



AMERICAN ACADEMY *of* ACTUARIES

Council on Professionalism Cycle Report
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November 17, 2011

COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONALISM HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Committee on Qualifications and Academy staff continue to receive and answer various questions on the U.S. Qualification Standards from a variety of sources. The Committee responded to a letter it received from the SOA regarding suggested changes to Section 2.1 of the U.S. qualification standards (see <http://www.actuary.org/professi.asp>). The Committee also co-signed a letter with the health practice council Vice President to the Arizona insurance director pointing out that their regulatory definition of “qualified actuary” for health premium actuarial certifications was inappropriate and suggested corrective language.**
- **The Council is sponsoring four professionalism webcasts in 2011. Its first webinar on ASOP No. 41, Actuarial Communications was held March 23, 2011 with approximately 1,000 paid registrants. The second webinar on the “Profession’s Responsibility to the Public” was held June 29, 2011, with over 500 registrants, and was very well received. The third webinar on the Code of Professional Conduct was held September 21, 2011 with over 600 registrants. The fourth webinar is scheduled for December 15, 2011 on IAA matters for U.S. actuaries.**
- **The Academy Board of Directors adopted at its October 28, 2011 meeting the recommendation from the Council that all Academy members who are members of any Academy board, committee, subcommittee, work group, task force, etc. (“committee”) annually comply with and attest to their compliance with the continuing education requirements of the U.S. Qualification Standards to serve as members of such committees.**
- **The Council hosted a well-received roundtable forum on actuarial professionalism at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners’ fall meeting. Representatives from the Council and its Committee on Qualifications and members of the ASB and the ABCD facilitated an open, candid, and free-flowing discussion with regulators about issues they may be facing and answered questions about actuarial professionalism.**
- **The Academy Board of Directors adopted at its January meeting the changes recommended by the Council to the Academy’s Conflict of Interest policy (see**

http://www.actuary.org/pdf/prof/revised_COI_Policy.pdf), which incorporates the discussion paper described below.

- **The Council published a discussion paper entitled “Conflicts of Interest When Doing Volunteer Work,” which is intended to assist current and future Academy volunteers in identifying and resolving potential conflict of interest issues when providing volunteer services to the Academy.**
- **The Council continues to participate in SOA and CAS professionalism courses, and serves as a professionalism resource for all actuarial organizations.**
- **The Council completed its task of reminding Academy volunteers to complete the annual conflict of interest acknowledgments to evidence compliance with the policy, which resulted in dropping 15 volunteers from their respective committees for non-compliance out of approximately 1,250 volunteers. The Council will renew this effort again for 2012 in the first quarter of the year.**
- **The Committee on Professional Responsibility is in the process of reviewing and updating previously published discussion papers including a paper on international practice and required disclosures under the Code of Professional Conduct. At the request of the Council, the COPR will also update its paper on Peer Review. The Committee is continuing to revise a draft paper regarding Precept 13.**
- **The Council assigned one of its members to serve as an interested party on the Academy’s Actuarial Soundness Task Force, which is reviewing various definitions of actuarial soundness in current law and regulations with a view towards writing an issue brief outlining such historical definitions. Thereafter, the Council will consider whether it should issue its own discussion paper on actuarial soundness in the context of professionalism.**
- **The Council’s work group continues to consider the appropriate vehicle for educating volunteers and committee chairs on professionalism topics they should consider in the context of Academy meetings of volunteers such as antitrust, confidentiality and conflict of interest issues.**
- **The Academy’s Life and Health Qualifications Seminar Committee successfully completed its 12th annual seminar held November 7–10, 2011 in Arlington, Virginia. The seminar drew in 83 registrants, 78 actual attendees, and resulted in 42 actuaries taking the examination on the final day. The Committee is in the process of reviewing and grading these examinations.**
- **The Committee on Actuarial Public Service met on July 20, 2011 and after thorough consideration recommended Mary D. Miller to the Executive Committee to receive the 2011 Robert J. Myers Public Service Award, and the Executive Committee approved the recommendation. The winner was awarded at this year’s annual member meeting in Las Vegas, NV, on October 24, 2011.**

- **The Academy's President and Vice President of Professionalism sent a letter dated July 18, 2011 to the owners of the Actuarial Outpost, D.W. Simpson, to urge them to remove a forum on the Outpost. That forum contains sexually explicit dialogue that reflects poorly on the actuarial profession, as more thoroughly described in the letter.**

The next Council on Professionalism meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2012 in Savannah, Georgia.