COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONALISM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Committee on Qualifications and Academy staff continue to receive and answer various questions on the U.S. Qualification Standards, and present at various sessions on the standards.

- The Council has sponsored three professionalism webcasts to date in 2010. Its most recent webcast on the Best of Up To Code on October 21, 2010 drew over 500 registrants, and the Council estimates that over 2,000 attendees participated in the event. The Council plans one more webcast for this year on ASOP No. 35, adopted by the ASB this year, and proposed changes to ASOP Nos. 4 and 27 to be presented on December 3, 2010.

- The Council continues to participate in SOA and CAS professionalism courses, and serve as a professionalism resource for all actuarial organizations.

- The Council completed its review of the CAS professionalism associateship course and SOA associateship and fellowship professionalism courses and provided each with minor suggested changes.

- The Council submitted a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services in connection with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and its use of the terms "qualified and licensed" actuary and "member in good standing" of the Academy. The letter is available on the professionalism home page at http://www.actuary.org/professi.asp.

- 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 Conflict of Interest Task Force completed a draft of its proposed changes to the Academy’s conflict of interest policy and a discussion paper to provide some information to volunteers on how to adhere to the policy. The Council voted in
November to send the proposed changes to the Academy Board for consideration at its January 2011 meeting.

- The Council formed a work group to consider potential issues related to confidentiality when volunteers (and interested parties) attend Academy meetings either in person or by teleconference.

- Pursuant to the Academy’s Strategic Plan, the Council circulated notices to volunteers requiring them to specifically acknowledge the Conflict of Interest (COI) policy for 2010. The process was streamlined by allowing volunteers to acknowledge the COI policy directly online. As a result, 99% of all Academy volunteers complied with the acknowledgement and 12 volunteers who did not comply with the acknowledgement were dropped from various Academy committees.

- The Council, together with the Volunteer Resource Committee, is working on a volunteer guide dealing with protocol issues and other matters.

- The Academy’s Life and Health Qualifications Seminar Committee successfully held its 11th annual seminar on November 1 – 4, 2010 in Arlington, Virginia, which was attended by 68 registrants, 43 of whom took the related exam.

- The North Carolina Department of Insurance informed the Academy that it was considering changing the definition of a “qualified actuary” in its regulations from being an Academy member OR a member of the Society of Actuaries to requiring qualified actuaries to be members of both organizations to “strengthen” the regulations. This Council’s Vice President along with the Chairperson of the Committee on State Health Issues submitted a brief response letter explaining, among other things, that members of both organizations had to adhere to the same standards.

- The Committee on Actuarial Public Service met on July 16, 2010 to consider the nominees for the 2010 Robert J. Myers Public Service Award, and decided to recommend to the Executive Committee that Sheldon Summers receive the award. The Executive Committee adopted the recommendation at its August meeting, and the award was presented to Mr. Summers at the Academy’s annual meeting on November 8, 2010.

- At the Council’s September 14, 2010 meeting, the Council thanked Kathleen Riley for her three years of service and dedication to the Academy as the Vice President of Professionalism. The Council also welcomed John Gleba as her successor.

The next Council on Professionalism meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2011 in Charleston, South Carolina.
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

I. Inspire and enable our members to attain and keep a high level of professionalism in their work (Strategic Plan Sections 1.4 & 1.7), including development and promotion of practical materials to incorporate professionalism in their daily practice.

The Academy professionalism volunteers and staff continue to participate in a variety of actuarial organization events throughout 2010. The Academy continues to participate in the CAS Professionalism Courses and the SOA Fellowship Admissions Courses offered several times throughout the year. The professionalism volunteers and staff also present at various actuarial clubs across the United States on professionalism topics.

The Council finalized and published an updated version of the Applicability Guidelines (with the assistance of the other practice councils) in February 2010, which has been incorporated in the curriculum of various actuarial organizations.

The Council agreed to sponsor at least four professionalism webcasts throughout 2010, one in each calendar quarter, and held its first webcast on the Retiree Drug Subsidy attestations on March 24, 2010, its second webcast on the U.S. qualification standards and SOA’s CPD requirements on June 17, 2010, and third webcast on the “Best of Up To Code” articles on October 21, 2010, and plans to hold its fourth webcast on December 3, 2010 on ASOP Nos. 4, 27, and 35.

II. Advocate the profession’s professionalism standards to our publics and regulators, both within and outside of the United States (Strategic Plan Sections 1.5, 3.2.3 & 8.6).

The JBEA approved the Academy as a qualified sponsor of JBEA continuing education for Enrolled Actuaries in order to assist members and other actuaries who are EAs comply with JBEA CE requirements. To date, the Academy has issued over 3,000 certificates of attendance in connection with Academy webcasts to assist Enrolled Actuaries comply with the JBEA CE requirements. The Academy plans to renew its sponsorship status for the next JBEA cycle.

The Council submitted a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services in connection with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and its use of the terms "qualified and licensed" actuary who is a "member in good standing" of the Academy.

The North Carolina Department of Insurance informed the Academy that it was considering changing the definition of a “qualified actuary” in its regulations from being an Academy member OR a member of the Society of Actuaries to
requiring qualified actuaries to be members of both organizations to “strengthen” the regulations. This Council’s Vice President along with the Chairperson of the Committee on State Health Issues submitted a brief response letter stating, among other things, that members of both organizations had to adhere to the same standards.

The Committee on Actuarial Public Services is preparing a short survey to Academy members who are public sector actuaries to increase their awareness of the existence of this committee and to determine what issues are most important to public sector actuaries.

The Committee on Qualifications and the Academy professionalism staff continue to be available to, and respond to, numerous questions from actuaries and others on the revised Qualification Standards, effective January 1, 2008. The Qualification Standards website also contains a list of FAQs at http://www.actuary.org/qualstandards/qualfaqs.asp which is updated periodically.

III. Promote and coordinate a consistent and evolving continuing education standard in the United States, and facilitate coordination of profession-wide professionalism education (Strategic Plan Sections 1.7.1 & 1.7.2).

The CUSP recommended to the Council on Professionalism that it broaden its scope to address professionalism issues facing all five of the U.S.-based actuarial organizations and the Council has been actively involved in broadening its involvement in other organizations’ professionalism programs including co-sponsorship of professionalism webcasts among all the U.S. actuarial organizations.

The revised Qualification Standards have strengthened the professionalism requirements of credentialed US actuaries, by, among other things, increasing the annual CE requirements, and by adding a 3-year experience requirement to the basic education and experience component of the Qualification Standards. The qualification standards are an alternative method of satisfying the SOA’s new CPD requirements for its members effective January 1, 2009.

The Council has charged the Committee on Professional Responsibility with updating the discussion paper entitled “Disclosure Under the Code of Professional Conduct” which was originally drafted by the Joint Committee on the Code of Professional Conduct.

EXTERNAL CONTACTS:

- Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries
- NAIC
- IAA
- CAS
- CCA
- SOA
- ASPPA
- Actuaries Club of Boston
- Philadelphia Actuarial Club
- Southeastern Actuarial Conference
- Middle Atlantic Actuarial Club
- Baltimore Actuaries Club
- Arizona Actuarial Club
- Tri-State Actuarial Club