

Report from the
Joint IEEE Computer Society and Association for Computing Machinery
Steering Committee for the Establishment of Software Engineering as a Profession
November 18, 1994

Updated organization chart (ACM appointments)

Task force reports

- Body of Knowledge and Recommended Practices
- Ethics and Standards of Practice
- Education

Future steps

“To establish the appropriate sets(s) of standards for professional practice of software engineering upon which industrial decisions, professional certification, and educational curricula can be based.”

Task Force Reports

Body of Knowledge and Recommended Practices

Meetings

- Most work carried out by email (task force has over 30 members, several in Europe)
- July 1, 1994, Hawthorn, NY
- November 11, 1994, Pittsburgh

Developing survey instrument

- Developed list of topics for survey on body of knowledge
- Planning workshops for expert practitioners to develop questions in their area of expertise
- Scheduled pilot workshop on December 8-9, in Dallas, Texas, with TI, DSC Communications, and other local companies
- Plan to have similar workshops in several locations during January
- Build final survey instrument during February and conduct tests during March (ACM Computer Science Conference, SEI Conference on Software Engineering Education, CS COMPCON)

Still undecided on best vehicle for conducting survey

- Survey questions are complex and there are many topics/questions
- Electronic distribution, collection, and processing are very important
- Task force has expertise in conventional paper surveys; need help from experts in electronic surveys
- This will be expensive
- American Society for Quality Control (ASQC) used Educational Testing Service (ETS) for their survey on “An Inventory of Tasks and Knowledge Areas for the Certified Software Quality Engineer.”

Task Force Reports (Continuation)

Ethics and Professional Practices

Meetings

- April 30, 1994, CS Headquarters
- June 11, 1994, Boston College
- November 11, 1994, Ethics in the Computer Age Conference

Working groups

- Institutional support
- Intellectual property
- Professional competence
- Professional relationships
- Privacy
- Reliability and safety
- Security
- Social justice

Call for participation in wide circulation

Education

Task force leadership appointed and ready to start working with task force developing survey of body of knowledge

Survey results will be important input to developing curricula for SE (education and training)

Future Steps

Other societies

- Have received inquiries and expressions of interest from other national societies professional societies
- Briefing IEE and BCS on December 7-9
- Should consider involving others e.g. DPMA

Steering Committee Meeting during ACM meetings February 27 - March 3, Nashville, Tennessee

- Briefing to ACM Executive Committee and ACM Council
- Briefing CS Boards the following week (San Francisco)

(Planning) meeting with SIGSOFT and TCSE

(Drafting) editorial page on initiative suitable for COMPUTER and CACM

- Published COMPUTER Standards column early in 1994
- Published article in ACM Software Engineering Notes (Barry Boehm)
- SEN article reprinted in CS Software Engineering Technical Council Newsletter