2008–2009 Committee Highlights

Although the annual meeting may be CSE’s most visible activity, much of the Council’s work occurs via committees that function throughout the year. The following are brief rundowns on some of the committees active in 2008–2009. CSE’s committee year runs from annual meeting to annual meeting (May to May). CSE members wishing to volunteer for membership on 2009–2010 committees can contact CSE headquarters (CSE@CouncilScienceEditors.org) or the current chairs of the committees of interest.

The Editorial Policy Committee (chair, Heather Goodell, heather.goodell@heart.org) serves as a resource regarding editorial and publishing policies that apply to the sciences. This year, the committee posted examples of correspondence for editorial offices (www.councilscienceeditors.org/editorial_policies/sample_correspondence.cfm). In addition, it has worked on updating CSE’s “White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications” (www.councilscienceeditors.org/editorial_policies/white_paper.cfm). It now is preparing an ethics clinic for the 2009 annual meeting.

The Education Committee (chair, Pamella P Erickson, perickson@lilly.com) supervises the educational activities of CSE, which include the CSE short courses and the International Scholarship Program. This year, the committee added a new short course, the Short Course on Journal Metrics, to be given for the first time at the 2009 annual meeting. In addition, it raised funds for the International Scholarship Program and chose scholarship recipients from among the applicants. Please watch these pages for information about the scholarship recipients.

The Membership Committee (chair, Tim Cross, tcross@allenpress.com) promotes the recruitment and retention of members and monitors member satisfaction. Activities this year have included two online surveys of CSE members: one about the 2008 CSE annual meeting and short courses, the other about member satisfaction with various aspects of CSE; the CSE leadership is using the results in strategic planning.

The Program Committee (chair, Diane M Sullenberger, dsullenb@nas.edu) plans the program for the CSE annual meeting and obtains speakers for it. This year, the committee was expanded to 25 dedicated and diverse members, who convened by monthly conference call. Special features of the 2009 annual meeting will include podium presentations on research, an authorship retreat, and an update on activities of other professional organizations. For more information about the annual meeting, please see pages 65–66.

The Publications Committee (chair, Dana Compton, dmcompton@nas.edu) evaluates existing CSE publications, recommends actions pertaining to them, and identifies opportunities for new publications. Activities during the 2008–2009 program year have included additional marketing of the 7th edition of Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers and planning for the 8th edition.

Major activities of the Web Committee (chair, Seth Beckerman, s.beckerman@vip.cgnet.com) in this program year have included posting presentations from the 2008 annual meeting; considerably more presentations were posted than from the 2007 meeting. The committee also created a form through which members can suggest nominees for CSE offices. Other activities included posting new issues of Science Editor, calendar listings, job announcements, and advertisements. Science Editor thanks the Web Committee for its help, and it thanks other committees for contributing articles about their activities.

Additional committees on which CSE members can volunteer to serve include the Sponsorship Committee and the Science Editor Editorial Board. A full list of CSE committees and chairs appears at www.councilscienceeditors.org/about/committees.cfm.