

ANNUAL REPORT
of the COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
For the Period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
Submitted by [Marty J Wolf](#), Chair

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.

Marty J. Wolf, Chair (term expires June 30, 2026)

Catherine Flick, Vice Chair and Code Outreach Coordinator

Don Gotterbarn, Past Chair

Michael S. Kirkpatrick, Education Coordinator

Bo Brinkman, Technical Coordinator

Keith W. Miller, Secretary

Karla Carter, Social Media Coordinator

Jesmin Jahan Tithi, Pubs Liaison

Sally Applin

Emmanuel Ayaburi

Richard Blumenthal

Emanuelle Burton

Ken Christensen

Shannon French

Frances S Grodzinsky

Kai Kimppa

Evelyn Lulis

Helena Mentis

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 also form subcommittees to work with ACM awards committees.

- 1.4 List dates of committee meetings.

- March 13, 2024
- Dozens of meetings on various dates related to the investigation and adjudication of complaints.

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

Title	Responsible Person	Starting Date	Status	Funds Budgeted	Funds Spent
Code Support Documents	Marty J. Wolf Don Gotter barn	April 2022	On going	\$10,000	\$7815
Investigate/adjudicate complaints	Marty J. Wolf	Varies	Varies	\$0	\$0
COPE Membership Development	Tom Yeh	March 2022	Ongoing	\$0	\$0
Promote computing ethics and the Code on social media	Karla Carter	2016	Ongoing	\$0	\$0
Promote computing ethics in Computing Curricula 202x	Richard Blumenthal	Before July 2021	Ongoing	\$0	\$0
Partner with Mozilla Foundation	Marty J.	July 2023	Ongoing	\$0	\$0

	Wolf				
Work with UNESCO on using the Code in developing an AI accountability framework	Don Gotter barn	June 2024	Ongoing	\$0	\$0
Work with BCS to potentially adopt the Code	Don Gotter barn	June 2024	Ongoing	\$0	\$0
Worth with IFIP post Code Adoption	Don Gotter barn	June 2024	Ongoing	\$10000	\$5000
Exploration of applying the Code to non-members	Marty J. Wolf Catherine Flick	June 2023	Continuing	\$5,000	\$5000
Exploration of the role of the Code in AI Ethics	Don Gotter barn Marty J. Wolf	June 2023	Continuing	\$5,000	\$5000
Presentation on the Code to UofMinnesota CS faculty and grad students	Marty J. Wolf	November 2024	November 2024	\$0	\$0
Presentation on the updating of the Code to the BCS	Catherine Flick	March 2024	March 2024	\$0	\$0
Update the Code Enforcement Policy	Marty J. Wolf	March 2022	March 2024	\$0	\$0
Consultation on the ACM Disclosure Policy	Marty J. Wolf and others	August 2021	March 2024	\$0	\$0
OpEd on the Code and AI Ethics for Int'l Compliance Assn.	Catherine Flick and	April 2024	June 2024	\$0	\$0

	Marty J. Wolf				
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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: publish on a blog and establish agreement with a publication to promote 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 and deliver a workshop on the integration of the Code in research and publications practices specific to a university's computing research lab.
- 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 whose mission aligns with COPE's, including the ACM Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council.
- Partner with other organizations on guiding faculty in the incorporation of ethics in their teaching of computer science.

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, 2024, COPE had 21 members. Of the 21, 9 are women. 3 of the members are from Europe and the rest are U.S.-based. 4 are from industry (to the best of our knowledge). 1 member is early-career, 10 are late-career, and the remaining are mid-career.

4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

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

The COPE Chair has met with ACM's Diversity and Equity Committee to identify pathways for increasing the diversity of COPE. This effort is ongoing. 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. We are strengthening our ties with the Mozilla Foundation which is currently funding research in Responsible Computer Science in parts of Africa and India.

5. COMMENTS

List any comments you wish brought to Council's attention.

Members of COPE, and especially the Chair, stand ready to lead and assist with the Presidential Task Force on the Code of Ethics.

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 recently IFIP 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.

Note that members of the committee are called upon to serve on subcommittees to investigate and decide complaints that allege violations of the Code and complaints that allege violations of the Policy Against Harassment at ACM Activities.

Name: Sally Applin

Email: sally@sally.com

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to promoting the Code

Name: Emmanuel Ayaburi

Email: e.ayaburi@csuohio.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes ideas to teaching of computing ethics and understanding of 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: Vice Chair, Code outreach, especially to practitioners, complaint resolution committees

Name: Shannon French

Email: shannon.french@case.edu

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

Name: Donald Gotterbarn

Email: don@gotterbarn.com

Responsibility within the Committee: Past Chair, Liaison to ACM's Professional Development Committee, Liaison to the Institute for the Certification of Computing Professionals and Liaison to IFIP's International Professional Practice Partnership, ACM rep to IFIP Technical Committee on Accounting and Social Responsibility,

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: Serve as Pubs Liaison, 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

Name: Evelyn Lulis

Email: ealulis@aol.com

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction

Name: Helena Mentis

Email: mentis@umbc.edu

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: 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@polito.it

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to guiding COPE direction

Name: Tom Yeh

Email: tom.yeh@Colorado.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: helps align the Code with curricula, especially K-12

Name: Marty J. Wolf

Email: marty.wolf@bemidjistate.edu, ethics@acm.org

Responsibility within the Committee: Chair, leads all case subcommittees, manages documents for COPE.

