Dennis,

The IEEE Computer Society was informed on July 7, 2000 (see letter below) that ACM was withdrawing from SWECC. Our withdrawal was effective that date. It is inappropriate for IEEE-CS to be asking for ACM representation on SWECC.

Regarding on-going activities, ACM is continuing to fund the curriculum work led by Richard LaBlanc and managed by the Education Board. It is continuing to fund ethics work through the ACM Committee on Professional Ethics. ACM is working with many societies on the Information Technology Profession Initiative. Both Bruce Eisenstein (IEEE President) and Doris Carver (past IEEE-CS) are on the Steering Committee.

Barbara Simons is following up with Guylaine Pollack on behalf of the Executive Committee to ensure any remaining issues around our withdrawal from SWECC are resolved.

John

July 7, 2000

Guylaine Pollack IEEE
Computer Society
Washington D.C.

Dear Guylaine,

In a vote completed June 30, 2000 the Council of the ACM has (without objection) directed that the Association withdraw from the Software Engineering Coordinating Committee (SWECC). This action was taken after 18 months of evaluation of the goals, direction, and progress of SWECC and its various projects. Accordingly, this letter is to inform you that ACM is withdrawing from SWECC. A full report on our decision to withdraw will be made available shortly. A summary of the ACM position is included with this letter.

While the decision to withdraw from SWECC has been made, the Executive Committee of the ACM is eager to explore new ways of working together with the Computer Society to make substantive progress on the problem of improving the quality of software systems and the capabilities of software engineers. The Executive Committee feels there are areas in which

on-going activities should continue (e.g., education and curricula) and new areas in which joint projects and initiatives should be considered (e.g., the Information Technology Profession Initiative). Representatives of the Executive Committee will be at the upcoming Snowbird Conference and look forward to having informal conversations with the Computer Society about new ways of working together on this difficult, but important, problem.

Barbara Simons
ACM Past-PresidentDennis,

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Barbara Simons
ACM Past-President

 > > *Because the IEEE Computer Society executive board*
meets next week and will address this matter, I
recommend immediate attention.

The bylaws of SWEcc, to which ACM and the IEEE
Computer Society mutually agreed several years ago,
call for an ACM representative to become chair of
SWEcc as of January 1, 2001, for a 2 year period.
(SWEcc is the software engineering coordinating
committee, under the auspices of which there are four
projects associated with establishing software
engineering as a profession.)

Although the ACM Council, under the previous executive
committee, announced its intention to pull out of SWEcc on
June 30, 2000, the details of making this happen were left to
the next executive committee and nothing formal has been
proposed or agreed to by the ACM and the Computer
Society. ACM's announced intention was to seek an
arrangement that would preserve some of the projects
currently under SWEcc. The position of the computer society
seems to be that SWEcc remains as a formal entity chartered
by both societies to oversee these projects and will proceed
as currently established until the Society and ACM agree to a
resolution of this issue.

In the absence of such an agreement by January 1,
ACM will be obligated to provide a chair of SWEcc. I
have received a request from the computer society to
identify whom the ACM chair will be, presumably so that
an orderly transition of

responsibility may take place. As ACM's primary representative to SWEcc, that obligation would fall on me, barring a change in ACM's representation or a formal resolution of the ACM withdrawal proposal.

I am not willing to serve in that capacity when my sole purpose as ACM's representative would be to dismantle something I have spent 7 years building on ACM's behalf. I continue to believe that deciding to withdraw was a mistake on ACM's part.

I would be happy to provide my insight on these matters or my perspective on the background if the new executive committee needs this information. In any case, I urge that action be taken to resolve this issue, since otherwise it leaves ACM in an awkward position at best.

Regards, DJF

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