We face the challenges of evolving technologies, changing business and access models, and the demand for ever-increasing speed of communication that are altering the face of publishing. At such a time, it is important to acknowledge the skill and value that the various types of editors add in providing us with clear, concise, reliable, and readable science. It is ever so important that the excellence and integrity of communicating science remain in the hands of our editors.

As I embark on the presidency, I look at the Council that I have belonged to since 1990. Our membership is stable and growing. Our committees are strong and active. Under a new marketing plan and leadership, we have begun a campaign to reach new members and to promote our strengths, such as Science Editor, our recently redesigned Web site, and our products and services. Like those of any organization in recent history, our investments have suffered. However, the Board and the Finance Committee have worked diligently over the last years to establish a sound fiscal policy and to promote fiscal responsibility within the committees. We have built an investment strategy that will ensure the future of the Council, allowing us to strengthen our organization and to serve our constituency in education, publication, Web interface, communication, and editorial policy.

As we continue to broaden our international scope, the Council of Science Editors must heed the goals laid out by the Scope and Mandate Task Force in 1997: to broaden membership in all sciences, to maintain the focus on editors, to remain a cohesive organization of diverse members, to energize CSE’s commitment to serve members and increase opportunities for members’ involvement, to strengthen CSE’s fiscal responsibility, to become an authoritative resource for education in scientific communication, to develop and promote CSE’s products and services more effectively, and to report regularly to the membership. It is the role of the Board of Directors, under the leadership of the president, to guide the Council in accomplishing these goals and to further the mission of the Council: “to promote excellence in the community of scientific information”.

The coming year promises to be an interesting and exciting one. Our Web site has recently undergone a redesign. In the fall, a retreat on scientific misconduct with the Office of Research Integrity is planned. We will self-publish Scientific Style and Format (seventh edition), and we will consider the option of a Web version. We have a talented and enthusiastic Program Committee that promises to offer an excellent annual meeting in Vancouver.

It is an honor and pleasure for me to serve the Council and to strive to further the mission and the goals of the Council by continuing to market our organization and its publications, to enhance our publication program, to strengthen our sponsorship program, and to support the excellent and successful education programs that have evolved over the years.

Michael J Held