



PANEL DISCUSSION

THE CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND COPE

Deborah C Poff, CM, PhD

Deborah holds four degrees from three universities in Canada, and has been the Director of a Research Institute, Dean of Arts and Science, Vice-President Academic and Provost, and President and Vice-Chancellor at various Canadian Universities. Deborah is the founding editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Academic Ethics* which she edited for over 20 years. She is currently the editor of the *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*.



Deborah C Poff, CM, PhD
Retired Professor of Philosophy and
Senior Academic Administrator
COPE Trustee and Council Member



COPE IS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING A NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY FOR UNIVERSITIES

Today I am going to outline briefly why this is a mutually beneficial collaborative relationship

- 1 It has to do with the strengths, limitations and legitimate autonomy of scholarly publications by publishers of academic journals, books and more recently additional video products of a scholarly nature via a scholarly platform.
- 2 It has to do with the strengths, limitations and legitimate autonomy of universities in facilitating the production of new knowledge through the management of scholarly research grants and the necessary release time for the research that will be created and disseminated largely by publishers.

UNIVERSITIES: TENURE AND PROMOTION

- During the 70s and 80s, neoliberal governments and universities under financial duress individually, for the most part, tried to eliminate tenure and promotion or permanent faculty employment.
 - While there was some success at less established universities, to a large extent this failed.
 - Governments responded to the failure with more intervention in terms of key performance indicators of evaluation for faculty performance, including imposition of detailed standards for research integrity.
- Governments imposed research integrity criteria and sanctions for failure of researchers to practice research ethics in grant supported research.
 - Universities responded through continued use of t and p for permanent employment and success through the professorial ranks.

AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLISHING CHANGED A LOT AND CONTINUES TO...THROUGH THE

- Extraordinary growth of journals by scholarly publishers/academic commercial publishers,
 - Continued North-South divide in scholarly publication,
 - Continued growth of Grey Journals, low quality journals,
 - Growth of Predatory Publishers.
- Radical shifts in publishing due to digitization and more recently including a shift among large commercial academic publishers from primarily being publishers of journals and books to differentiated publishing platforms with various publication products.

TENURE AND PROMOTION

- Standards for tenure and promotion are supposedly made up of evaluation for three areas of consideration – teaching, research and committee work/service which is disaggregated respectively to be 40/40/20 percent of the division of faculty workload.
 - Issues in teaching evaluations are believed to include problems with grade inflation; biased evaluation tools by students of faculty (e.g., women score lower than male teachers).
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- Committee/service – quality of commitment is subjective and difficult to standardize.
 - **THIS LEAVES RESEARCH EVALUATION PRIMARILY THROUGH GRANTS AND PUBLICATIONS.**

REASONS TO EVALUATE RESEARCH

- To ensure that faculty receiving t and p are valid scholars contributing to knowledge or the scholarly record.
 - To investigate as objectively as possible research ethics and identify and investigate violations of research integrity.
- To meet criteria for public recognition of excellence (e.g., through meeting criteria of rankings such as those used by the Times Higher Education World Rankings, such as, volume, income, reputation, citations, industry income).



25 YEARS OF PUBLICATION ETHICS

KEY PRODUCTS FOR EVALUATION

- 1 Grants – which are an input products (indicating quality of research proposals, track record of publications/presentations to date, graduate students successfully educated and trained, etc.).
- 2 Permanent Records for Evaluations through Publications in journals/books with objective criteria for acceptance in such publications.

RELATIONSHIP OF UNIVERSITIES AND EDITOR/PUBLISHERS TO THE SCHOLARLY RECORD

- As we all know and have discussed many times in **COPE**, particularly in recent years:
 - Universities – is primarily where much public and publicly funded research takes place.
 - Publishers – whether small society owned, university presses or commercial academic publishers is primarily where the product of scholarly research is produced and disseminated.
- Universities are responsible for the employees who conduct and produce the research and publishers are responsible for the integrity of the scholarly product that is published.



SO...

- The independence of publishers is good because publications do not appear to be internal, vanity productions of each particular university.
 - However, it is problematic because when violations of research integrity and publication ethics occur, publishers have the independence to correct or retract the article but do not have the authority to investigate the alleged perpetrator(s) of the violation because these people are employees of universities.
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- And, it is problematic because universities do not have the authority to correct or retract articles where they have concluded, after investigation, that the researcher is responsible for a violation of publication ethics.



FURTHER

- While universities are competent and informed to educate researchers about research ethics this does not include publication ethics.
- While publishers are competent to correct or retract articles where there is sufficient independent evidence to do so, they do not have the authority to investigate further allegations within the research/authorship context nor do they understand the policies and procedures of universities with respect to integrity.



COPE MEMBERSHIP BY UNIVERSITIES

- Can facilitate the provision of educational materials on publication ethics which is their domain and within the scope of the organization.
- Can facilitate collaborative partnerships between their publisher/editor members and universities.
- Can develop professional development opportunities that will together all members of **COPE**.

COPE MEMBERSHIP BY UNIVERSITIES (CONTINUED)

For universities – Can assist in the

- Establishment of policy and procedures for university investigations and clarity of sharing key determinations of facts related to results of those investigations with editors.
- The provision of information for offices responsible for investigations.
- Responsibility for all research undertaken at university.

For journals – Can assist in the development of

- Criteria for how/what/why information and evidence is passed by editors to universities.



25 YEARS OF PUBLICATION ETHICS

OUR CONCLUSION

Our conclusion is that it is more than timely, appropriate and helpful to bring together our current membership with the membership of universities.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 3LG, United Kingdom

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PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN SCHOLARLY
RESEARCH AND ITS PUBLICATION