

Date: Mon, 16 Mar 1998 14:00:08 -0500  
From: Don Gotterbarn <gotterba@ACCESS.ETSU.EDU>  
Reply-To: Professional Competence Standards Task Force  
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To: Multiple recipients of list PRFCMP-L <PRFCMP-L@UTKVM1.UTK.EDU>  
Subject: Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice

I received the following questions from Amr and I presume you all have similar questions.

Life is not simple. On 16 December, I sent our recommendation that version 4.0 be forwarded to both the IEEE-CS and the ACM. Both societies had meetings of their executive committees in late January or early February. There was no response from the steering committee and the Code did not get forwarded to the Societies. In January I sent a follow-up letter to the Joint Steering Committee and telephoned the ACM co-chair of the Committee. I was told that the steering committee had not yet formally responded to my(our) request(s). Nor had they responded to the Co-Chair's request. Further telephone calls revealed that the IEEE-CS chair has resigned.

In the mean time both societies had their executive committee meetings and we were not on their agendas. I spoke with the President of the IEEE-CS in March and she has asked someone to be the IEEE-CS co-chair. The ACM executive committee is having their next meeting in Hong Kong, but in May they are meeting in Washington DC and I hope to be on their agenda. I am trying to find out about the IEEE-CS meeting.

Part of the problem we are having seems to be related to the status of the education and skills task force products. I was told that the skills task force spent a lot of money and have not finished their work. Some people have spoken about hiring a group to finish the work of the skills task force. The education task force was waiting on the skills task force results, but I think that has currently changed- along with the leadership of the education task force.

Results of the work of the three task forces can be found at <http://www.computer.org/tab/seprof/>

There are a number of other complicating factors. The IEEE has been asked to define a software engineering curriculum by a U.S. based engineering school accrediting agency- ABET. The IEEE-CS is not the IEEE so there are two distinct efforts going on related to curriculum.

I am doing my best to publicize the Code. It has been adopted by some industries and will appear in some text books. It is on a web site in Bosnia and will appear in some publications. I hope that if it becomes a defacto Standard, that it will be easier for it to get support from the societies.

I will also keep trying to work through the steering committee.

I hope all is well with you.

best regards to all,  
don

On Sun, 1 Mar 1998, Dr. Amr  
El-Kadi wrote:

>  
> Would you please keep us updated on the response you get from the Steering  
> Committee on V 4.0 of the Code? I'd like to know how that ends.

