**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

For the Period: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Submitted by Don Gotterbarn

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.

1.2 State the purpose to the committee -- its current charter.

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.

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.

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.

1.4 List dates of committee meetings.

February 17 2017, Chicago

March 8, 2017 Seattle at the SIGCSE Conference,

June 5, 2017 Torino Ethicomp 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 ethical position of the ACM. 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;

-Managing **Code 2018** Project to update the ACM Code of Ethics (Chair Gotterbarn completion July 2018). This is a two year project to update the ACMs Code of Ethics. This project is being managed by a broad based task force from industry, academe, representation from professional computing organizations and representatives from various ACM unites including SIGs, Boards, and regional units. The task force is chaired by a 5 person executive committee from the COPE membership.

-The Integrity Project**:** In order to help ACM members in particular, and the computing community at large, be mindful of professional computing ethics, and how those principles can be applied, the Integrity Project will develop a variety of multimedia tools for use in schools and industry; including webinars, YouTube videos, and podcasts.

-Working with ACM Lawyers who are drafting the new ethics Enforcement Policy. The Ethics Enforcement policy used to deal with cases involving ACM members from all over the globe is difficult to follow because it can requires direct involvement of the ACM President, Executive Director, and Council and international members. The current Ethics Enforcement policy is not consistent with other ethics policies of the ACM such as the Plagiarism policy. With input from COPE, ACM Legal is drafting a revised enforcement policy.

-Regular column on Professional Ethics- Inroads Magazine: (Gotterbarn)

- Maintain the ACM ethics web site as a resource (Brinkman) and provide ethics examples

-Work with ACM committees dealing with ethical issues and respond to ethics questions submitted to ACM.

-Write articles about the Code of Ethics in SIG magazines (SIGCAS, SIGCSE) and CACM.

- ACM representative to the International Federation for Information Processing TC 9 and supports other relevant IFIP groups.

- Review articles about Codes of Ethics for CACM.

- Respond to teacher’s questions about using Code in class.

-New members add to COPE

-Provide support for other international computing organizations developing a Code of Ethics (Gotterbarn)

Completed projects;

-- Developed a Web presence for COPE- develop a website to house the Codes of Ethics and provide pointers for computing professionals to address ethical issues (Technical coordinator Brinkman).

-Used ACM’s Discuss software to facilitate broad based comments on the draft of the updates to the ACM’s Code of Ethics.

- Developed draft revision of ACM Ethics Enforcement Policy which recognizes the global character of ACM membership and the breadth of issues that arise across international borders and incorporates a workable due process. (Miller Completed 2/15/17)

-Conducted a session at the SIGCSE Conference in Seattle March 2017 on “The ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct: Teaching Strategies and the Coming Update: and a special session on the Code of Ethics. COPE also produced and distributed flyer about the Code Update Project.

-Panel session on Draft 2 of the updated Code of Ethics at CEPE/ETHICOMP conference in Turin, Italy June 2017

- Worked on several issues with the Pubs board (committee of the whole)

- Reviewed the drafts of Computer Science Curriculum - Social and Professional recommendations.

-COPE worked with two research organizations and other individuals on EU funded projects “Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT” and “Responsible Research Innovation” to help develop the “ICT Ethics Observatory”; an international resource of information, guidelines methods, techniques and curriculum materials helping to organize it in a way that will facilitate its extension beyond the UK and making it available to help improve the ethical sensitivity of members of the ACM. (Gotterbarn).

3. PLANS

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

- Code 2018- update to the ACM Code of Ethics

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

-Draft 3 of Code 2018 will be completed and sent to the membership for final input

-The penultimate draft of Code 2018 will be produced in response

-Develop a mechanism for community members to submit illustrations of applying the Code to issues of professional conduct and decision making

-Provide feedback on the Enforcement Policy that is drafted by the lawyers

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

-Explore the possibility of a student Computer Ethics Case study competition where students write an extended case using the Code in situations a typical computing professional might encounter.

-“ACM Ethics” Brand Awareness plan using a simple laptop sticker campaign to engage computing professionals in disseminating information about “ACM Ethics.” Goals include: 1.Computing professionals (broadly construed) will be more likely to consult the ACM Code or ethics.acm.org or @ACM\_Ethics during their work after the campaign vs. before. 2. Computing professionals (broadly construed) will be more likely to see ACM as an organization supportive of (and demanding) ethical practice after the campaign vs. before.

3.4 List details of plan to increase the diversity of the committee membership, with respect to younger members, a wider geographic representation, and a better balance with respect to industry/academia, gender, and other under-represented groups.

* The committee has 13 members. One half of the committee is from outside the USA and one third is female. COPE’s mission is to support professional conduct rather than to develop advanced philosophical concepts about ethics; so accordingly, in addition to an age and geographic balance we are also concerned to have a significant representation of computer scientists, IT practitioners, and some philosophy skills. Anthony Lobo, is manager of Business Ethics for Tata Consultancy Services’ for thousands of IT workers. He also regularly teaches Computer ethics at a Mumbai University. Bo Brinkman of Google has had years of experience in software development before earning his CS degree from Princeton. Like others on the committee he has done recognized work in technical computer science and in professional ethics.

We continue to identify potential members of COPE by participation with other national and international IT Ethics organizations such as work with ACM SIGCAS, IFIP, CEPE, and Ethicomp and the BCS We have added three new members from England (Flick), Finland (Kimppa), and Italy (Patrignani)

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 Update Project:

Making a Positive Impact: Updating the ACM Code of Ethics <https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2016/12/210367-making-a-positive-impact/fulltext>

The ACM Code of Ethics: A Call to Action

<https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2016/12/210366-the-acm-code-of-ethics/fulltext>

Listening to Professional Voices: Draft 2 of the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

<https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2017/5/216328-listening-to-professional-voices/fulltext>

# **APPENDIX**

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

Name: Donald Gotterbarn

Address: 3 Red Oak Circle Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: 423 929 0660

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

Responsibility within the Committee: chair, ex officio member all committees

Name: Florence Appel

Address: Computer Science Saint Xavier University

Phone: 630-650-8995

Fax:

Email: appel@sxu.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to several sub committees

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: new member, work with web development and social media.

Name: Catherine Flick

Address: Center for Computing and Social Responsibility, Leicester UK

Phone:

Fax:

Email: [cflick@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:cflick@dmu.ac.uk)

Responsibility within the Committee: new member, work with web development and social media.

Name: Francis 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: co-ordinate gathering of cases.

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 several sub committees

Name: Anthony Lobo

Address: Ethics Division, Tata Consultancy Services, Mumbai - 400096, Maharashtra, India

Phone: +91 22 67781177

Fax:

Email: anthony.lobo@tcs.com

Responsibility within the Committee: working on Hindi translation of the Code, 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: Web content sub-committee chair, Enforcement Revision Committee chair

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 several sub committees

Name: Norberto Patrignani

Address: Politecnico di Turin, Turin, IT

Phone:

Fax:

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

Responsibility within the Committee: new member, contributes to several sub committees

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: Marty J. Wolf

Address: Math and CS Department, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN 56601

Phone: 218-755-2825

Fax: 218-755-2822

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

Responsibility within the Committee: Vice Chair ad hoc member of all committees, function as chair in chair’s absence.