ANNUAL REPORT
of the COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
For the Period: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
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: Co-Chair (term expires June 30, 2020)
Marty J. Wolf: Co-Chair (term expires June 30, 2020)
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
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.

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. Ad hoc subcommittees are formed to conduct investigations when violations of the Code are reported.

1.4   List dates of committee meetings.

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

2.   <u>PROJECT SUMMARY</u>
        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. Adjudicate complaints of alleged ethics violations reported to the ACM including 5 major complaints consuming hundreds of person-hours and numerous minor complaints.
3. Facilitate the adoption of the ACM Code of Ethics by other organizations including business and other professional societies also assisting in the development of supporting materials.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. Maintain COPE's Internet presence. This includes developing case studies, 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.
7. Provide support for other international computing organizations developing a code of ethics. Responsible people: Gotterbarn/Wolf and others as appropriate. This happens on an as-requested basis.
8. Development of Code poster. Responsible person: Gotterbarn.
9. Maintain a direct relationship with ACM Pubs Board. Responsible person: Kirkpatrick.
10. Work with Professional Development Committee. Responsible person: Gotterbarn

Completed projects:
1. Presentation of ACM Tech Talk – Leveraging the ACM Code of Ethics. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Wolf.
2. Development of a proactive ethical analysis technique for using the Code- Proactive Care. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Wolf, Miller, Kirkpatrick.
3. Development of Case studies using Proactive CARE. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Wolf, Miller, Kirkpatrick.
4. UNESCO World Summit on the Information Society conference presentation on the ACM Code.
5. Keynote Zoom presentation at ETHICOMP conference Spain. Responsible people: Gotterbarn/
6. Zoom presentations in New Zealand about the ACM Code of Ethics and working through case studies. Responsible people: Gotterbarn.
7. Presentations to and support of international groups developing codes of ethics, consulting with groups in Australia, Italy, New Zealand, and the UK. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Flick.
8. Numerous investigations of complaints. Responsible people: Gotterbarn, Wolf, Kirkpatrick, Flick, Burton, Carter.

3.   PLANS
3.1   List projects that will be completed or terminated in the coming year.
1. Facilitate the adoption of the ACM Code of Ethics as the International Federation for Information Processing Code of Ethics.
2. Support for ACM curricula by producing documents relating ACM curricula elements to the ACM Code and producing a framework for integrating ethics into course modules.
3. Presentation of a Special Session at SIGCSE 2021
4. Development of Code Support Documents.
5. Restructure COPE to more effectively meet its expanding responsibilities, succession planning responsibilities, and to expand its diversity.
3.2   List important changes or milestones in active projects during the coming year.

Presentation at UNESCO of the launch of adoption of the ACM Code of Ethics by IFIP's 44 national computing societies.
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. Discuss and develop guidelines for membership on COPE. Identify expectations of members, ways for contributing to advancing COPE's mission.
4. Establish working meetings to develop additional case studies.
5. Establish working meetings to develop Code Support Documents.

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 nineteen members. Three are from outside the USA and eight 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. This year we will continue to address the membership on the committee. We would find guidance and training on increasing diversity extremely beneficial. There is reason to suspect that many ACM committees and SIGs would benefit from making this a key priority for this fiscal year (perhaps longer) and investing in such a way so as to make this happen throughout the organization.

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).

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. Wolf and Gotterbarn's TechTalk received a very high response rating for practitioner relevance. Other members of COPE are willing to participate in such events as well. COPE members have been successful in reaching out to wide audiences. See https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_AdpD-rERGAcubF1zOJ2oRNbha6Xk2GCHfZ30p6zJoQ/edit?usp=sharing for a comprehensive list.

APPENDIX

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

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

Name: Bo Brinkman

Email: Brinkman (dr.bo.brinkman@gmail.com).
Responsibility within the Committee: Technical Coordinator: Web, Twitter, Youtube Channel

Name: Emanuelle Burton

Email: emanuelle.burton@gmail.com
Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction, complaint resolution committees, Code Support Document contributor

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: Kai Kimppa
Email: Kai Kimppa Finnish Information Processing <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 case studies, 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 case studies, guiding COPE direction

Name: Tom Yeh

Email: tom.yeh@Colorado.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: 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.