

Committee on Professional Ethics Charge

General Description

- Committee is standing
- Number of members is six
- Term is three years
- Members are appointed by the President.

Principal Activities

COPE was established by action of the Council of the American Mathematical Society in 1983. It functions under the authority delegated to it by the Council and as set forth in the Ethical Guidelines* adopted by the January 1995 Council. COPE has responsibility for the implementation of these guidelines.

COPE normally is a reactive committee, entering a dispute by request of a disputant. However, from time to time it should consider ethical matters that go beyond interpersonal conflict and can make appropriate recommendations to the AMS Council. Such considerations may be initiated by others or by COPE itself.

Procedures for conflict resolution by COPE are outlined in the COPE Manual.† The Committee may deviate from these procedures as cases warrant and parties agree, but COPE is encouraged to follow standardized procedures. The Council has delegated responsibility to COPE and has full confidence in COPE and its procedures. It is anticipated that the Council will consider appeals from COPE decisions only rarely.

Miscellaneous Information

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

Note to the Chair

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 records of work should be kept and submitted annually to the Secretary for archival purposes. Confidential material should be noted, so that it can be handled in a confidential manner.

* <http://www.ams.org/about-us/governance/policy-statements/sec-ethics>

† <http://www.ams.org/about-us/governance/policy-statements/copemanual.pdf>

Authorization

August 7, 1983 Council Minutes, Item 4.1; See also May 13–15, 1983 ECBT Minutes, Item 5.2 and Attachment 16 Council approved the creation of the Committee on Professional Ethics.

August 14, 1993 Council Minutes, Item 4.2, Council approved guidelines and procedures for the committee.

January 11, 1994 Council Minutes, Item 3.10, Council rescinded guidelines and procedures for the committee.

January 09, 1996 Council Minutes, Item 4.2, and Attachment B Council adopted procedures for the committee

January 9, 2015 Council Minutes, Item 4.6.6, Council approved updated charge.

April 29, 2017 Council Minutes, Item 3.1, Council approved updated charge.

Past Members

A list of current and past members is available here:

<http://www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/profethics-past.html>