

Subject: Re: [Fwd: Professionalization of the practice of computing]
Date: Mon, 08 May 2000 10:27:13 -0400
From: Stu Zweben <zweben@cis.ohio-state.edu>
To: "Dennis J. Frailey" <d-frailey@raytheon.com>

"Dennis J. Frailey" wrote:

> This email came from Don Gotterbarn today.

> ----- Original Message -----

> Subject Professionalization of the practice of computing

> Date: Fri, 5 May 2000 14:36: 51 +1000

> From: "Don Gotterbarn" <gotterba@access.etsu.edu>

> To: <turner@cs.clemson.edu>

> Joe, > I just heard a rumor that ACM is considering withdrawing its > support
> for the professionalization of software engineering as represented by >
SWECC > If this rumor is not true you can stop reading this and I hope you
have >a > nice weekend.

> I believe that if ACM withdrew its support that it would be a
> significant mistake hurting both the ACM and the Computing profession it
> represents I am in Australia now as a research fellow but I am
> working
> with the ACS to have them adopt the SE Code of Ethics and Professional
> Practice and discussing the development of Student ACM chapters here.
> I
> have found myself "trying" to explain the ACMs refusal to give guidance
> to
> efforts to license or certify computing professionals, a subject the ACS
> is
> exploring. It is also **difficult** to explain this when it is pointed out
> that
> both of the ACMs Codes say that as computing professionals we have a
> responsibility to prevent significant mistakes in computing.

> Some people have been concerned with the relative speed of the SWEBoh
> process. As you know, the Code of Ethics project was slow to start but
> once
> it was re-organized we brought home an effective product. It filled a
> niche. The SE Code has been adopted as a standard of practice by
> several

> major software developers and has been adopted by other professional >
> computing societies The SWEBoK effort was slow to start, but is now > under >
> competent leadership and is following normal processes of standards >
> development. It looks to most of us as if they are on the right track. > As > a
> concerned ACM member, I believe it would significantly hurt the ACMs >
> reputation and the computing profession if the ACM withdrew its support.

> There are numerous accreditation efforts going on at the moment and > the >
> ACM, as a representative of compu&hg professionals needs to provide an >
> organized direction for this process This direction is provided by the > ACMs
> chosen representatives on SWECC.

> I think software engineering has both an applied and a theoretical > foundation.
> Any good software engineer must have a solid foundation in > computer science.
> The ACM must represent the computer science side of > software engineering, If
> they pullout of this process then they have > DAMAGED the professional
> development of computing. What is ACMs role > if > not to at least represent good
> science in software development.

> I hope the ACM will continue to represent computing at its best.

> Thank you for hearing me out.

>

> Sincerely,

> Don Gotterbarn

Dennis,

FYI, I sent email to Joe and Chuck over the weekend. Council apparently didn't take any
rash action. Joe informed me they directed the EC to explore approaches to better
cooperation with the IEEE-CS, but no withdrawal. I'm going to try to find out more.

Stu