

Societies Look at Professional Ethics Programs

Scientific and engineering societies are increasingly called upon to become involved in questions of professional ethics. To learn more about how other societies address these issues, more than 20 representatives from AAAS-affiliated societies have begun meeting to discuss professional ethics activities. The group held its first meeting last fall at the AAAS and exchanged experiences and materials describing codes of ethics and case review procedures within their organizations.

A number of societies either have established or are in the process of establishing a code of ethics for their members. Helen Bishop, director of education and training for the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), reported that ASM has recently established an ad hoc committee on ethics and that it will develop a statement of ethical behavior for microbiologists in all fields of endeavor, in addition to considering how ASM should respond to violations of its ethical code. The American Chemical Society has published "The Chemist's Creed" and has recently issued a third edition of professional employment guidelines. Milton Lunch, general counsel for the National Society of Professional Engineers, reviewed efforts to develop a uniform code of ethics for the engineering profession.

Among the ethics education programs is a set of "self-assessment procedures" developed by the Association of Computing Machinery. Lunch presented a film, "The Trueteel Affair," sponsored by the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, Canada. The film examines an ethical dilemma in which a structural engineer is ordered by his employer, the owner of a construction company, to compromise quality control concerns in delivering an urgent order. Vivian Weil from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions (a group with which AAAS often works) announced that a series of ethics modules developed by the Center for university engineering courses would be published in 1984.

Societies also have established proce-

dures for reviewing individual cases. William Middleton, chair of the ethics task force of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), said his group reviews individual cases raising questions about actions by employers or others which might conflict with the professional standards of the society. The American Psychological Association (APA) adjudicates about 70 cases a year involving complaints of unethical conduct by its members. Joan Berman, administrative assistant in the APA ethics office said that the decisions on these cases are confidential, but in situations where a member is expelled from the APA, a notice is mailed to the membership regarding the action. Affiliated state associations and examining boards also may be notified if it is determined necessary to protect the public.

Most societies will not review a case while litigation is pending. For example, Robert Cohen, director of professional services for the National Association of Social Workers, noted that the Society's investigatory procedure is usually suspended immediately if either party goes to court. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), however, deals with some cases which are being litigated simultaneously in the courts. AAUP has successfully protected the confidentiality of its investigatory procedures against court subpoenas, according to Jonathan Knight, AAUP associate secretary.

Several other groups, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Psychiatric Association, American Political Science Association, American Sociological Association, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, American Society for Pharmaceutical Therapeutics, and the Society on Aggression Research are developing new codes, education programs, or case review procedures.

The professional societies' ethics group will meet again in the spring. For further information, contact Rosemary Chalk, Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, at the AAAS address.

AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize

Submission of entries in the 1984 competition for the AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize is invited. Established in 1952 with funds donated by Arthur F. Bentley, the \$1000 prize is awarded annually for a meritorious paper that furthers understanding of human psychological-social-cultural behavior. The prize is intended to encourage in social inquiry the development and application of the kind of dependable methodology that has proved so fruitful in the natural sciences.

Entries should present a completed analysis of a problem, the relevant data, and the interpretation of the data in terms of the postulates with which the study began. Purely empirical studies, no matter how important, and purely theoretical formulations, no matter how thoughtful, are not eligible.

The winning entry will be selected by a committee of judges appointed by the Executive Officer in consultation with officers of the AAAS Sections on Anthropology (H), Psychology (J), and Social, Economic, and Political Sciences (K). The prize will be presented at the 1984 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, 23-28 May.

Unpublished manuscripts and manuscripts published after 1 January 1983 are eligible. The deadline for receipt of entries is 15 September 1984. For entry blank and instructions, write to the AAAS Executive Office at the AAAS address.

Grants to Self-Sponsored Foreign Graduate Students to Attend 1984 Annual Meeting

AAAS expects a limited number of grants of up to \$250 to be available to assist self-sponsored foreign graduate students currently studying in the United States to attend the 150th AAAS Annual Meeting which will be held in New York, 24-29 May. Registration for successful applicants will be paid by AAAS.

Applicants should submit: (i) curriculum vitae, including telephone number; (ii) a budget (roundtrip to New York and