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15 September 2011

On the work of the Editor-in-Chief (EiC)

EC = Executive Committee, GA = General Assembly, ME = Managing Editor, JComm = Commission on Journals

Principle (as currently practised or desirable)	Comments
1. Appointment of the EiC is prepared by the EC, confirmation by the GA.	<i>Current practice.</i>
2. The EiC is in charge of all IUCr Journals (currently 8) and chairs the Commission on Journals. The JAC Editor acts as Deputy.	<i>Current practice, but the EiC's role is not explicitly mentioned for JAC and JSR. It should – there is no good reason for hiding this information.</i>
3. The EiC interacts directly (in managerial matters jointly with the ME) with the JComm members and the individual Sections.	<i>Current practice; a forum is being prepared to improve interactions.</i>
4. The EiC is an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee and of the Commission on Crystallographic Nomenclature and currently a member of the Committee on Crystallographic Databases (Subcommittee of the EC).	<i>Ex-officio membership would be desirable in the Commission on International Tables since there are frequently matters of mutual concern. Membership in the IUCr/Oxford University Press (OUP) Book Series Selection Committee is also advisable for the same reasons.</i>
<p>5. The EiC is ultimately responsible for the scientific and editorial content of the Journals and reports to the EC.</p> <p>This implies <i>inter alia</i></p> <p>a) The EiC is in attendance at EC meetings for all points relevant to the Journals and the publishing activities of the IUCr. Likewise, the EiC is involved in all corresponding official electronic or mail exchanges of the EC members</p> <p>b) Appeals to editorial decisions end here.</p> <p>c) Special issues require approval by the EiC (for personalised or commemorative special issues, approval by the President or the EC remains useful – also to protect the EiC...)</p>	<p><i>This has so far happened occasionally and more or less informally. A formal arrangement would improve mutual understanding and confidence. Including other publishing activities seems useful since the EiC is expected to be a very experienced scientist who could thus be of some help (and this could add some sense of a broader responsibility). Although confirmed by the EC some years ago when attempts were made to appeal to the EC, it seems worthwhile to mention this here.</i></p> <p><i>Currently, President and Treasurer are asked for approval in all cases.</i></p>

<p>d) The EiC decides on the acceptance and placement of obituaries.</p> <p>e) The EiC may publish Editorials in any of the Journals.</p> <p>f) The EiC may handle papers directly in up to two journals (selected for a period of about three years).</p> <p>g)The Chester staff makes sure that the EiC is properly informed on all matters relevant to the Journals.</p> <p>h) The EiC prepares reappointments nominations for new Section Editors and, in close interaction with the Section Editors, for Co-editors.</p> <p>-The EiC submits complete documentation on proposed Section Editors to the EC for formal approval.</p> <p>-The EiC approves the appointment of Co-editors after consultation with the Section Editors and informs the EC (including CV and list of publications).</p> <p>-The EiC, in close interaction with the Section Editor(s), may exclude fallible Co-editors from handling papers or encourage them to resign.</p>	<p><i>Current practice.</i></p> <p><i>Currently barely used.</i></p> <p><i>It is very useful for the EiC to work on some papers like any Co-editor would. Presently, the EiC appears as a Co-editor of JAC for historical reasons. This is confusing and unnecessarily restrictive. A simpler way would be to include the EiC in the list of available (Co-)editors in the selected journal(s). This includes, e.g., performance issues (especially lack of performance) of individual (Co-)Editors before it is too late, special quota agreements, contacts with other publishers, promotional matters.</i></p> <p><i>Current practice.</i></p> <p><i>Current practice (with very few exceptions). Final approval by the GA is currently required and does not seem to cause any problems – we start working with the new Co-editors at any time. An appointment letter (paper!) should be co-signed by the President and the EiC. Wit the current practice of exchanging e-mails we miss an opportunity to add some value to the appointment. This would be new but appropriate. Here, appointment letter on paper should be signed by the EiC and the Section Editor(s). (Legally, the appointment must still be by the IUCr? Proper documents must definitely be kept in all cases.)</i></p> <p><i>In cases of conflict, the EC would have to handle appeals. No such cases are currently known or recorded.</i></p>
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