workshop for presentation at SIGCSE that helps computing faculty teach digital privacy in the aftermath of the Dobbs decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. This decision has altered the legal foundation for privacy (in the U.S.) that will have a ripple effect beyond the single issue of abortion. Note that this is not a session about the ethics of abortion, but will outfit computing faculty with pedagogical tools that will help them navigate how the Dobbs decision impacts computing and privacy when it (almost certainly) comes up in the context of digital privacy.
- Establish a liaison with the ACM Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council

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.

- On June 30, 2022, COPE had 21 members. Of the 21, 9 are women. 4 of the members are from Europe and the rest are U.S.-based. 4 are from industry (to the best of our knowledge). 4 members are early-career, 7 are late-career, and the remaining 10 are mid-career. We are

constantly looking to increase the diversity of our membership. hmm- no one from pacific, africa or south america.

4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Describe your efforts related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

- Tom Yeh is interviewing current members of COPE. Based on those interviews, he will share “an introduction” of each of the members to the entire committee. This will provide a basis for us to discuss different ways to diversify our committee. It will help us identify ways we can become more inclusive. Additionally, we engage in conversations with people who might help us identify diverse colleagues who would be interested in serving on COPE. Our equity efforts include holding hybrid meetings with in-person meetings held at SIGCSE and ETHICOMP most years.

5. COMMENTS

List any comments you wish brought to 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).

COPE is interested in reaching out to practitioners and bringing the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct to them as a mechanism to support their professionalism. COPE is working on tools that can help modify corporate cultures by incorporating attention to ethical practice into the daily working environment of computing professionals. We are interested in partnering with organizations that are interested in advancing computing ethics and social responsibility. We have successfully collaborated with other organizations, especially professional organizations as they have adopted the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct as their own. Most notably IFIP (representing over a half million people) has adopted the Code as its own.

APPENDIX

List of all committee members, subcommittee or subunit chairs and members, and other persons responsible for projects. Use this format:

Note that members of the committee are called upon to serve on subcommittees to investigate complaints that allege violations of the Code when the complaint warrants.

Name: Florence Appel

Email: appel@sxu.edu

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

Name: Sally Applin

Email: sally@sally.com

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to promoting the Code

Name: Richard Blumenthal

Email: rblument@regis.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: crosswalk the Code with curricula, liaison with the Computing Curricula 202x Committee

Name: Bo Brinkman

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

Responsibility within the Committee: Technical Coordinator: Web, Twitter, and YouTube Channel

Name: Emanuelle Burton

Email: emanuelle.burton@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction, Code Support Document sub-committee

Name: Karla Carter

Email: karla.carter@bellevue.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: social media, especially Twitter, complaint resolution committees

Name: Ken Christensen

Email: christen@cse.usf.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction, Code Support Document sub-committee

Name: Catherine Flick

Email: cflick@dmu.ac.uk

Responsibility within the Committee: Code outreach, especially to practitioners, complaint resolution committees

Name: Donald Gotterbarn

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

Responsibility within the Committee: co-chair, chief computing professionalism evangelist

Name: Frances Grodzinsky

Email: grodzinskyf@yahoo.com

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

Name: Jesmin Jahan

Email: shraban03@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: Contribute to guiding COPE direction

Name: Kai Kimppa

Email: kakimppa@utu.fi

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction

Name: Michael Kirkpatrick

Email: kirkpams@jmu.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: Website assistance, responsible for managing Case Studies, Code Support Document sub-committee, Proactive CARE sub-committee

Name: Evelyn Lulis

Email: ealulis@aol.com

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction

Name: Keith Miller, Orthwein Endowed Professor for Lifelong Learning in the Sciences

Email: millerkei@umsl.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: Case study/Ask an Ethicist content development, Proactive CARE sub-committee

Name: Denise Oram

Email: d.oram@glyndwr.ac.uk

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction

Name: Thomas J Owens

Email: thomas.j.owens@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: industry representative, contributes to guiding COPE direction, Code Support Document sub-committee

Name: Norberto Patrignani

Email: Norberto Patrignani (norberto.patrignani@polito.it)

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction

Name: Tom Yeh

Email: tom.yeh@Colorado.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: leading membership development, align the Code with curricula, especially K-12

Name: Marty J. Wolf

Email: mwolf@bemidjistate.edu, ethics@acm.org

Responsibility within the Committee: co-Chair, manages documents for COPE.