**Assessing the EMCC’s Effectiveness as an IEEE Ethics Program**

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**PURPOSE**

This is an unsolicited input to the IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Ethics Programs. This contribution is to highlight examining and beginning a process of the Ethics and Member Conduct Committee to communicate to the Membership about it, its existence, and what is does and accomplishes, with Board participation in actual cases.

**INTRODUCTION**

One of the first and most important Ethics Programs which the Ad Hoc Committee should examine is the Ethics and Member Conduct Committee, EMCC, and its effectiveness over the nearly 40 years since its predecessor, the Member Conduct Committee, MCC, was established in February of 1978.

**WHAT DOES THE MEMBERSHIP KNOW ABOUT THE EMCC OR NEEDS TO KNOW?**

While preparing the IEEE Ethics History Repository, I tried to assemble published material about/from/by the MCC/EMCC and found little that had been made public. So, what do we know about it and its effectiveness?

What I was able to find was posted on the IEHR site, beginning at:

[**http://ethw.org/IEEE\_Ethics\_History\_Repository\_(IEHR)#Over\_The\_Years\_the\_MCC.2FEMCC\_Has\_Operated\_Too\_Secretly**](http://ethw.org/IEEE_Ethics_History_Repository_%28IEHR%29#Over_The_Years_the_MCC.2FEMCC_Has_Operated_Too_Secretly)

Then further into the IEHR I provided links to these items, only the first of which was made public to the entire Membership by the INSTITUTE, as the others were presentations to select entities.

[**http://ewh.ieee.org/cmte/pa/INSTITUTE\_Ethics\_Papers/ethics\_articles\_13.pdf**](http://ewh.ieee.org/cmte/pa/INSTITUTE_Ethics_Papers/ethics_articles_13.pdf)

[**http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~aey/eng100/lectures/pdfshort/ethicslecture.pdf**](http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~aey/eng100/lectures/pdfshort/ethicslecture.pdf)

[**http://www.ieeer10.org/old/Reports/meetrep/meetrep2008-Quebec/R10ETHICS.ppt**](http://www.ieeer10.org/old/Reports/meetrep/meetrep2008-Quebec/R10ETHICS.ppt)

[**http://www.docfoc.com/region-10-ethics-presentation-ieee-region-10-annual-meeting-quebec-city-quebec-canada-19-september-2008-daniel-s-yeung-charles-e-hickman**](http://www.docfoc.com/region-10-ethics-presentation-ieee-region-10-annual-meeting-quebec-city-quebec-canada-19-september-2008-daniel-s-yeung-charles-e-hickman)

**MY SUGGESTED OUTLINE OF REPORTING FOR THE EMCC TO MAKE**

As a result of this scarcity of EMCC published material, I have prepared an outline of what could be the future required reporting by the EMCC to its Members about its activities, findings, recommended actions, and finally what the Board actually did as a result of receiving MCC/EMCC recommendations for 1. Member Discipline and 2. Ethical Support. The following presents my initial outline:

**IEEE MCC/EMCC Cases History and Reporting to the Membership**

**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**(Spanning the MCC 1978-2000 versus EMCC 2000-2016 Periods of Operations)**

**A. Inquiries received from Members for:**

1. **Information**
2. **Advice**
3. **Conflict resolution**

**B. Violation Charges alleged against members:**

1. **Categories**
2. **Dismissed**
3. **Reasons**

**C. Action to be taken recommended to the Board:**

1. **Hearings convened**
2. **Board dismissed cases**
3. **Board upheld and disciplined cases**
4. **Board did not discipline cases**

**D. Requests for Ethical Support received:**

1. **Whistleblowing incidents**
2. **Dismissed by MCC/EMCC without merit**
3. **Recommended Board to render support**
4. **Board supported and approved ethical support**
5. **Form of support rendered:**
6. **Letter issued**
7. **Article published**
8. **Legal action or Amicus Curiae**
9. **Board did not support**

**E. Reports/Articles/Presentations Made and Issued:**

1. **Annually to the Board (currently is required)**
2. **To the Membership (could be sanitized and published annually)**

**F. Suggested Frequency of Reporting to be Made to the Membership:**

1. **Membership dismissals published in Spectrum**
2. **Confidentially to Board Annually**
3. **De-Sensitized to Members Annually and to the IEHR**
4. **Every 5 years De-Sensitized Cumulative to Membership in Spectrum/The INSTITUTE**
5. **Post on EMCC WEB site**

The actual preparation of these reports could be made by Staff, with Chair input/review/approval.

CONCLUSION

This contribution has intended to highlight how very little the Membership probably knows about the Ethics and Member Conduct Committee over its nearly 40 years of existence. But the Membership, if to become more ethics-centric, needs to know about it and what it accomplishes. A suggested reporting outline has been provided. Now, comments and suggestions are invited, and can be sent to:

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Thanks,

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