

Committee on Professional Ethics

General Description

- Committee is standing
- Number of members is six
- Term is three years

Principal Activities

The charge is defined provisionally in the report of 8 March 1983 of the ad hoc committee of the same name, which is attached.

Other Activities

Miscellaneous Information

The business of this committee can be done by mail, electronic mail, or telephone, expenses which may be reimbursed by the Society.

An explanation of travel expense reimbursement of volunteers for this committee is attached. This committee has been designated at **LEVEL F**.

Note to the Chair

Committee chairs should be informed, at the beginning of each fiscal period, the budget of their committees and cautioned to remain within the budget. Such items as travel reimbursement to, accommodations for, and meals for guests of any kind fall within these budgets.

Work done by committees on recurring problems may have value as precedent or work done may have historical interest. Because of this, the Council has requested that a central file system be maintained for the Society by the Secretary. Committees are reminded that a copy of every sheet of paper should be deposited (say once a year) in this central file. Confidential material should be noted, so that it can be handled in a confidential manner.

Authorization

Council Minutes of 7 August 1983, item 4.1.

See also ECBT Minutes of 13-15 May, 1983, item 5.2 and att. 16.

updated 10/31/90; 8/24/94; 5/04/95; 4/06/99

REPORT

Committee on Professional Ethics

The ad hoc Committee on Professional Ethics recommends that a permanent Committee on Professional Ethics be established by the council of the American Mathematical Society. The Committee does not recommend that a rigid code be drawn up, but, rather, that the permanent committee be available for consultation,

advice, and informal professional investigation as called for. It is to serve, in other words, more or less as an ombudsman.

The ad hoc Committee considered in some detail what kinds of matters could be brought before the permanent committee. Unethical behavior is possible in connection with publications (refereeing, plagiarism) at one end of the spectrum, and in connection with employment (tenure decisions, moonlighting, conflicts of interest) at the other. The ad hoc Committee is quite sure that the former kind should fall within the purview of the permanent committee and the latter not. The ad hoc Committee is, however, unable to draw a line where yes changes to no. The wisest course is probably to leave the issue not completely defined, and to let the manner of operation of the permanent committee be determined by the cases that come before it.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Gillman; P.R. Halmos (Chairman); A. Lax; J.C. Oxtoby; E.G. Straus

Past Members

Year Members

1992	Leonard D Berkovitz, DJ Lewis, Albert Marden, Everett Pitcher, Judith Roitman
1993	Leonard D Berkovitz, Simon Hellerstein, DJ Lewis, Albert Marden, Judith Roitman
1994	David Eisenbud, Simon Hellerstein, DJ Lewis, Albert Marden, Claude L Schochet
1995	Simon Hellerstein, Jerry Kaminker, Marian Pour-El, Louise A Raphael, Claude L Schochet
1996	Simon Hellerstein, Jerry Kaminker, Marian Pour-El, Louise A Raphael, Claude L Schochet, Hale F Trotter
1997	Simon Hellerstein, Jerry Kaminker, Marian Pour-El, Louise A Raphael, Claude L Schochet, Hale F Trotter
1998	Donald Burkholder, Simon Hellerstein, Lee Mosher, Christel Rotthaus, Claude L Schochet, Hale F Trotter
1999	Donald Burkholder, Sylvain Cappell, Lee Mosher, Paul Muhly, Christel Rotthaus, Floyd Williams
2000	Donald Burkholder, Sylvain Cappell, Lee Mosher, Paul Muhly, Christel Rotthaus, Floyd Williams
2001	Sylvain Cappell, Douglas Kurtz, Anne Leggett, John Meakin, Paul Muhly, Efton Park, Floyd Williams
2002	Lisa A Fastenberg, Douglas Kurtz, Anne Leggett, John Meakin, Efton Park, Floyd Williams
2003	Bruce Berndt, Lisa A Fastenberg, Douglas Kurtz, Anne Leggett, John Meakin, Efton Park
2004	Bruce Berndt, Lisa A Fastenberg, H. G. Grundman, Peter Hinman, Anne Leggett, Warren Wogen
2005	Patricia Bauman, Bruce Berndt, H. G. Grundman, Peter Hinman, Bernard Shiffman, Warren Wogen